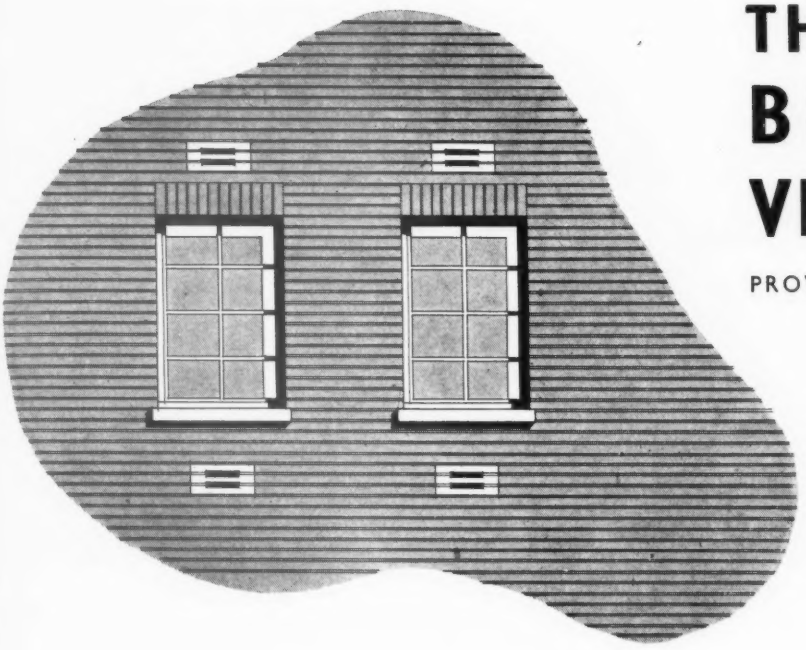

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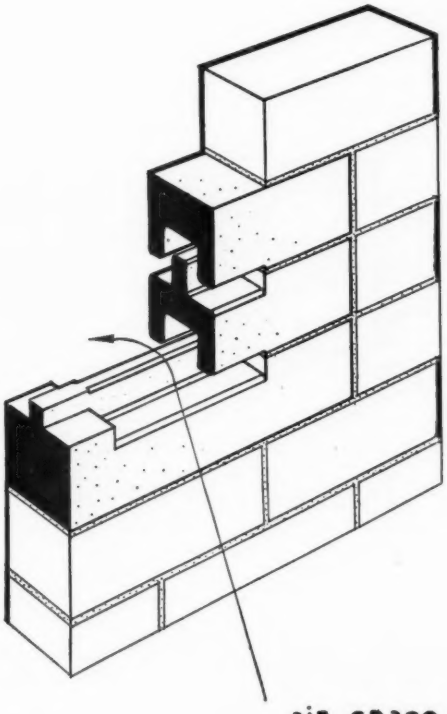

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The Editor will be glad to receive MS. articles and also illustrations of current architecture in this country and abroad with a view to publication. Though every care will be taken, the Editor cannot hold himself responsible for material sent him.

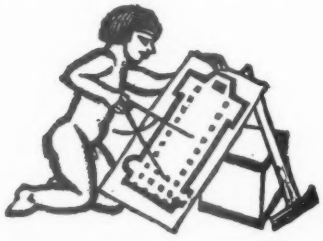
THURSDAY, MAY 14, 1942. NUMBER 2468: VOLUME 95

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*

In Sarnesfield Churchyard, near Weobley, is the tombstone of John Abel, the celebrated architect of the market houses of Hereford, Leominster, Knighton and Brecknock, who died in the year 1694 *at the age of ninety-seven. The memorial stone is adorned with three statues in kneeling posture, representing Abel and his two wives; and also displayed are the emblems of his profession—the rule, the compass, and the square—the whole being designed and sculptured by himself. The epitaph was also of his own writing, and runs thus:*

"This craggy stone a covering is for an architector's bed;
That lofty buildings raisèd high, yet now lyes low his head;
His line and rule, so death concludes, are lockèd up in store;
Build they who list, or they who wist, for he can build no more.

His house of clay could hold no longer,
May Heaven's joys build him a stronger.
John Abel.
Vive ut vivas in vitam aeternam."

NEWS

ELECTION

At the annual meeting of the Sheffield, South Yorkshire and District Society of Architects and Surveyors the following officers were elected for the Session 1942-43. *President:* Mr. S. Welsh, M.A., B.ARCH., F.R.I.B.A.; *Vice-President:* Mr. D. B. Jenkinson (Rotherham) F.R.I.B.A.; *Hon. Treasurer:* Mr. J. Mansell Jenkinson, F.R.I.B.A.; *Hon. Secretary:* Mr. H. B. S. Gibbs, F.R.I.B.A.

