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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.

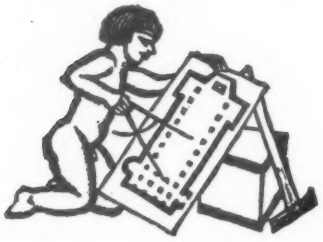
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 1942. NUMBER 2454: VOLUME 95

PRINCIPAL CONTENTS

The fact that goods made of raw materials in short supply owing to war conditions are advertised in this JOURNAL *should not be taken as an indication that they are necessarily available for export.*

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.*

★ *In common with every other periodical and newspaper in the country, this* JOURNAL *is rationed to a small proportion of its peace-time requirements of paper. This means that it is no longer a free agent printing as many pages as it thinks fit and selling to as many readers as wish to buy it. Instead a balance has to be struck between circulation and number of pages. A batch of new readers may mean that a page has to be struck off, and conversely a page added may mean that a number of readers have to go short of their copy. Thus in everyone's interest, including the reader's, it is important that the utmost economy of paper should be practised, and unless a reader is a subscriber he cannot be sure of getting a copy of the* JOURNAL. *We are sorry for this but it is a necessity imposed by the war on all newspapers. The subscription is £1 3s. 10d. per annum.*



from AN ARCHITECT'S *Commonplace Book*

"The architect who tells you he is an expert structural engineer and electrician and stonemason and concretor and plumber and joiner and all the rest of it, is a liar—and not even an expert liar, for the first real master-craftsman who happened along could immediately catch him out and show him up."

Clough Williams-Ellis

NEWS

●

R.I.B.A.

A lecture is to be held at the R.I.B.A. on Tuesday, February 10, at 6.0 p.m., on the Reconstruction Committee's Interim Reports III and V. The subjects of these Reports are Legislation affecting Town and Country Planning and Building Structure.

RESIGNATIONS

Mr. George Hicks, Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Works and Buildings, announced in the House of Commons last week that the Director of Standardisation (Mr. T. S. Tait), had temporarily resigned his position.

REGISTRATION IN EIRE

The second reading of the Eire Architects' Registration Bill was carried in the Irish Senate by 26 votes to 21.

ON THE AIR

Mr. W. G. Newton's broadcast talk, "Architecture Without Tears," which was to have been given on January 25, will be broadcast on February 8.

M.O.W.B.

Major-General K. C. Appleyard, C.B.E., D.L., M.I.MECH.E., Director of Emergency Works, Ministry of Works and Buildings, has resigned that position as from February 28, 1942. Mr. J. M. Wilson has been appointed to succeed Major-General Appleyard.

Bales of waste paper being unloaded—the first step on its way to becoming munitions.

SALVAGE

The £20,000 National Contest for the collection of waste paper ended last Saturday. Local authorities are now sending certified totals of their collections for the whole of January to the Waste Paper Recovery Association, Ltd.; these totals must be in the possession of the Association by Monday next, February 9. Although this contest is over, it must be remembered that the campaign for paper will still go on; it is needed as much as ever. It is wanted for making nearly every kind of munitions, and on these the safety of every one of us depends. Have YOU done everything you possibly can to hunt out all YOUR waste paper and made sure that it is handed over for repulping? Have YOU gone through your plan chest, your file, your cupboards, your drawers, your collection of old drawings, specifications, bills of quantities, correspondence, etc.? If not, DO IT NOW. And if you *have* religiously gone through the accumulation of years, are you going steadily on day after day, and week after week saving every available scrap? That is what the country wants from each one of us. Here are some examples showing what becomes of your waste paper:—

One newspaper would make three 25-pounder shell cups; one popular magazine would make interior components of two mines; six old books would make one mortar shell carrier; one soap powder canister would make four aero engine gaskets; five medium size cartons would make one shell fuse assembly; sixty large cigarette cartons would make one outer shell container; twenty breakfast cereal cartons would make one case for 2-pounder shells; six old bills would make one washer for a shell; four assorted food cartons would make one box for aero-cannon shells; one old envelope would make one cartridge wad; twelve old letters would make one box for rifle cartridges; an "A.B.C." Railway Guide would produce four gun fuses.

14 lb. of mixed waste paper will provide: 30 tubes for mortar bomb shells; 8 aeroplane cannon shells; 430 machine gun targets.

One ton of mixed waste paper will provide: 4,000 square feet of wallboard used in building hospitals, camps, munition works; 1,500 cylindrical shell containers; 9,000 gun fuses; 11,000 interior components for mines; 350 mortar shell containers; 47,000 25-pounder shell cups; 47,000 boxes for .303 cartridges; 71,000 aero-engine dust covers; 36,000 cut-out targets; 3,000 boxes for aero-cannon shells; 1,000 cases for 2-pounder shells.

Ready for Reconstruction

A year ago the rules of censorship made it impossible to publish more than scrappy photographs of streets and buildings made melancholy by wreckage. The 1940 blitz is now part of history and the reproduction of views which show more than the details of destruction is allowed. Here are two which make plain the extent of the opportunities that have been created for us. Above is Castle Street, Bristol, showing demolition squads still at work. Below is a view of London looking from Snowfields towards Guy's Hospital and the Monument, which can be seen in the distance, over a site cleared and made ready for the work of reconstruction to begin.

POST-WAR PLANNING

Speaking on post-war planning at a meeting of the National Housing and Town Planning Council in London last week, Mr. George Hicks, M.P., Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Works and Buildings, said :

General aim of national planning is to provide harmonious environment, making for efficiency of industry and agriculture and for happiness and health of citizens. To achieve this cities must be " loosened up."

Movement of population and of industry, together with need for replacing obsolete houses and repair of bomb damage should enable us to form long-term plans for redevelopment of existing cities. Besides this object there is the preservation of countryside and prohibition of unsightly buildings, hoardings, petrol stations, and so forth.

Local authorities have not been idle. Some are formulating plans now, and Lord Reith would like them to go ahead with all speed. They should plan with imagination and courage. If they find that the best plan would mean an over-spill of population they should consider where it should go.

There should not be dictation from Whitehall : yet local authorities should be prepared to modify their ideas in the national interest. Moreover, co-operation among local authorities themselves is essential to planning. Consideration of needs of neighbours is the essence of planning.

The Ministry of Works and Buildings, being a building authority, has no planning powers or ambitions. The Planning Department, a Central Planning Authority, will be separate.

Final justification for such an authority to control use of land is that in this country only limited quantity of land is available.

In the last 100 years we have not used our heritage wisely. Bitter experience has taught that future development must be guided by one basic plan. Probably none of us will see complete fulfilment of that plan, but we can begin now to undo the evils of the past and create country for the future which combines efficiency of industry and happiness of people.

M.O.W.B.

Answering recent criticisms of the Ministry of Works at a luncheon of the Federation of Greater London Master Builders last week, Mr. Hugh Beaver, Director-General of the Ministry, said :

However much we may have in mind the necessity of planning for to-morrow, it is the grim, stark, unforgiving present with which we have to deal. In July,

★ *Mr. T. S. Tait has temporarily resigned from position of Director of Standardisation, M.O.W.B.* *page 101*

★ *Second reading of Eire Registration Bill carried by 26 to 21 votes* *page 101*

★ *Mr. Hugh Beaver answers recent criticisms of M.O.W.B.* *page 102*

1939, there were in the building and civil engineering industries about 1,390,000 males between 16 and 64. Of that total some 200,000 were unemployed. By July, 1941, there had been a total drop of over 350,000, but the unemployed figure was less than 15,000.

We are past the peak of our building programme. It would indeed be tragic were it not so. Our need now is to produce munitions, and not for ever to be building munition factories. The time approaches when to keep our war factories at full output will take all available labour. So long as we have skill to build factories, we are a long way off the maximum of our war effort. It is, then, the policy of the Government to curtail building, and to do that continuously and increasingly.

We have, unfortunately, no really comparable pre-war figures; but so far as one may judge from the census of production, and by other means, there has yet been no equivalent reduction in the number of firms, parallel with the fall in labour.

The Ministry of Works, which after all still deals with only a fifth or a sixth of the Government's programme, and employs only 11 per cent. or 12 per cent. of the building labour force, has always striven for the maximum efficient use of the smaller and medium-sized builder. All our contracts can keep but a small portion of the building industry occupied.

We have given much thought to the idea of grouping small builders and in some cases with success. But on the whole we are not optimistic in this direction. We have, further, laid down within our own Ministry a procedure to secure preference to local firms in respect of all contracts up to £25,000, which I would add carries with it the counter obligation that these firms shall give us truly competitive and reasonable prices and adequate service. We have considered—and are considering—a proposal for the introduction into all major contracts of a clause imposing a certain minimum amount of building sub-contracting. And, finally, we have, in the regional emergency organizations and in the more recent scheme for the preservation of a fixed labour force for maintenance work throughout the country, two measures which, while primarily designed for war purposes, must affect and benefit the great bulk of builders such as your federation represents.

The Penilee Housing Scheme is illustrated in this issue. Above is a detail of balcony access gallery in a tenement block. Note pre-cast concrete panel units.

The policy which the Ministry of Works and Buildings has mapped out and which it has been steadily working to, falls more or less into four divisions.

The co-ordination and control of the Government building programme.

The mobilization and direction of the building industry.

The general improvement of conditions of work and contracts.

The provision of the necessary building materials.