POST WAR RECONSTRUCTION

Arrangements have recently been completed for the establishment of a Wales Survey Board (Bwrdd Arolwg Cymru) for the consideration of principles and policies and the preparation of surveys as a preliminary to post-war planning in Wales and Monmouthshire. The work of the Board, which is to be objective and non-political, will deal with questions concerning the social and industrial life of Wales in a correlated and comprehensive manner. Four Area Councils have been formed, one for each of the areas of which the collegiate towns of Aberystwyth, Bangor, Cardiff and Swansea are the centres. These Councils will furnish the Board with general reports on the conditions in their respective areas. There will also be a number of Functional Committees to deal with specific departments of inquiry and report relating to the Principality as a whole.

The Wales Survey Board is composed of members appointed by the four Area Councils, to whom will be added the Chairmen of the several Functional Committees and a limited number of specially co-opted members. The Board will also invite the assistance of representatives of government departments, to act as assessors.

The Board and its Area Councils will foster the formation all over Wales of Local Survey Groups to co-operate in the surveys, and to promote an intelligent and constructive local interest in problems of future planning; and, as it is one of the main objects of the Board to interest as many people as possible in these problems, it is proposed at opportune times to arrange public conferences in various parts of Wales for the discussion of the future needs of Wales.

It is the policy of the Board to work in close association with other organisations having similar objects, and for the exchange of information and comment between such bodies. This latter provision will have a special significance in relation to the more official "Wales Advisory Committee," if and when that Committee is appointed by the Government.

In all its deliberations, the Board will recognise the Principality as a historic national unit with its own traditions, cultural influences, and economic activities. It will also stress the importance of regional development, and will keep well to the fore the distinctive needs of rural and industrial areas, respectively.

Sir Percy Watkins has been appointed Chairman of the Board. The Honorary Secretary is Mr. Peter Scott, Court Perrott, Llandegreth, Caerleon, Mon. The Chairmen of the four Area Councils are: Aberystwyth Area, Mr. Moses Griffith; Bangor Area, Professor J. Morgan Rees; Cardiff Area, Principal J. F. Rees; Swansea Area, Principal C. A. Edwards. The Chairmen of the Functional Committees have not yet been appointed, but it is expected that representative persons specially qualified to deal with problems relating to important departments in the social and industrial life of Wales will be willing to serve.

APPEAL FOR BOOKS

The following appeal has been sent to us by Mrs. E. V. Penn, Acting Secretary, A.A.S.T.A.: "Recent copies of the JOURNAL would be very much appreciated by building technicians now in the armed forces. Why not send them regularly to us when you have finished with them? We shall be glad to forward them to those of our members now on active service." Address of the Association is 113, High Holborn, W.C.1.

MR. JELLICOE OFF TO U.S.A.

Mr. G. A. Jellicoe, F.R.I.B.A., is to visit the United States to study developments there. Mr. George Hicks, M.P., discussed his visit in the House of Commons. He said: "The Ministry of Works have had under consideration the question of sending to the United States a representative delegation to study building developments there. An inquiry of

marriage of two fellows

Since the foundation of the Royal Institute of British Architects in 1834, only five women have been elected to the Fellowship. The last to receive this distinction was Miss Jane Drew, who was married some days ago to another Fellow, Major E. Maxwell Fry, R.E., at Caxton Hall, prior to his departure overseas. This is the first time, as far as we can ascertain, that a marriage has taken place between two Fellows of the Institute. The photograph above was taken after the ceremony.

this kind would have particular reference, of course, to post-war needs; and the Minister is of opinion that the time is not yet ripe for the despatch of such a delegation. Meanwhile," added Mr. Hicks, "there is need for early information not now available in this country, regarding training and education, both of operatives and management, in the building industry in the United States, and Mr. G. A. Jellicoe, F.R.I.B.A., a part-time member of the staff of the Ministry, is being sent to the United States for the purpose of obtaining this information. Mr. Jellicoe will be instructed also to make a preliminary examination into methods of prefabrication and standardization. It is intended that Mr. Jellicoe shall spend eight weeks in the United States."

BINC

The tenth annual meeting of the Council was held on Thursday, April 30. Mr. R. Coppock, C.B.E., HON.A.R.I.B.A., in his speech referred to the fact that there were some 500 to 600 different organizations within the industry, and stated that the time was approaching when it might be essential for vested interests to be submerged for the common good. It was wrong, however, that the policy of the industry should be directed by persons "sitting-in" with the Minister of Works and Planning, instead of this task being discharged by industry itself. It had been estimated, continued Mr. Coppock, that on the civil engineering side of the industry alone, some 250,000 to 300,000 workpeople would be required for post-war reconstruction and development, whilst on the building side 1,300,000 to 1,175,000 workmen would be needed to carry through the post-war programme, involving perhaps annual expenditure of some £800,000,000 for the ten years following the cessation of hostilities. This programme of work must be organized so that the periodic booms and slumps of the past, with their inevitable repercussions were not repeated, which affect not only the industry itself but all its associated and ancillary trades.

Mr. Coppock was re-elected President for the ensuing year. Mr. Coppock is the General Secretary of the National Federation of Building Trades Operatives, and is also Chairman of the Parliamentary Committee of the London County Council as well as being President of the International Federation of Building and Wood-workers.

Mr. G. H. Parker, the Chairman of the National Joint Council for the Building Industry, was re-elected senior vice-president.

Mr. B. S. TOWNROE, M.A., was elected hon. treasurer.

WASTE PAPER

A waste paper exhibition is now being held at Selfridges' premises in Oxford Street, London; it was opened by Lady Louis Mountbatten last week. Lady Louis, who is Deputy Lady Superintendent-in-Chief of St. John Ambulance Brigade, said that in her job a ton of waste paper makes 4,000 square feet of wall boarding for hospitals; 18 oz. of waste paper pack a weekly parcel for one of our 90,000 prisoners of war. Wrappings for surgical supplies, charts of patients' progress, cigarette papers for the wounded, all come from waste paper.

MEMORANDUM

The following Memorandum has been submitted to Lord Chief Justice Scott's Committee on Land Utilisation in Rural

Areas by the Institute of Landscape Architects.

It is evident to the Council of the Institute of Landscape Architects that the social forces now in motion must result in a drastic alteration of the aspect of a great deal of our national landscape. The Council is consequently greatly interested in the conclusions of your Committee which will have a bearing on this question. In the past our people's early attitude towards landscape was one of fear and exploration; then came one of exploration and conquest; and now we are within the sphere of the third attitude: of the Development of Resources. In choosing the contribution that we can best make towards the work of the Committee, we feel that we cannot do better than express our views through one of the foremost thinkers of the time; and we quote therefore, the following from *The Culture of Cities*, by Lewis Mumford.

Of the Third Attitude to Landscape.

"To-day the period of exploration has come to an end, and our attitude toward the earth is undergoing another profound change: a by-product of our increased knowledge of the sources of life, and our critical examination of human history. We can no longer leave soils and landscapes and agricultural possibilities out of our calculations in considering the future of either industries or cities. For the era of the callous pioneer, who laid waste to a particular area, looted its natural resources, and moved on, is over: there is no place left to move. We have reached the end of our journey, and in the main, we must retrace our steps, and, region by region, learn to do intelligently and co-operatively what we hitherto did in such disregard of the elementary decencies of life. The grasp of the region as a dynamic social reality is a first step toward a constructive policy of planning, housing and urban renewal."

Of the Positive Planning of Landscape.

"Originating in the spectacle of waste and defilement, the conservation movement has tended to have a negative influence: it has sought to isolate wilderness areas from encroachment and it has endeavoured to diminish waste and prevent damage. The present task of regional planning is a more positive one: it seeks to bring the earth as a whole up to the highest pitch of perfection and appropriate use.

". . . Our planners in the past have had a tendency to single out the more striking forms of landscape. This was an inevitable heritage from the romantic movement, which attached itself to the 'picturesque' and loathed more orderly and cultivated forms of beauty. There has been no comparable movement to cultivate other types of landscape and bring them up to a high pitch of aesthetic delight."

Of Social Synthesis in the Landscape.

"But in order to make economic planning possible, the field of planning cannot be confined to industries and services alone. No survey, however exact in all its preliminary methods, can arrive at sound results so long as the most important variables lie outside the province of the particular industry for which a production plan is made. Energy flow, production flow, goods flow must be directed finally into channels of human use. This means that at some point there must be a means of determining, for a given region and period, the norm of consumption in terms of food, clothing, shelter, recreation, education and culture. The standard set for production must not only include private consumption but public works—houses and highways, parks and gardens, cities and civic institutes and all the interconnecting tissue that finally compose an organic region. Only when the whole has been plotted out can the individual function be directed with efficiency. Lacking such plans, there is a constant hiatus between productive energies and human fulfilments: the wheel turns rapidly, but the squirrel remains within his cage."