Through the Central Council of Works and Buildings we have dealt with a number of major problems—one of the most important of which is that of sub-contracting. The Central Council has, too, just produced a standard priced schedule which I am convinced will be found to be of the greatest benefit. It is now being printed. It will be put into force on our own contracts, but should have much wider application—for all ordinary building contracts, for sub-contracts and as a substitute for the "cost" form of contracts.

RESERVATION

THE JOURNAL asks readers to glance back at the entertaining history of architectural Reservation. Glance a good way back, to Munich-time, to December, 1938. In those days architects said that in the next war builders would be in the front line and that *therefore** architects should make plans whereby in wartime their various abilities could be fully used. Architects, you will remember, were the first profession to fill in the Index Cards of the Central Register (January, 1939), and, after being forgotten once, they were Reserved at 25 in the Schedule of Reserved occupations published in April, 1939. A few months later war did come. So large a load of building work was tipped on to so small a number of big building contractors that the few civil engineers and quantity surveyors appointed for the purpose could not avoid large-scale prostration—from which the victims, most unwillingly, had later to be rescued. Architects, you will recollect, were not asked to help. Architects—Central Register notwithstanding—very nearly starved, and at length demanded to be released from Reservation. Their plea was heard; they were released (December, 1939); and the Select Committee on National Expenditure soon published the first of its lively commentaries on how war building was getting along without them.

As the spring and summer of 1940 passed the war building programme grew, materials became more scarce, the Blitz began, and by October building and builders were, beyond all dispute, plumb in the front line. For four or five months thereafter the profession went through a strangely memorable time. Architects were badly needed. Ministries actually admitted they were needed. There did not seem to be nearly enough of them. The Ministry of Labour and National Service, of course, continued to call up architects as fast as it could but when this state of affairs was brought to Government notice, action was taken at once, and by June, 1941, only seven months later, architects were Reserved again at 35. Unfortunately in all the bustle architectural assistants, without whom architects are helpless, were overlooked; and it was not until September, 1941 that the profession was properly Reserved again. By then architectural assistants had nearly all been called up so the Ministry of Labour and National Service must have had a good laugh. That brings us to NOW when every architect must have begun to see the fun of the thing. For the moment war building, despite everything, has outrun its clients' expectations. It may be that the Washington conversations will require a new war building programme in Britain. It may be that Germany's new Super-Generalissimo will start a new and super Blitz. But these things lie in the future. At present, architects under 51 who are not in the Forces nor em-

* What architect in 1942 can resist a smile at the naïveté of this THEREFORE?

bedded in a Ministry, have begun to shed their Reservation for the last time at the rate of a year a month.

To some architects it may have seemed strange that a Ministry of Labour which had entangled them so often and with such complex futility, should have been ready to let them go finally by so simple a method. These architects may yet prove to have been wise in their foreboding. It is rumoured that members of building professions and trades who are employed on sites scheduled under the Essential Work Order are to retain their "block" Reserved age as in December, 1941 while they remain on such sites. This most ingenious proposal would result in cases of hilarious complexity when tradesmen move from site to site at short intervals (as some specialist tradesmen do). Architects would do well not to ask any questions at all about this last and brightest scheme but to go quietly and at once.

The Architects' Journal
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NOTES & TOPICS

JUST FANCY DEPARTMENT

Not much more than a year ago the New York World's Fair closed its doors for the last time. What has happened since October 27, 1940, to its exhibits and personalities? Trust the New Yorker to find out.

★

Reporter Eugene Kinkead was sent out to discover the answer, and he began by tracing Grover Whalen, the Fair's personality No. 1, to the chairman's seat of Coty (Inc.), and the nineteen-foot high wooden horse which used to stand in front of the Swedish Pavilion to a "dude ranch" in Texas, where it had been shipped as a Valentine to his wife by Mr. Hoffman, a New York real-estate man.*

★

Not everyone, of course, has been quite so lucky. The village Indians are back home trying to get along without roller-coasters, the Fair rolling stock has gone to hospitals, sanatoria and to people who want to get round their country estates in comfort. The big switchback has gone to Venezuela and the hundred tons of coal, which was an exhibit in the Pennsylvania building, has been burnt. Saddest fate of all has befallen the House of Jewels which has become a public lavatory. Of Dali's submarine piano there is no news.

★

As to the foreign exhibits, the war has naturally prevented the majority of these from getting home. Most of them are stored in bonded warehouses, others are leading a more useful life. Alabaster strips from the Rumanian Pavilion now decorate the Greek Orthodox Church of St. Demeter in New York, the Christian Science building has been transported in sections to Long Island and re-erected as a Christian Science church, the Belgian Pavilion has been re-assembled as part of a Negro Baptist school in Virginia, and authentic flagstones from the Tower of London have been presented to Mr. John Davis, a former ambassador to the Court of St. James.

★

As for the Time Capsule—a case containing relics of contemporary civilization—it still lies at the bottom of its 100 ft. pipe ("The Well of Immortality") awaiting the puzzled attention of future archæologists. At the rate things are moving to-day I should say that if the contents were exposed twenty years hence they would seem already to belong to an age as remote as that of the Pharaohs.

★

The actual site of the Fair is being transformed into Flushing Meadow Park under the able direction of the famous Commissioner Moses. Demolishing the buildings and levelling off sites has cost about $1,500,000, and in some cases has not been an easy job—especially as demolishing meant removing foundations as far below ground level as four feet. The perisphere was removed by toppling its top half into its bottom half, and the embalmed forty-foot whales were sawed into sections and then burnt.

★

Commissioner Moses hopes that, despite the reduced finance at his disposal, the completed park will contain 72 tennis courts, 11 playgrounds, 600 row boats and thousands of dragon flies to keep down the midges.

CODES OF PRACTICE

It is good to hear that steps taken by the Ministry of Works and Buildings to work out a system of co-ordinating codes of practice are likely to lead somewhere. The B.S.I. in 1939 tried to expand their work of standardizing methods of specification to include the formulation of codes of practice: a committee was formed for the purpose and various professional institutes were invited to send representatives. But the attempt unfortunately appeared to them to infringe their god-given lebensraum, and produced only friction that looked like perpetuating chaos.

* Mrs. Hoffman is reputed to have laughed herself sick.

Un-co-ordinated code-making would be all right if it were possible to allocate responsibility for each field of activity to a single organization; but in fact there are often several groups of technicians affected by a single operation. Lift manufacturers, for instance, might draw up a code of practice to conflict not only with the requirements of the structural engineer, but also with regulations directly affecting lifts laid down by the electrical engineer. In actual practice few codes existed in 1939 apart from the I.E.E.'S wiring regulations which had a strong hold because insurance companies liked them.

*

Then the Ministry stepped into the field and appointed a committee with an official chairman and two members from each of the pertinent institutions, to lay down the policy of code making. They have suggested the following procedure: subjects to be covered and the revisions to be made to be decided by themselves. Constituent bodies to be directed when necessary to set up committees of their own to draft codes affecting themselves, making certain, at the same time, to consult other interests involved including the B.S.I. and the B.R.S.; last stages of drafting to be done by the B.S.I. and draft to run the gauntlet through the central committee and be published for external criticism; B.S.I. to be responsible for final publication.

*

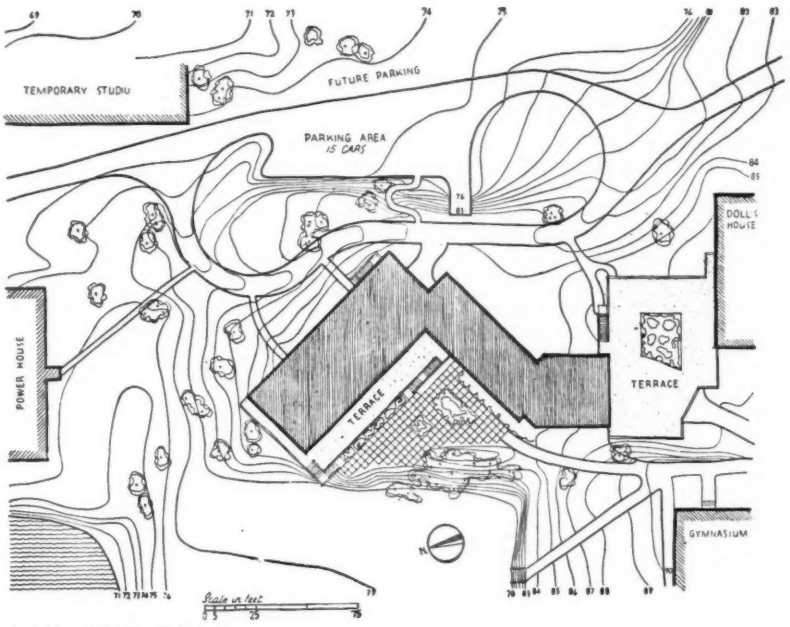
All this has actually been agreed upon by the Ministry's constituent committee. More. A formal letter embodying these proposals issued to the institutions concerned has received an affirmative answer from all but two who have not yet replied.

*

The result of setting the machinery described in motion would be a comprehensive code of good practice for the building industry, setting a standard higher than a penal minimum but low enough to be made compulsory. It would not, however, be compulsory though it might become so. Quite how it would square with the bye-laws no one knows. It is still possible, of course, that there may be no results. That would be a pity.

COLLEGE AT MASSACHUSETTS

BY K. HORNBOSTEL AND R. M. BENNETT



LAY-OUT PLAN

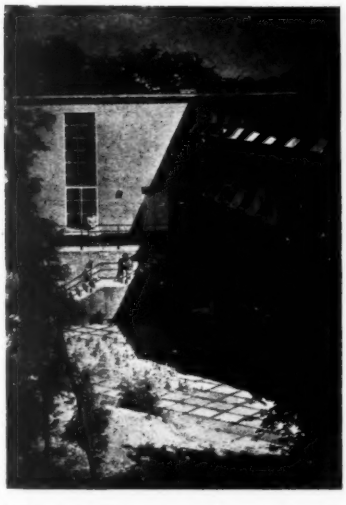
ST. JAMES, PICCADILLY

St. James, Piccadilly, one of the most charming of Wren's London Churches, still stands without a roof. The angels above the organ who appear in grim glory to be challenging the sky with trumpet blasts have had twelve months in which to regret their rashness; they are grimed with soot and rain and their trumpets are beginning to sag.

*

No doubt it is wise for committees to discuss whether or not the inhabitants of Piccadilly Circus need a church, before they start repairing the pews. But pending a decision they might protect what is left of the decorations by stretching a tarpaulin over the hole in the roof—if it is not already too late. City churches seem to be well looked after but those outside that particular square mile seem to be forgotten.

ASTRAGAL



The west court, with its terrace opening directly off the ballroom and recreation room.

SITE—Wheaton College, Norton, Mass., U.S.A. This is a new Student Alumnæ building, situated a short distance from the campus of the College. The students' entrance had to be related to existing buildings on the campus and a motor entrance for visitors had to be provided. Advantage is taken, in the site-planning, of extensive views to the north-

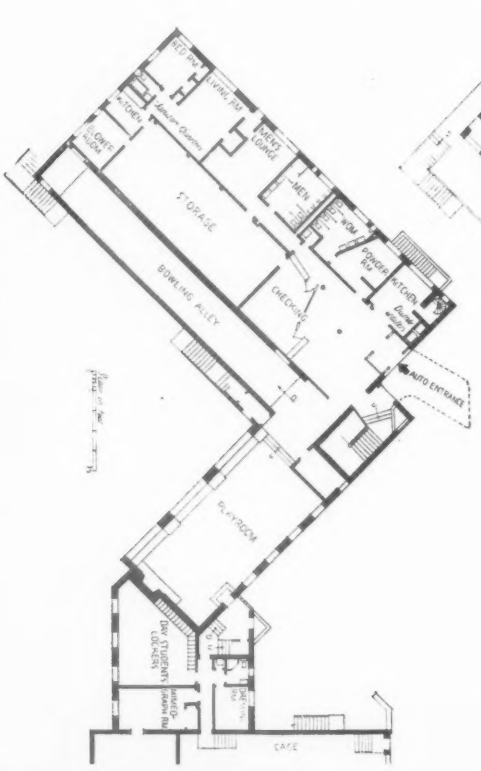
COLLEGE, MASSACHUSETTS

west over lake and woods. The architects were the winners of the 1938 competition for a library and art centre for the College, which has yet to be built.

PLAN—The accommodation can be divided into four groups : that for alumnæ use only (chiefly offices), that for both alumnæ and students (two common rooms, ballroom and assembly rooms, kitchens), that for students only (day students' locker and study space, recreation room, offices and committee rooms for student activities), and general services (lavatories, janitor's suite, etc.).

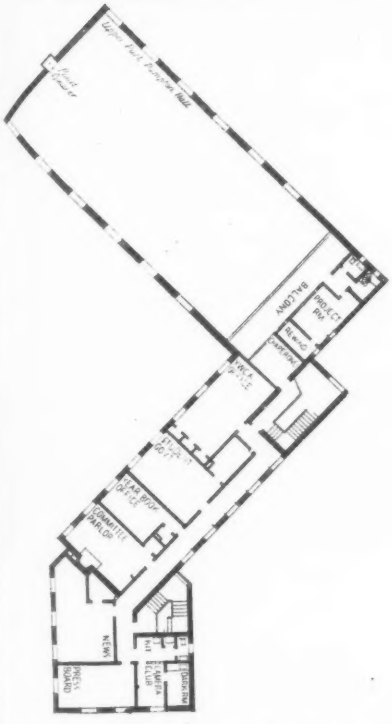
CONSTRUCTION AND FINISHES—The building has weight-bearing brick walls, with interior walls of hollow gypsum blocks. Exposed concrete work was cast in plywood shuttering. Floors at ground-floor level are concrete slab with wood or cork finishes ; at first-floor level they are concrete slab resting on open web joists and covered with asphalt tiles. Stairs are metal with terrazzo or cork finish. Most of the furnishings are built-in of birch, oak and chestnut.

Below : View from the south-east. Facing page, view from beneath the entrance canopy (top) and the ballroom windows and terrace looking across the court.



BASEMENT PLAN GROUND FLOOR PLAN

DESIGNED BY K. HORNBOSTEL AND K. M.



FIRST FLOOR PLAN

BENNETT

J. A. GOTCH

An Appreciation

[*By H. R. SURRIDGE*]

John Alfred Gotch was born at Kettering on September 28, 1852, and died on January 17, 1942. There can be few men who crowded more achievements into their lives. He died full of years and honours, having wasted none of his long life. Having a burning desire to do certain things he set out to do them, accomplished them, and earned by his own efforts many distinctions and the profound respect of everyone with whom he came in contact.

He was educated at Kettering Grammar School and Zürich University and eventually was articled to Mr. R. W. Johnson, Architect, of Kettering and Melton Mowbray. Later he worked as an Assistant in Manchester but returned to Kettering to start in practice. On the death of Mr. Johnson, he joined Mr. Charles Saunders who had been Mr. Johnson's Chief Assistant. This partnership, which lasted 55 years, was an ideal one, and the happiest relations existed between the two throughout this long term. They both retired from active practice at the end of 1938. For nearly 40 years I have been associated with them, entering the office as long ago as 1899. Eventually becoming head assistant, and later, in 1930, a partner, I can speak with some little authority on J. A. Gotch, as architect, employer, partner, and may I also say, friend.

He was, in business, very reserved but forthright and definite in his judgments, rarely, if ever, making a mistake, but he combined this quality of sound judgment with that of the most severe painstaking application to everything he undertook and always with the most successful results.

At the comparatively early age of 40 he was appointed a magistrate and he undertook this work with the same thoroughness that he did everything else. In 1936 he became the Chairman of Quarter Sessions, retiring in 1934 at the age of 82. I have never heard of one of his judgments in his capacity as a magistrate ever being questioned.

With his reserve (and it was proof of his judgment that this reserve should exist between himself and his staff), Mr. Gotch had a keen sense of humour. A pertinent remark on a defaulting tradesman's delinquency, a loud laugh over a joke with his partner (the type of story we juniors had to guess at), or a caustic epithet relating to an irritating client—these I was only able to share with him in the later years of my head assistantship and as a partner. One story he told many times : " Many years ago, in Kettering, there was a Sanitary Inspector-cum-Surveyor, called Joe, who was also a Barber and something of a character. There had been trouble with some drains and an expert had been called in to report on the matter. Some of the trouble had been traced to the residence of a wealthy local lady. All concerned were gathered round the offending drain, which had been opened up, and the expert, no respecter of the local upper ten, had made some suggestion as to the cause of the trouble. ' Oh, no ! ' indignantly exclaims Joe, ' she's the cleanest woman I know.' "

I remember a letter which came to the office soon after the last War which delighted his sense of humour : " Mr. Gotch, Mon. Mason, Kettering. If you furnish, free, designs and Estimates for the erection of War Memorials I shall be pleased to receive a copy of same."

But I digress. John Alfred Gotch was perhaps best known among other architects for his books. An enormous amount of time in study and travel resulted in those books which, as a whole, have placed him in a unique position amongst writers of architectural history.

Commencing as long ago as 1883 with " The Buildings of Sir Thomas Tresham," in 1894 he published that monumental work " Architecture of the Renaissance in England " in six volumes. Then followed " Early Renaissance Architecture in England "—a beautiful work, full of his own drawings and photographs. Other works are : " The Growth of the English House," " Inigo Jones," and " Old English Houses." He was also the Editor of " The Growth and Work of the Royal Institute of British Architects," published in 1934. At the age of 86 he published his last book " Squires Homes and Other Old Buildings of Northamptonshire."

Early in his architectural life, whilst practising mainly in Kettering, he had an office in London, and there joined the Architectural Association, becoming its President in 1886. For many years he was a member of the R.I.B.A. Council, and his contemporaries and friends throughout this time were such men as Aston Webb, T. E. Collcutt, Mervyn Macartney, Guy Dawber, Ernest Newton, Giles Gilbert Scott, William Curtis Green, Leonard Stokes and Reginald Blomfield. To such good purpose did he use his talents for the good of the profession that in 1923 he was elected President of the Royal Institute of British Architects, the first Provincial member of the Institute to be so honoured. During his two years as President I believe he visited every allied society in this country and in many other ways did much to uphold the dignity of that high office.

Of his architectural practice up to twenty years ago he was known best for his design of many large country houses and the restoration of manor houses and other buildings of the period for which he had such great knowledge.

In addition, many schools were erected in Northamptonshire and Bedfordshire. After the War, the principal work in the office was the erection of bank buildings for the Midland Bank.