The Institute is based on principles such as these; it believes that the standard of good landscape can be applied as a test of plans, policies and legislation for social development.

R.I.B.A. HEALTH POLICY

Architects are invited to make applications for inclusion in the R.I.B.A. Group Health and Accident Policy. One unit of insurance costs 19/6 per annum and provides a weekly benefit for males of 20/- and females 15/-. The Policy covers Accidents and Illnesses of any kind, and includes a Fatal Accident Benefit of £200. Age limits at entry :—50 years for males; 40 years for females. A member may insure up to a maximum of 10 units. Apply for particulars to: The Secretary, A.B.S. Insurance Department, 66, Portland Place, London, W.1.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Sir Guy Dawber, R.A., Wilson & Fox, have moved their offices to 122, Wigmore Street, Portman Square, W.1. Telephone: Welbeck 8636.

ROYAL ACADEMY

THOUGH the public is less well trained in architectural criticism there are as many ways of looking at buildings as there are of looking at pictures. Pictures can be judged from the point of view of their decorative value, their formal value, their technical excellence and their meaning. Buildings, too, can be judged in the same way. One can take a single elevation and judge it as pattern in relief. One can take a whole building and judge it as form. One can also judge it from the craftsman's point of view studying it to find whether materials have been skilfully used to enforce a desired impression by colour and texture, or to resist necessary stresses and strains by right application of the first principles of engineering. Finally one can judge a building from the point of view of the meaning it is intended to convey, the way of living it is designed to express.

No two people seem able to agree on how much importance should be attached to the meaning of a picture or a building when assessing its merits as a work of art. Modern painters are apt to disregard meaning altogether; the old school are realists. In the architectural world it is the other way round. The old school attaches no importance whatever to the meaning of a building in terms of ordinary everyday life; the moderns are functionalists. Truth probably lies somewhere between the two. The artist's job, broadly speaking, is to give decorative and formal value to ordinary everyday objects and activities, changing them perhaps in the process but at any rate using them as a basis, and bringing the technique of his craft to bear to achieve this object. If his work is completely out of touch with life it's of very little use to society, and though theoretically it can be a good work of art, in practice it seldom is. There is usually a kind of staleness about it that is difficult to define but which can be recognized hundreds of years later by connoisseurs living quite a different kind of existence. If it has neither decorative nor formal value it can scarcely claim to be a work of art.

Having said all this one turns to the Royal Academy knowing in advance that contemporary feeling will not be strongly represented there but hoping all the same to find good traditions of the past upheld. It is disappointing there-

fore to be confronted by works that have little or no academic value. Leaving vexed questions of style and of suitability for purpose on one side, most of the exhibits are open to severe criticism from the academic point of view. As to one particular exhibit, the Bank of England which was the occasion for destroying one of London's masterpieces—Soanes Bank—whose mutilated remains have been retained as a footstool for the new building, Academicians might surely be expected to appreciate the extent of this æsthetic disaster.

One is forcibly reminded of the question so repeatedly asked by Roger Fry: "What does the Royal Academy stand for? What tradition does it uphold?"

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

NOTES & TOPICS

UP TO DATE HOUSING

A week ago saw the public launching of the *Committee-for-the-Industrial-and-Scientific-provision-of-Housing*. Its chairman, Mr. Harry Weston (chairman also of the city of Coventry Housing Committee), explained that the committee isn't run for profit, has no interest in the sale of any particular material, and claims no monopoly of the results of its research. Finally, he divulged that its aim is to work out methods of providing houses at a rate which will make it possible for everybody to have a new one. You don't have to be bombed, he said, to want a smart new house with the latest thing in kitchens.

★

On the other hand it's no good designing houses if no one has money to buy them. At present house purchase is financed on the assumption that a house is a safe investment. If houses, like motor cars, were to become consumer goods they could no longer be regarded as a good security. The co-operation of Bankers and Building Societies would be needed to work out new methods.

★

And the men who are to build the houses must be consulted. Bricklayers, plumbers, carpenters and electricians must be persuaded somehow that it would do them no harm to take a less exclusive interest in bricks, pipes, joists and cables and chum up together in one great fraternity of building assemblers.

★

Mr. Denis Clarke Hall† is a member of this committee. He outlined conclusions tentatively arrived at on the basis of work done to date. (At this stage he admitted that the phrase *Scientific-and-Industrial-Provision* just means prefabrication.) His own conclusions are that effort should be concentrated on (*a*) standardization of dimensions, and (*b*) standardization of functions. As an example of the latter, he instanced the electric light bulb which will fit into any make of lamp.