During this period Mr. Gotch's nephew, Laurence Mursell Gotch, was a partner in the firm until 1930, when he took over the London practice, and it was at this time that I was offered a partnership with the two senior principals. This partnership was intended to expire with their retirement in 1935 but it was a further three years before they did definitely retire. For some time after this Mr. Gotch visited the office once or twice a week until a few weeks ago when prevented by the illness which culminated in his death. I was happy to be able to allow both Mr. Gotch and Mr. Saunders to continue to have the use of their own old private rooms after their retirement, and, by the way, Mr. Saunders, although only four years younger than Mr. Gotch, is still hale, hearty and active and even does his two rounds of golf a day when so inclined.

Mr. Gotch did much for local affairs. He had been a County Councillor, and although he had not served on the Kettering Council when three years ago it obtained its Borough status, as the most distinguished citizen of that town he was invited to become the First Charter Mayor, an office he carried out with distinction and charm and to the great satisfaction of all the town.

He wasn't particularly fond of sport. He certainly did play golf occasionally ; in his younger days he did a little mountaineering, but most of his spare time was taken up by his own studies, for which he made much use of his bicycle. He drove a car up to about his eightieth year. He was a Freemason, being a member of a Northampton Lodge, and not infrequently cycled home the 15 miles in the early hours of the morning.

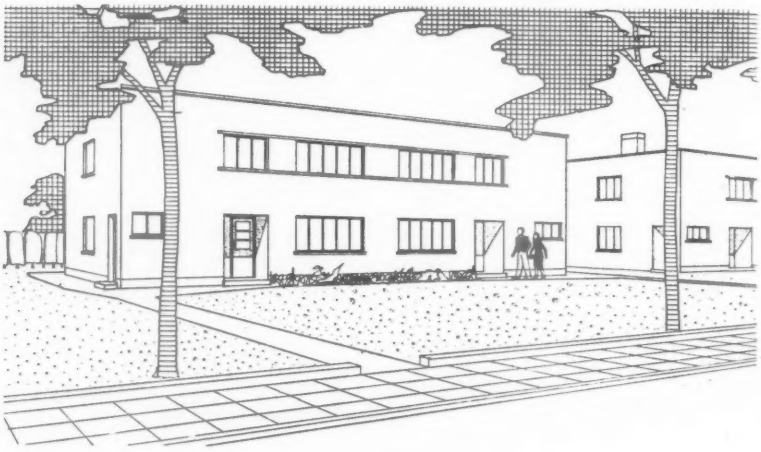
As a junior, I feared his displeasure but I soon learnt that it was his own standard of thoroughness that was behind his exacting requirements. He rarely gave praise, but it gave him pleasure to pass on to an assistant the praise of a client.

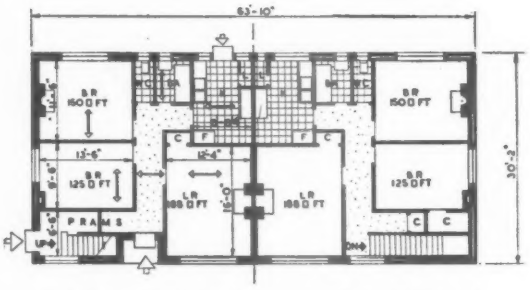
In conclusion, may I suggest that I, as one of the many assistants who worked with (I like the word " with " better than " for ") John Alfred Gotch, feel that we have shared somewhat in some of the distinctions that he achieved, a sort of reflected glory, as it were, and I am sure many assistants have at many times proudly said " Yes, I once worked with J. A. Gotch."

" At last an honest sexton joined the throng,
For as the theme was large the talk was long ;
' Sirs,' said the man, ' my conscience bids me tell,
Altho' the parson preached, I toll'd the bell.' "

G L A S G O W

This scheme was approved in 1939, prior to the outbreak of war. At the beginning of the war it was thought that it would have to be indefinitely postponed, but subsequently additional housing accommodation was found to be necessary in the Penilee area of Glasgow to provide homes for war workers. Permission was therefore given for the scheme to proceed and part of it is now finished. Chief features are : reduction of timber to the bare minimum (it has only been used for the doors) ; and the use of eight different types of concrete flooring. The value of this large scale experiment in the use of concrete flooring for housing is considerable, but it is obvious that some time must elapse before final conclusions can be reached as to which is the best type of concrete floor. At the time of going to press we learn, according to the experience of tenants, that the concrete floor construction, assisted by the nature of its floor finish, is completely satisfactory as far as sound insulation is concerned, the solid types of concrete flooring being, if anything, slightly better than the hollow type.





GROUND FLOOR PLAN FIRST FLOOR PLAN

Plans and perspective of 2-storey **FLATTED TYPE** *house*

GENERAL.—The housing scheme now proceeding at Penilee, near Glasgow, is being erected by the Glasgow Corporation and all the architectural work is under the direction of Mr. J. H. Ferrie, L.R.I.B.A., the Chief Architect and of the Architectural Staff of the Housing Department, of which the Director is Mr. W. B. McNab, A.M. Inst. C. E. The scheme consists of some 1,500 dwellings, in three-storey tenements and two-storey blocks of apartment or cottage houses. The scheme is of particular interest because it is the most advanced of the larger war-time housing schemes, and

H O U S I N G S C H E M E : B I

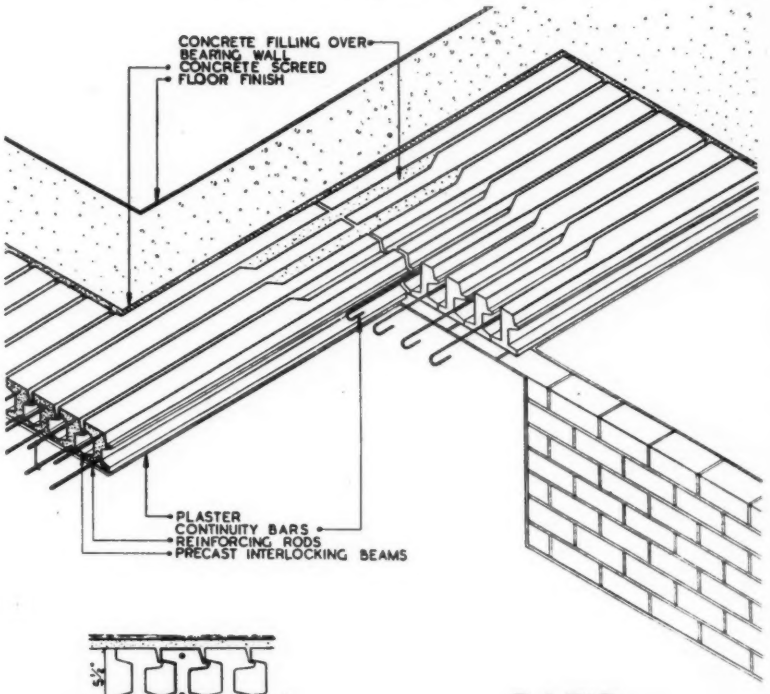
because of the careful preparatory research which was undertaken before the scheme was initiated. Shortly after the outbreak of war, restrictions on the use of timber were imposed and the Glasgow Corporation Housing Department, realizing that new housing would have to be erected for war workers, immediately set up a Research Department to investigate methods of construction which would eliminate timber. Concrete was the obvious material and so the Research Department examined many varieties of concrete floors, with a view to selecting the most suitable types. The questions of floor finish and roof finish were also studied, and the final scheme was the outcome of this research. It was, of course, impossible without practical experience to determine which type of concrete floor was the most suitable and for this reason and in order to spread responsibility over a number of firms, no fewer than eight different types of concrete floors were incorporated in the scheme. Throughout the scheme it has been the policy of the Housing Department to employ specialist firms to supply and erect concrete floors and roofs, but the remainder of the precast work, such as stairs, kerbs, window sills, lintels and parapet copings, has been executed by the Glasgow Corporation's own precast products works.

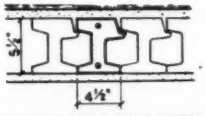
SITE—The site is some 4½ miles from the centre of the city and is about 211 acres in size. In addition to the housing, the site plan provides generous spaces for recreation grounds and sites have been allotted for two schools, a shopping centre and a community centre. Thus, the Penilee housing scheme will be a completely self-contained unit along neighbourhood lines.

A.R.P.—Reinforced brickwork and concrete air-raid shelters have been provided for all the tenement blocks. No special shelters are provided for the two-storey houses, since it was felt that the space available below the concrete stairs was sufficiently protected and roomy.

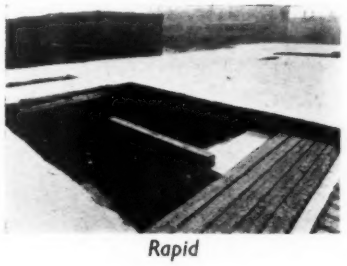
CONSTRUCTIONAL OUTLINE. —*Structure* : Foundations : tenements, concrete raft ; terraced and flatted blocks, strip. Walls : tenements, 16in. cavity brickwork, rendered ; terraced and flatted blocks, 11½ in. cavity brickwork, rendered. Partitions : 4½ in. brickwork and 4 in. foamed slag blocks. Damp-proof courses :

J. H. FERRIE

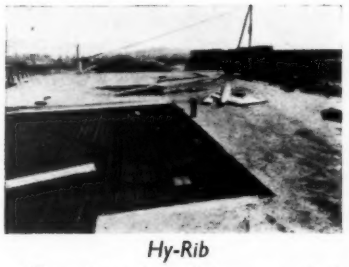




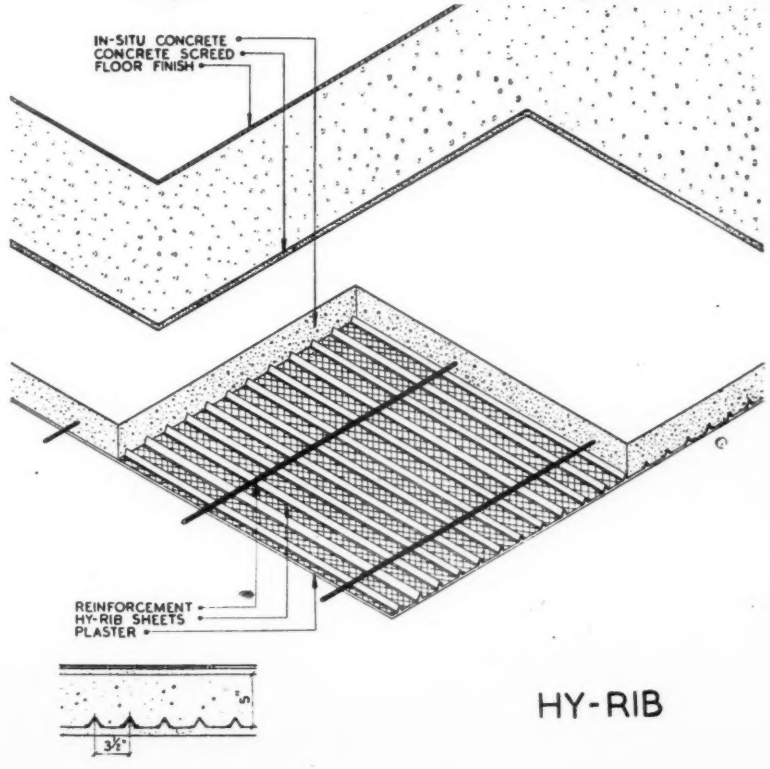
RAPID



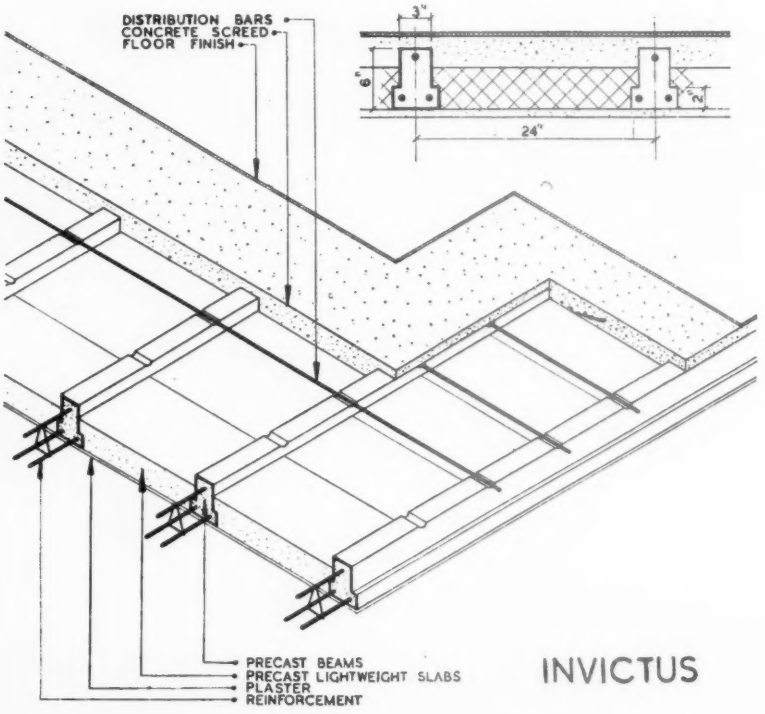
Rapid



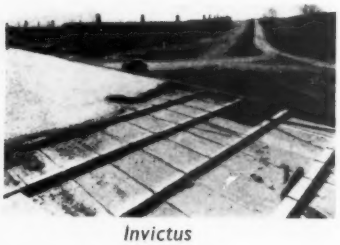
Hy-Rib



HY-RIB

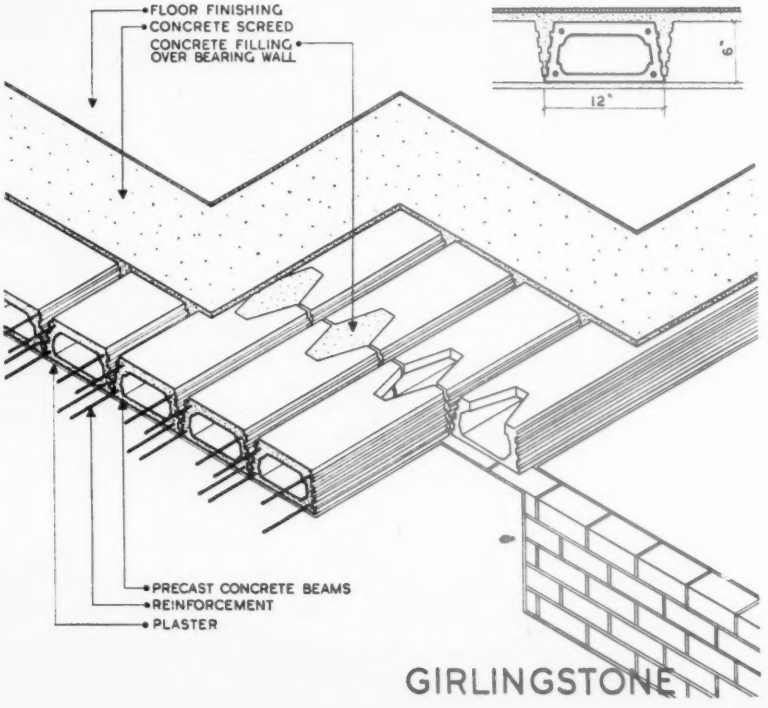


INVICTUS



Invictus

Girlingstone



GIRLINGSTONE

PENILEE

horizontal. Ledcore ; vertical (round window openings), slate. Ground floors : tenements, Myko and Rapid concrete floors ; terraced and flatted blocks, Myko, Unicon, and Siegwart concrete floors. First floors and roofs : tenements, Hy-rib and Rapid concrete floors ; terraced and flatted blocks, Girlingstone, Invictus, Unicon, Siegwart, Hy-rib, and Springbank concrete floors. Staircases : precast concrete. Lintels, precast concrete. Door frames : wood. Windows : standard steel. Glass bricks with precast concrete surrounds for staircase windows of tenement blocks. Window sills : external, precast concrete ; internal, quarry tiles. Canopies : *in situ* concrete. Balcony balustrades : *in situ* concrete with precast panels. Parapet copings : precast concrete. Chimney pots : precast concrete. Guttering and rain-water pipes : cast iron.

FINISHES.—Floors : Rub-en-tex and Bituflor. Walls : plaster. Roofs : 4 in. average foamed slag concrete screed to falls ; 3-ply bituminous felt with gravel finish. Ceilings : plaster and plaster board with skimming coat for Myko floor.

CONSTRUCTIONAL DETAILS.—Floors and Roofs : In the precast type of concrete floor the method of ensuring firm bearing over the 4½ in. supporting wall varies. The Siegwart floor has continuity bars between the units. In the Girlingstone and Rapid floors a portion of the top of the beams is cut away and the space so formed is filled with concrete and continuity reinforcement. In the Unicon floor—which incidentally is reversed for upper floors—the rib projects beyond the flanges and overlaps, and in the Myko, Springbank and Invictus floors the concrete joists are staggered. It will be noted that these patent concrete floor and roof constructions are more costly than the normal timber construction. The average costs, at date of tender (exclusive of plaster, composition floor finish and bituminous macadam roof covering) were :—

	Per sq. yd. s.	d.
Ground Floor ...	14	1
First Floor	15	7
Roof (excluding insulating screed) ...	20	0½

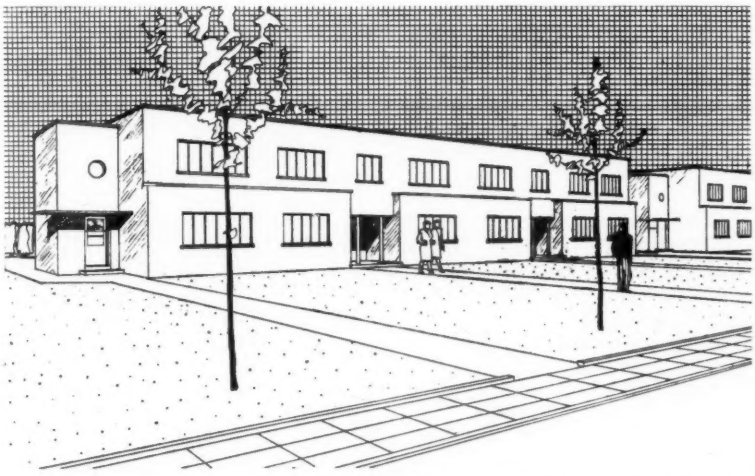
(Subject to rising costs of wages and materials.)