★

He also explained the reason for the committee's title. The committee, he said, disliked the word prefabrication, partly because it really means nothing—bricks and timber sections are prefabricated—partly because it suggests buildings like army huts where everything is standardized including the plan; they don't want anybody to think that they are interested in this kind of standardization.

† Material collected by him in research work extending over three years has been presented to the committee and forms the starting point of the research.

NOT ENOUGH UNSKILLED LABOUR

Tucked away in the A.A.S.T.A. report‡ is the following interesting little bit of evidence. "One case is known where a local authority employed 16 large and 19 small firms for similar work. The large firms used 20-30 per cent. more labour time per house than the small, partly because of their greater use of unskilled labour."

★

Failure to employ small firms on war building is often justified by stating that they are not efficient. This argument is frequently backed up by pointing to statistics which show that they employ a higher proportion of skilled to unskilled labour.

★

The report contains a number of interesting suggestions for increasing the efficiency of the building industry, and deserves to be read slowly and carefully. If these suggestions are carried out, however, it would seem that some reorganization of a type that is not specifically stressed in this statement, might still be necessary to complete the speeding up process.

★

The report suggests that control over building work should be concentrated in the hands of the Ministry of Works and Planning. Further concentration desirable on its own account might be disastrous unless conditions of employment inside the ministry itself are improved and ways found of allowing official architects a much greater measure of individual responsibility than they enjoy at present.

★

The report also suggests that the work of the Ministry should be decentralized as far as possible and full use made of Regional Boards, and goes on to say that these "Regional Boards should have a planning as well as a building function. That would cover questions such as the relation of housing to transport, the balance between billeting and new housing, or the

‡ A.J., May 7.

provision of social services in relation to an increase in population in the region." To complete the picture one feels that some central planning department is necessary concerned also with these broad issues of policy but on a national as opposed to a regional basis.

★

For instance last week* the leading article in the JOURNAL described how badly research by a central body is needed if we are to profit by the economies of modern technique, and pointed to the directorate of Post-war Building as a body which might be able and willing to work out a plan of campaign.

★

Central heating for instance is clean, labour saving and popular, but in one-house installations is unfortunately too expensive for most of us. Some central authority is needed to work out how much money could be saved by providing it collectively. To work out problems like this *regionally* would be waste of time.

KING PENGUIN

Living in Cities is a penguin, but bears no resemblance to any of its relations. Beautifully printed on thick glossy paper, copiously illustrated with photographs (four of which appear on the elegant grey cover alone), it is easily worth twice the usual price.

★

Planners are still apt to talk of towns as if they were necessarily nasty unhealthy places to be broken up as far as possible. Mr. Tubbs, by contrast, looks forward to a time when " cities will delight in the busy activity of their ways, in the splendour of their buildings, in their quiet open spaces."

★

I hope they will. I hope he will persuade the public that " intimate colonnaded shopping boulevards, tall offices admitting sun and air to every room, trees and parks, avenues, squares and terraces . . are the elements of the city—not the individual building."

★

I don't believe myself that the public needs much persuasion. The other day a sapper from Tooting was asked what he thought of Winchester. "You call that a town?" he snorted. " Doesn't look like town to me. There isn't a shop in the place more than two bays wide."

★

Maybe the answer proves nothing more than a love of Tooting Broadway. Some people might interpret it as a sign of incorrigible vulgarity. But to me it seems to indicate a craving for spaciousness and for a scale in keeping with the grandeur of 20th century civilization, and a natural dislike for the individualistic approach Mr. Tubbs is so anxious to avoid.

THE CASE FOR DISCRIMINATION

Mr. Penn writes* to say " discrimination against women undesirable in peace time is quite unjustifiable now," and blames contractors for refusing to employ women surveyors. One wonders if he realizes the serious nature of the difficulties which have in the past prevented, and still prevent, the employment of women.

★

I am reminded of a young friend of mine (very charming in her way) who once had the temerity to apply for a job with the well-known firm of architects —— and ——. Her application was not successful and she was exceedingly annoyed at the time, but has since confessed that reasons were given which appear to me unanswerable.

★

She was interviewed by a partner of the firm, who showed his broad-mindedness by stating that he had married his secretary. He told her " In theory we have no objection to employing women ; but in practice we have found the arrangement very unsatisfactory. The work of the rest of the staff deteriorates. Even men who have been with us for years lose their heads and throw their indiarubbers about."