Staircases : The drawing on page

DESIGNED

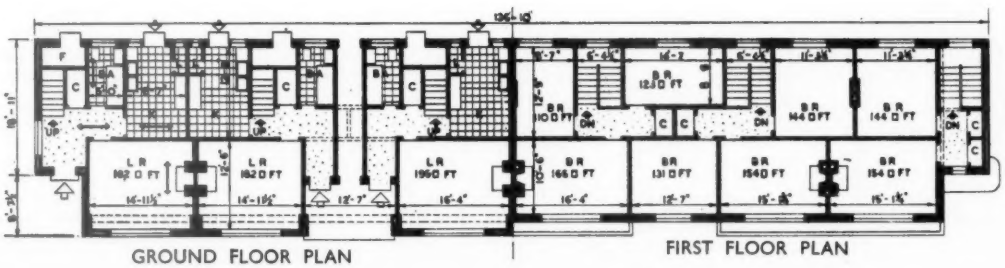
HOUSING SCHEME, GLASGOW

112 shows a typical precast concrete stair unit. There is no skirting, since the staircase walls are cement rendered to a semi-smooth finish, the architect maintaining that the slight roughness of the finished wall will prevent childish scribbles, particularly in the case of the tenement communal staircases. Balconies : The sill beam and posts are cast *in situ*, grooved ready to receive the precast concrete panels. Reinforcement is left projecting from the posts to ensure a firm bond with the final *in situ* concrete top rail. Lintels: Drawing on page 112 shows a section through a typical precast concrete lintel, as in an 11½ in. and 16 in. cavity wall. Lintels are standardized throughout the scheme and are designed in sections to reduce weight and facilitate handling. The joint between two lintels also provides secure fixing for the top of the steel window frames. Door canopies: the door canopies throughout the scheme are of concrete. Floor finishes : Throughout the scheme only two floor finishes have been used—Rub-en-tex and Bituflor, and in all cases these finishes have been carried up the walls to form a skirting. Rub-en-tex is a rubber latex base flooring



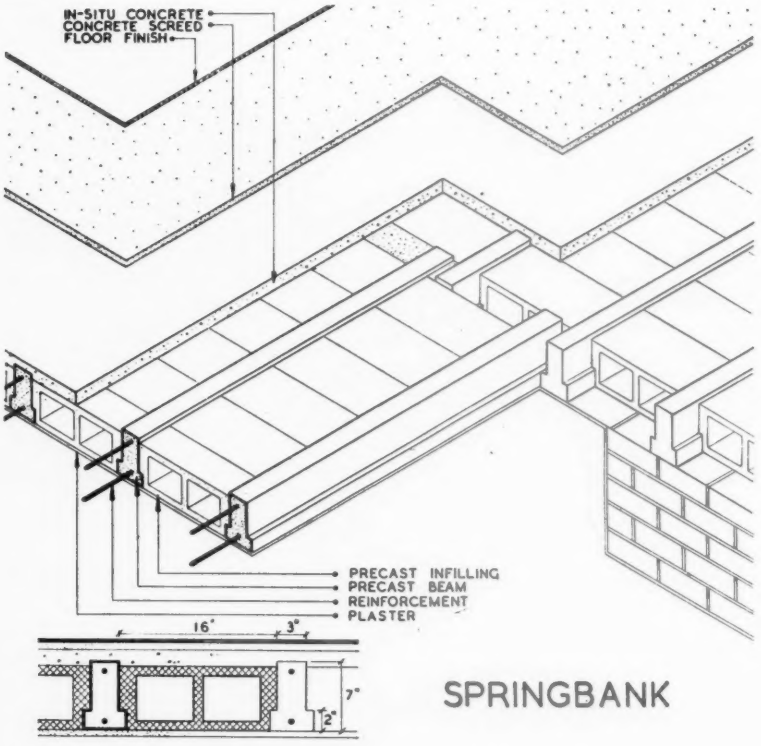
Perspective of 2-storey **COTTAGE BLOCK**

Above—general view of two-storey cottage block. The chimneys do not smoke. This is due to the special precast concrete chimney cappings and also to the fact that the top of the chimney is always designed to be 15 ft. above the springing of the arch of the topmost fireplace opening, i.e. 7 ft. 6 in. above the flat roof. Left—detail of entrance to two-storey cottage type house. Note the concrete copings and window sills. The door canopies throughout the scheme are of concrete.



BY J. H. FERRIE

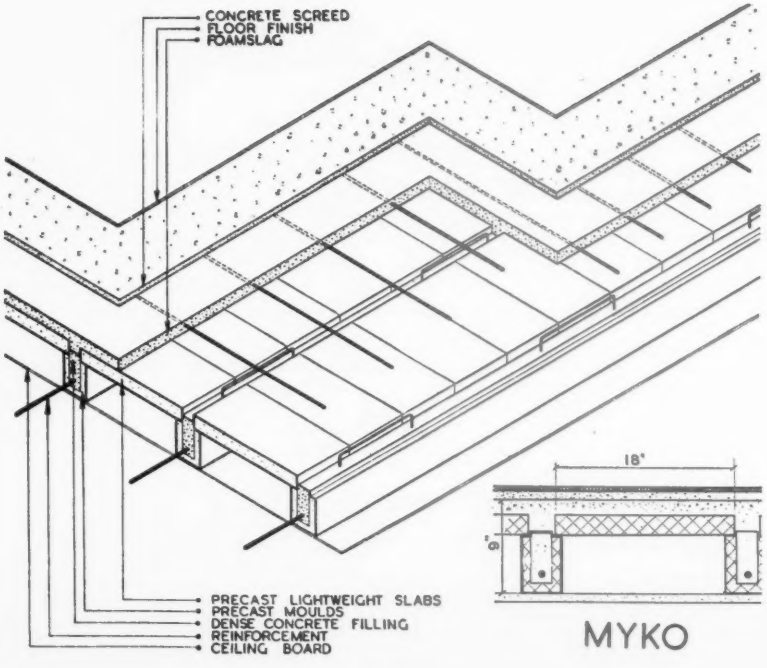
Plan of 2-storey **COTTAGE BLOCK**



SPRINGBANK

Springbank

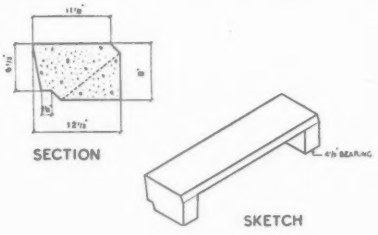
Myko



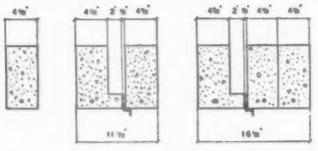
MYKO

P E N I L E E H

Perspective and general view of 3-storey tenement block



PRECAST CONCRETE STEP



PRECAST CONCRETE LINTELS

compound of ¼ in. average thickness and is available in many colours, dark red having been selected for this scheme. Rub-en-tex is laid *in situ*, will take a high polish and its finished appearance is similar to a red linoleum. Bituflor is a jointless non-magnesite flooring compound.

SERVICES.—As can be seen from the plan, the kitchen and bathroom in all apartment plans adjoin. This allows a very compact grouping of the services, especially water supply and plumbing stacks. To avoid a thick non-structural screed over the concrete floors, all internal hot and cold water service pipes are exposed and

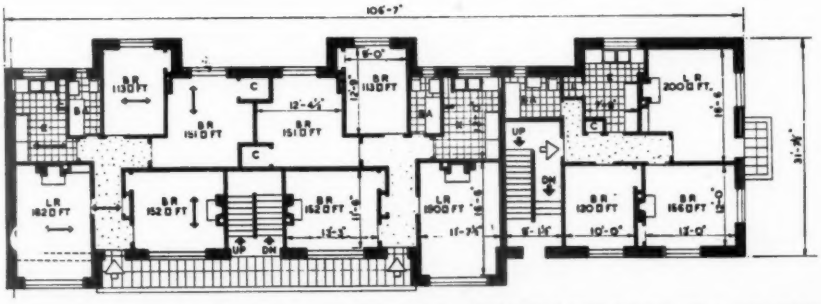
DESIGNED BY

HOUSING SCHEME, GLASGOW

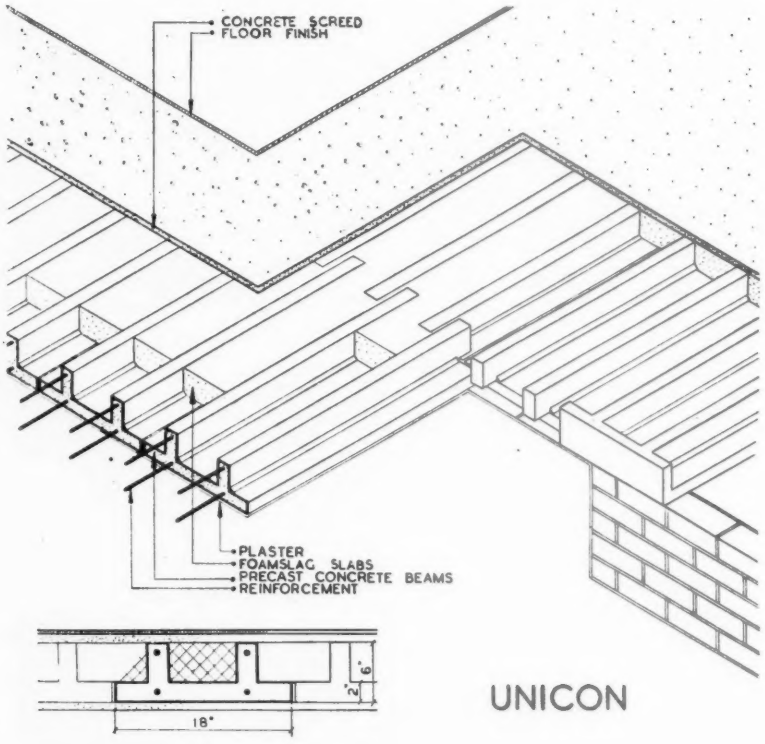
Detail of tenement block

kept well away from the wall to ensure ease of access for repair and cleaning. There are no main cold water storage tanks, since the cold water feeds to the various fittings are taken straight off a rising main. Supply tanks for the hot-water system are also eliminated by the use of a combination cylinder. A generous range of kitchen fittings is provided, including a large sink and drainer, copper, cooker and boiler.