★

I am sorry to say she was unable to see the force of this argument and even appeared to think it might be a reason for refusing to employ elderly men. Which only goes to show how *impossible* women are.

ASTRAGAL

* A.J., May 7.

* A.J., April 30, page 309.

At a lunch-time meeting of the Town and Country Planning Association SIR CECIL WEIR *gave a lecture, reported below, on*

Post War INDUSTRIAL development

Addressing the Town and Country Planning Association on Post-War Industrial Development, Sir Cecil Weir spoke of the opportunity we would have to plan our industrial organisation as part of a general Town, Country and Industry planning scheme which would gradually remove the worst features of density and congestion, modernise our cities, develop smaller towns and diversify industries as widely as possible. Due regard would, of course, have to be paid to special conditions such as qualities of water, adjacence to raw materials and other natural reasons which must always influence the location of certain types of industrial production in certain areas.

The industrial age had developed for a hundred years without any consciously directive plan. While by and large, common sense had operated as a corrective and prevented gross mistakes, it was nevertheless undeniable that the inclinations of private individuals had exercised too powerful an influence on the location of industry with the result that the distribution of population was by no means ideal and the general level of prosperity and distress was unequally spread. As a consequence unemployment became centred in certain areas and its social—or rather anti-social—repercussions were far more serious than they need have been. It stood to reason that 30 per cent. of unemployment in five out of fifty areas was much more dangerous, politically, physically, socially and morally than 5 or 10 per cent. would be, spread over the country as a whole.

The effect of the war and the policy of Concentration of Industry had closed down for the duration of hostilities thousands of firms and transferred their factories to other areas. Many hundreds of new factories had been built for purely war-time purposes which could be made available for peace uses when hostilities ceased.

Those that were closed down at present would naturally want to start up again when peace arrived. Whatever might be the modifications in our economic system—and there would certainly be many—the goods they made, which we had to go without in the spartan conditions of war, would, he hoped and believed, be wanted in greater volume than ever before. The amenities of decent civilized life must be made available more fully than previously to the community generally and so they would be. That was one of the things we were fighting for and it must be achieved. There would undoubtedly be a vast market to supply.

But the relocation of industry in its former place of manufacture must not be taken for granted in every case. Before the war the State weighed in with various measures to attract industries to distressed areas in order to relieve unemployment. If that could be done to reduce an evil was it not logical to grasp the opportunity we would have at the end of the war to relocate our industries where we wanted them, providing, if necessary, financial assistance for the transfer of plant and machinery from one area to another, where this was done to suit a national plan ? He

asked the question; those who were to be responsible for reconstruction would no doubt find an answer.

It would clearly be the acme of folly to recreate social and industrial problems which the war had removed and they could be assured that both business and official minds were never freer of prejudice or more ready and anxious to co-operate in desirable changes and progressive measures than at the present time. So far as he personally was concerned—and he spoke only as an individual—he believed that the location of industry should in future be controlled and directed. This would not hamper enterprise, but it would ensure that town planning and industrial development marched together, and that the national interest became the primary and not the secondary motive.

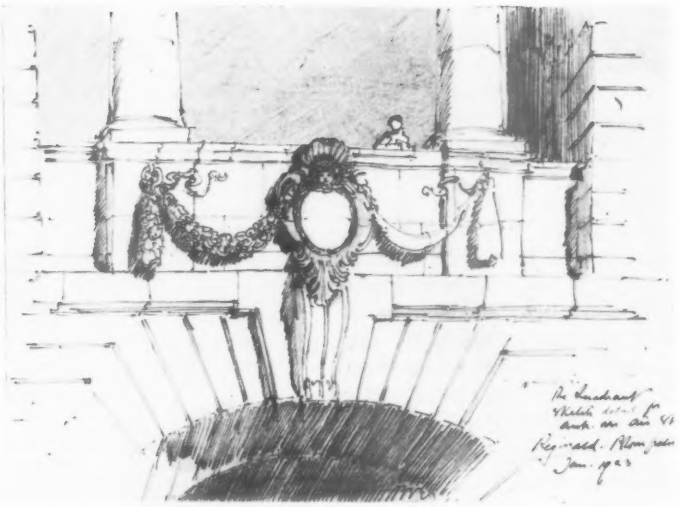
Sir Cecil pointed out that under war conditions it had become increasingly necessary to control and direct the location of production and this means of ensuring that the elements of successful production were available before permitting a new manufacturing unit to take up existing premises or build a factory, had made great forward strides during the past 12 months. Instead of Departments planning in separate compartments there were now co-ordinated information at their disposal and consequently the general rather than the particular interest was becoming the guiding factor. Under the Location of Industry (Restriction) Order 1941 an obligation was placed also upon all private firms and persons to obtain a licence before they could use any building for a manufacturing purpose of a different type from that on which it had hitherto been engaged. If we were to adopt a similar system, with all the necessary safeguards to ensure speed and impartiality, as a permanent feature of our industrial policy we could secure that the expansion of production and drifts of industry from one part of the country to another were planned and directed in the interests of the whole community.