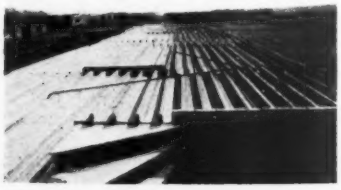
J. H. FERRIE



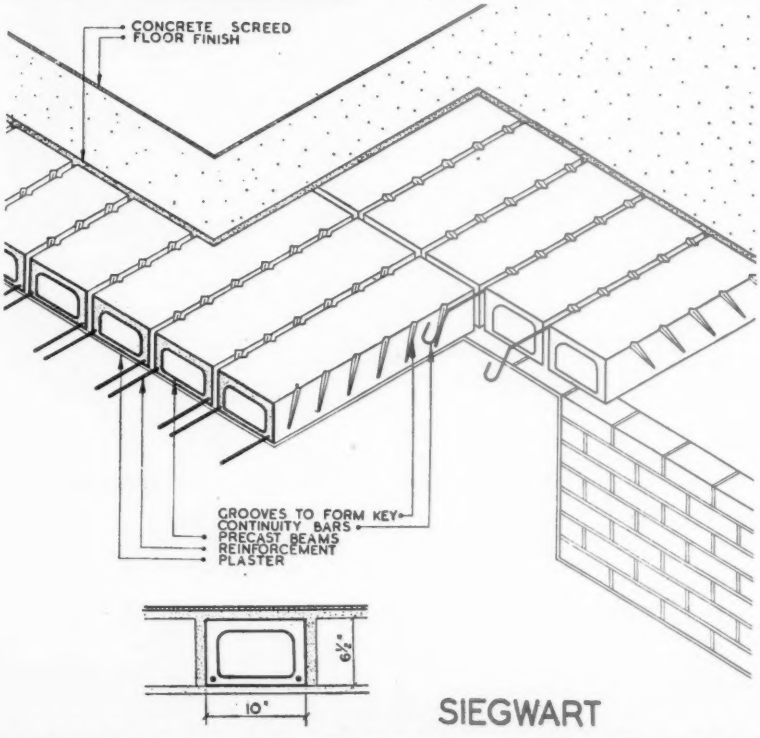
Typical first floor plan of 3-storey **TENEMENT BLOCK**



UNICON



The eight types of flooring used in this scheme, two of which are reproduced here, are described in the letterpress on page 110. On the left is a view of the Unicon floor under construction.



SIEGWART

HOUSING SCHEME, GLASGOW

LETTERS

MRS. B. BRITTAN
Bournemouth

The Ideal way to Live after the War

SIR,—Take a site of several acres, preferably wooded, and build there about twelve modern bungalows with garages, hidden as far as possible from each other and with a nice piece of garden. In some central or convenient position is the key building, where would be housed a restaurant and domestic staff for the bungalows. There would be a specially designed light electric-driven van for quick communication between the bungalows by which meals could be supplied to them when desired.

A number of these sets of homes could be built all over the country, many within easy reach of big cities, and they would, of course, vary in size and scope. Thus the larger ones could also have a children's nursery, swimming pool, general store, etc. Of course, blocks of flats have been built on these lines and I have lived in them, but these bungalows would be real Homes in ideal surroundings. I am not suggesting they would be cheap, but then, to my mind, our domestic problems are best solved on communal lines. The above offers any advantages a hotel may have together with the independence of a well-run home.

I have been thinking about this for about a year and the other point I have in mind I thought of before the war and is intended for someone designing their own house, as I should like to do, although I should probably want to complete about six before I really got everything right.

This concerns a bedroom, the idea being to sleep with plenty of fresh air and yet to be able to dress and undress in warmth and comfort, considering that most of our climate is winter. There would be a well-warmed bedroom with mechanically operated sliding or folding doors. These give on to a bay, windowed all round in a semi-circular manner, all of which can open right back in the summer. The bed

would also be mechanically operated and after opening the doors would be self-propelled into what could be an open air sleeping balcony when desired, the folding doors being shut behind. In the morning the process would be reversed, the bed being propelled back into the bedroom without the occupant leaving it, before getting up. This is not really so fantastic as it sounds and should delight many a wealthy person.

Trusting I have interested you.

B. BRITTAN (MRS.).

Practical Ideas,
Bournemouth.

LITERATURE

DEAD OR ALIVE

P.E.P. in two recent Broad Sheets (Nos. 180 and 181) surveys the kindred subjects of landownership and land management, and attempts to lay down certain principles which should shape a national policy towards the land.

Land they say should be treated as a heritage from the past held in trust for the future, and steps should be taken to see that it is not misused but developed for the common good. Land management should be in the hands of men possessing ample financial resources, with sufficient knowledge, training, experience and personal interest in the land to refrain from speculation and adopt a sound long-term policy however great the initial cost: they should be made accountable to town and country planning authorities in order to secure that neighbouring pieces of land are developed in harmony with each other.

On these general principles certain recommendations are based, the chief being: (1) That local authorities should be encouraged to become land owners by the removal of restrictions on their power to purchase land, and also given the right of first refusal of all land offered for sale within their area. Central and local government bodies together already own over three million acres, and there is little doubt that the adoption of these recommendations would cause the amount to increase rapidly; (ii) the right kind of private ownership should be encouraged by remitting death duties, subject to the proviso that money so remitted must be reinvested in the property, and that there must be no change of ownership within 10 or 15 years.

The main interest of these proposals lies, perhaps, in what they omit to mention, *i.e.*, the methods to be adopted to bring the interests of landowners in line with the long-term requirements of a sound planning policy. Private owners, it is suggested, should be bought out or compensated in kind in cases where a conflict of interests occurs, but it is tacitly assumed that in so far as land is owned by local authorities no such conflict can arise. One cannot help wondering what would happen if a planning authority were to decide that a once busy factory district should be laid down to grass. Local authorities are so sensitive about reductions in rateable value, and have struggled so hard in the past to attract population and industry that it seems unreasonable to expect them—as landowner as well as rate collector—to reverse the process, where necessary, with enthusiasm. The problem of compensation in fact can't be muffed out of existence by substituting public for private ownership; and betterment, don't let us blink the fact, would remain as elusive and difficult to collect as ever. Who is to say for certain that Coventry grew in 1950 because the growth of London was restricted in 1949?

One of the arguments in favour of encouraging landownership by local authorities is that local authorities would make good trustees. Land is a monopoly—for the majority of people somebody else's monopoly. Whoever owns it, and however much it is subdivided this remains true. In fact the smaller the plots the greater their monopoly value. So there is a clear case for consolidating landownership, and controlling the use of land in the public interest. What is not so clear is that the best method of doing this is to vest ownership and control in the same persons, viz., local authorities, who are already jointly and severally responsible for administering the town planning Acts.

Another point worth remembering when discussing questions of land management is this: In addition to being the platform of all our activities land is the basis of the two largest industries in the country, agriculture and building, each employing well over a million men. Now it's true that mismanagement of land to-day may affect posterity, but so may a mistaken policy pursued for several years in any other industry of national importance. Are they all to be administered by trustees? The law of diminishing returns once purported to show that land offered no scope for enterprise, because the yield of an acre could only be increased beyond a certain point by a disproportionate expenditure of energy; but it was disproved some time ago. At the moment there seems almost endless scope for enterprise to increase the real returns from land in town and country alike. Controls are urgently necessary in the public interest, but it is equally necessary in the public interest that they should be as few and as general as possible, and only designed to prevent practices which are clearly and unmistakeably anti-social and not merely unfamiliar. It would be a pity if planning were to be held back in the same way that building has been by a dead weight of ignorant prejudice disguised as control in the public interest.

Land has a third peculiarity, which is, perhaps, from the point of view of land management, the most important of all. It and everything connected with it has a life and character of its own (which may be why agriculture and building, the two great industries based on it, have, like family life, remained largely unaffected by mass production methods). At some point in all these cases the rational and insensitive machine has got to be adapted to suit an infinite variety of local and personal vagaries. Doubt about where this point should be fixed has, among other things, held up the process of rationalisation. In a democracy the difficulty is a real one, though there's no doubt it has been over-rated, and that analysis, specialisation, standardisation and mechanisation are long overdue. But however far these processes are carried, one thing is certain, the final synthesis ought to remain an art and something of a mystery—(at any rate until human emotions and the English landscape can be made scientific and precise). Local Government machinery, however suitable it may be for other purposes, seems a trifle clumsy for this kind of work. There are parts of a town which seem rightly to belong to the municipality: Civic centres, main roads, public parks and land needed for their own buildings. But one wonders how much further municipal ownership could expand without creating a genuinely popular demand for a second statute of Mortmain.

G.R.

NEW SPECIFICATION

Metal Windows and Doors (B.S. 990-1941).—The issue of the above British Standard represents a very interesting addition to the list of standardized building units. Standards for wooden windows were prepared and issued in 1935 in B.S. 644, but prior to the war no action had been taken to secure co-ordination of the type and sizes of windows made by different manufacturers. This step has now been achieved. The standard is in two parts. The first includes the specification, clauses relating to requirements such as quality of material, workmanship, fittings, finish, etc. The second part gives working drawings of the different types of window, full-size drawings of the steel sections and details of various methods of fixing. Information about the glass sizes, daylight areas and weight of steel for licence purposes is also included.

The standards have been fixed in close association with the British Metal Window Manufacturers' Association Limited. The reduction in the multiplicity of types and sizes of windows and doors for all war-time purposes—both Government and general—

including factory, hutting, hostel and storage, should assist in concentrating wartime demands with the consequent advantage of quicker delivery.

The standard is issued under the authority of the Ministry of Works and Buildings and will, therefore, be adopted by all Government Departments. Copies of this new British Standard (B.S.990-1941) may be obtained from the British Standards Institution, 28, Victoria Street, Westminster, S.W.1, price 2s. 3d. post free.

★ *DAMAGE to products through condensation forming on cold water supply mains?* - - Q 871

★ *CAN you give me some of the respective merits and demerits of an Architectural degree and of the R.I.B.A. Examination?* - - - - Q 872

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45 THE AVENUE,
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Q 871

ARCHITECT, WARWICK.—*I have experienced considerable inconvenience from CONDENSATION forming ON COLD WATER SUPPLY MAINS running at roof level through factory blocks. This condition has caused damage to products below by drippings from these pipes.*

I have in hand proposals for improved ventilation throughout the works which should, to some extent, alleviate the trouble. In the meantime can you suggest any immediate remedy such as the application of anti-condensation paint.

This trouble exists both under heated and non-heated conditions of the works and recurs periodically, dependent on prevailing weather conditions.

Improved ventilation may alleviate the trouble, as you suggest, but it is not likely to effect a cure as the temperature of the air is likely to remain higher than the temperature of the pipes through which cold water is flowing.

Two anti-condensation paints are given below which should prove satisfactory. Alternatively you could insulate the pipes by means of felt or similar material.

Anti-Condensation Paint. The Fairfield Paint Co., Ltd., London Colour Works, White Horse Lane, Mile End, London, E.1.

Cork-Tex B. (Anti-Condensation Paint), Thos. Parsons & Sons, Ltd., 315, Oxford Street, London, W.1.

Q 872

ENQUIRER, HEREFORD.—*I should be glad if you could give me some of the respective merits and demerits, from a professional point of view, of an ARCHITECTURAL DEGREE and of the R.I.B.A. examination.*

There is not a great deal of difference between the various architectural degrees and qualifications since no one can call himself an Architect unless he is registered as such with the Architects Registration Council of the United Kingdom, and before registration he must pass one of the qualifying examinations.

Anyone with a knowledge of the profession knows that a Registered Architect has either passed a qualifying examination recognized by the Registration Council or been able to satisfy the Council that he was employed in a responsible position, as an Architect, prior to the passing of the Act.

The effect of a qualification on a prospective client is not easy to say. He may be well acquainted with A.R.I.B.A. or F.R.I.B.A. and not realize the implication of Registered Architect; alternatively he might be more impressed by a B.A. or a similar degree.

Q 873

CONTRACTORS, WILTSHIRE. — *Three years ago we took out some marble shelving and counter slabbing from a Provision Store and stored it in our Yards, exposed to all weathers. It appeared to be in good condition and we subsequently had it squared up and laid on a Bathroom floor. This was an upstairs room and some 3 in. of concrete was filled in between the joists, finishing about 1 in. above the top of the joists. Dull stains have now appeared on several of the pieces of marble, but not on all of them. We should very much appreciate any suggestion for the obliteration or REMOVAL OF these STAINS.*

The concrete was composed of Portland cement and blue limestone from the Chipping Sodbury district of Gloucestershire.

It is impossible to make any definite statement without seeing the floor in question, and we should advise you to remove a section of the flooring and screeding and to examine the underside.

Possible causes are creosote, or other preservative, if used on the woodwork, or rot in the woodwork due to dampness and lack of ventilation.

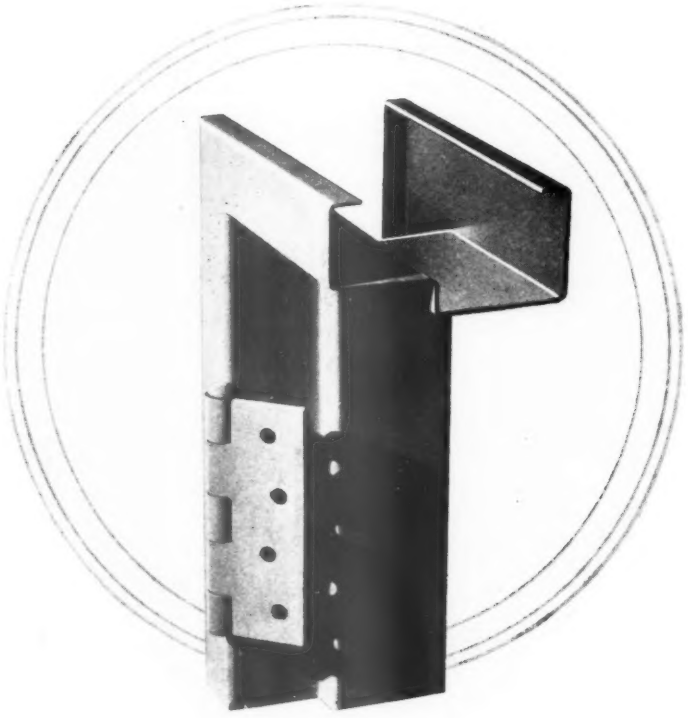
If a preservative is seeping through we should advise you to hack up the screed and put down a layer of building paper or similar material before re-screeding.

Parazone, made by the Parazone Co., Ltd., of 12, Wellington Street, London, E.16, is a good cleanser for marble, but it will obviously only remove the effects and not the cause of the trouble.

Q 874

STUDENT, SCOTLAND.—*Is there an association of students who hold meetings or issue literature on the REPLANNING AND RECONSTRUCTION of Britain in post-war years? Are there any good books on the design of modern architecture and town and country planning. What are the Garchey system of refuse disposal and the Drancy scheme for heating.*

The R.I.B.A. Reconstruction Committee and the Architectural Science Group, both of the Royal Institute of



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Metal Trim will undoubtedly play an important part in post war reconstruction, and those interested are welcome to a copy of our catalogue. For the time being, of course, we are only able to execute orders carrying Government permits.

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British Architects, 66, Portland Place, London, W.1, and the 1940 Council of 13, Suffolk Street, Haymarket, London, S.W.1, are considering the problems of reconstruction, but the members of these groups have considerable experience and technical knowledge and we doubt whether your services could be utilized.

You should apply to the architectural schools in your part of the country, as they are likely to be in touch with local groups of students and we suggest the School of Architecture at :—

Robert Gordon's Technical College, Aberdeen.
Edinburgh College of Art.
University of Glasgow.

The School of Architecture at Hull, though farther away, is particularly interested in post-war reconstruction.

As an introduction to Modern Architecture we suggest :—

An Introduction to Modern Architecture. Richards. Pelican.

The Key to Modern Architects. Yorke & Penn. Blackie.

Modern Building: its Nature, Problems and Forms. Behrendt. Hopkinson.

and for Town Planning :—

Town and Country Planning. Thomas Sharp. Pelican.

Town and Country Planning. Abercrombie. Home University.

Town and Country Planning. Broumptrey. Nelson.

Royal Commission on Distribution of Industrial Population. H.M. Stationery Office.

Q 875

ARCHITECTS, SUFFOLK.—*Our query concerns the whole question of WATER SUPPLY to a house in the country where there is no main supply. A pond supplies the needs at present for the house (a small one) and some cottages. There is said to be some sort of filter buried near the pond. The question is, whether to resuscitate the existing filtration system or instal a new one (possibly in the house) or whether even this is not healthy and a well would be better. Can advice on the subject be had, independent of firms making filters or boring wells?*

The first thing to do is to have the water tested. The Local Authority would have this done for you, but as this service is not free of charge there is no particular reason for going to them.

There are, also, numerous bacteriologists who would undertake this work; we personally can recommend Dr. E. V. Suckling of 1, The Broadway, Gidea Park, Essex. We understand that the bacteriologist would send you a container for the sample and that it would not be necessary for him to visit the site.

If the water is found to be unsuitable for drinking purposes you would be advised to expose the filter and to ascertain the name of the manufacturer, as only minor repairs or replacements might be necessary.

Any new work carried out would have to be to the approval of the Ministry of Health so there is no question of one system being healthy and another not. If the existing supply is adequate (in quantity) the comparison will be one of cost and there appears to be no objection to obtaining comparative estimates from well borers and filter manufacturers.

●

CANTEEN EQUIPMENT

The Ministry of Works and Buildings called together a large group of manufacturers who were not represented by any association because they were anxious to collate the total output of the country.

From this very widely represented group, the National Association of Kitchen Equipment Manufacturers has been formed.

Any manufacturing firm interested in the above can obtain full particulars of this Association from the Hon. Secretary, Mr. G. Percival Ellard, 319 Green Lane, Norbury, S.W.16.