COOKING EQUIPMENT

A Schedule of "austerity" cooking appliances for use by Government Departments ordering kitchen equipment for new British restaurants and canteens for schools, pitheads and factory workers, has been published for the Ministry of Works and Planning by H.M. Stationery Office, price 1s.

This schedule replaces that issued in September, 1941, and considerably reduces the number of designs, types and sizes then approved. It was produced with the full co-operation of manufacturers and all interested Government Departments, and includes all the equipment necessary for canteen kitchens in war time. Appendices covering kitchen machinery and fittings, tea-making appliances and portable equipment, will be published shortly.

Economic design is a feature of the ovens, ranges, boilers, etc., described in the schedule, ornamental types being rigidly excluded. The use of all materials in short supply, and particularly non-ferrous metal, has been reduced to a minimum. Where practicable metal feet, legs or stands will be replaced by brick or concrete piers. Air-drying black paint is used in preference to enamel or other elaborate external finishes. Each item in the schedule has been made as light as is consistent with its purpose and durability. Simplification of design, and the reduction in number of types and sizes ensures rapid production by a number of manufacturers with a minimum of labour, thus reducing war damage risks, transport and other wartime difficulties. Progress is not restricted, however, for improvements may be made by manufacturers within the limits of the specifications contained in the schedule. All appliances and materials used must be in accordance with British Standard Specifications, Home Office Regulations and the Institution of Electrical Engineers' Regulations for Electrical Equipment for Buildings.



Design for Archway from the Quadrant to Air Street, Piccadilly. By Sir Reginald Blomfield, R.A. (No. 688.)

The one hundred and seventy-fourth Royal Academy Exhibition is now being held; it will remain open until August 8. The Architectural Room contains the work of seventy-eight exhibitors; their exhibits comprise forty-seven drawings and fifty-four photographs. The ten members of the Hanging Committee include two architects—W. Curtis Green, R.A., and E. Vincent Harris, A.R.A.

ROYAL ACADEMY

[By RALPH TUBBS, A.R.I.B.A.]

"In our country," said Alice, still panting a little, "you'd generally get to somewhere else—if you ran very fast for a long time, as we've been doing."

"A slow sort of country!" said the Queen. "Now here, you see, it takes all the running you can do, to keep in the same place. If you want to get somewhere else, you must run at least twice as fast as that!"—"THROUGH THE LOOKING-GLASS."

As the Nazis continue their "Three-star Baedeker" raids, as Bath, York, Exeter and Norwich are having many of their finest buildings destroyed, the people of this country are once again thinking more acutely of their cities. With a pang of bitterness they see the buildings that they love transformed into a pile of debris. They are beginning to value more highly the best buildings and at the same time to see the inhumanity and squalor of the poorer parts of many towns. There has therefore developed a very real interest in how these cities are going to be rebuilt after the war. Are the architects going to think of them, of the kind of life they want to live? Are they going to plan human cities, fresh and dynamic, the true expression of a properly integrated life? We read hopeful articles in the daily press of the new towns planned in a new and free spirit, we read many books and pamphlets outlining the possibilities, and so great seem the opportunities and so strong the desire for a better way of living, that it is easy to yield to optimism. Cities and buildings are going to be better: the deplorable standard of architecture during the inter-war period is over:

it is to be forgotten like a bad dream and we shall start to build a better world.

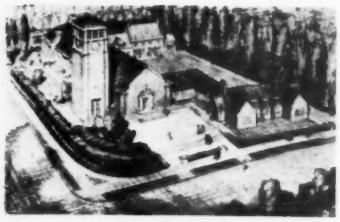
But a visit to the Architectural Room at the Royal Academy brings one face to face with the truth. All one's hopes were a mere day-dream. For here is the work of many architects who, should the present social structure continue, will inevitably be responsible for some of the largest schemes of rebuilding after the war. And here there is no sign of the new breadth of vision, here there is no attempt to solve the building problems of to-day in a contemporary method.

The days are passed when one could conceal the truth with smooth and honeyed words. Ever since the rise of the bourgeois brought about an insincere gentility, it has been considered tiresome and unnecessary to face the truth and to give an honest opinion. We have allowed the starvation of young children and politely called it the "problem of malnutrition"; we have allowed steel-frame buildings dressed up in pseudo-classic garments, and although quite aware of the insincerity, have with the very best of taste discussed the "balanced masses." This refusal to face the truth, this determination to shut one's eye to the rottenness that was at hand on all sides, was largely responsible for the failure to attempt to overcome the main social burdens under which mankind was struggling after the last war, and eventually was largely responsible for the present war.

To tell the truth, therefore, the Architectural Room of the Royal Academy is a display of photographs and drawings of revivalist architecture, that is both evasive and fundamentally irrelevant.

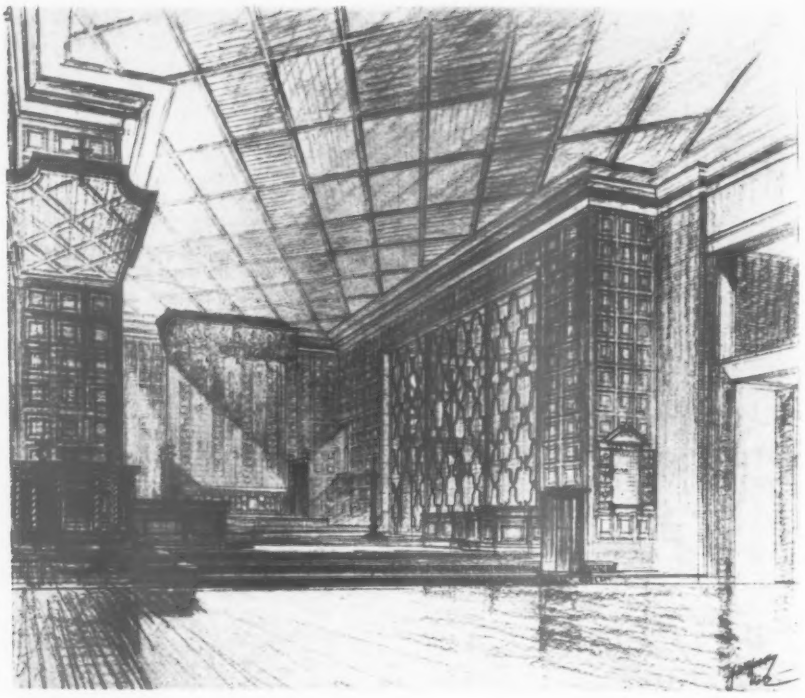
Architecture has always been conditioned by the social structure maintaining at the time and by the materials and knowledge of building technique available. Every individual building, just as any other object, however small, that a man may make, expresses the way of thinking of the man who created it, and at any period in history the sum total of buildings has reflected the attitude of the people, or at least the people in control, to the fundamental facts of existence: their religious and social beliefs have taken visible form. Not only the glorification of God but also the assertion of the domination of the church is to be seen in the cathedral which towered above the mediaeval city; the spacious squares, dignified terraces and large country houses of the time of the Grand Manner, reflect the desire of the landed aristocracy to

Richmond College—the library. By Edward Maufe, A.R.A. (*No.* 682.)

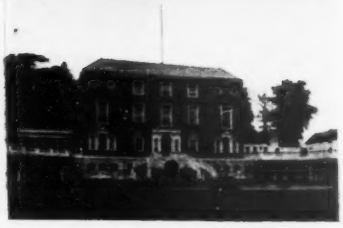


Church at Welwyn. By Louis de Soissons, A.R.A. Perspective by J. D. M. Harvey. (*No.* 726.)

St. Mark's Church, Teddington. By Cyril A. Farey. Perspective by Madeline Farey. (*No.* 675.)



Church of St. Francis of Assisi, Diocese of St. Alban. By Louis de Soissons, A.R.A. Perspective by J. D. M. Harvey. (*No.* 720.)



Three photographs of the R.A.C. Country Club, Woodcote Park, Epsom. By Arthur J. Davis, R.A. Elect. (of Mewès and Davis). (*No.* 699.)

build a dignified and splendid background for their life of superb and extravagant refinement. The use of classic forms from Greece and Italy was then not merely a sterile and meaningless imitation, but reflected the recently rediscovered culture of ancient Greece, whose doctrine of free thought and scientific analysis had come as an inspiring surprise to all Europe now emerging from mediaeval superstition.

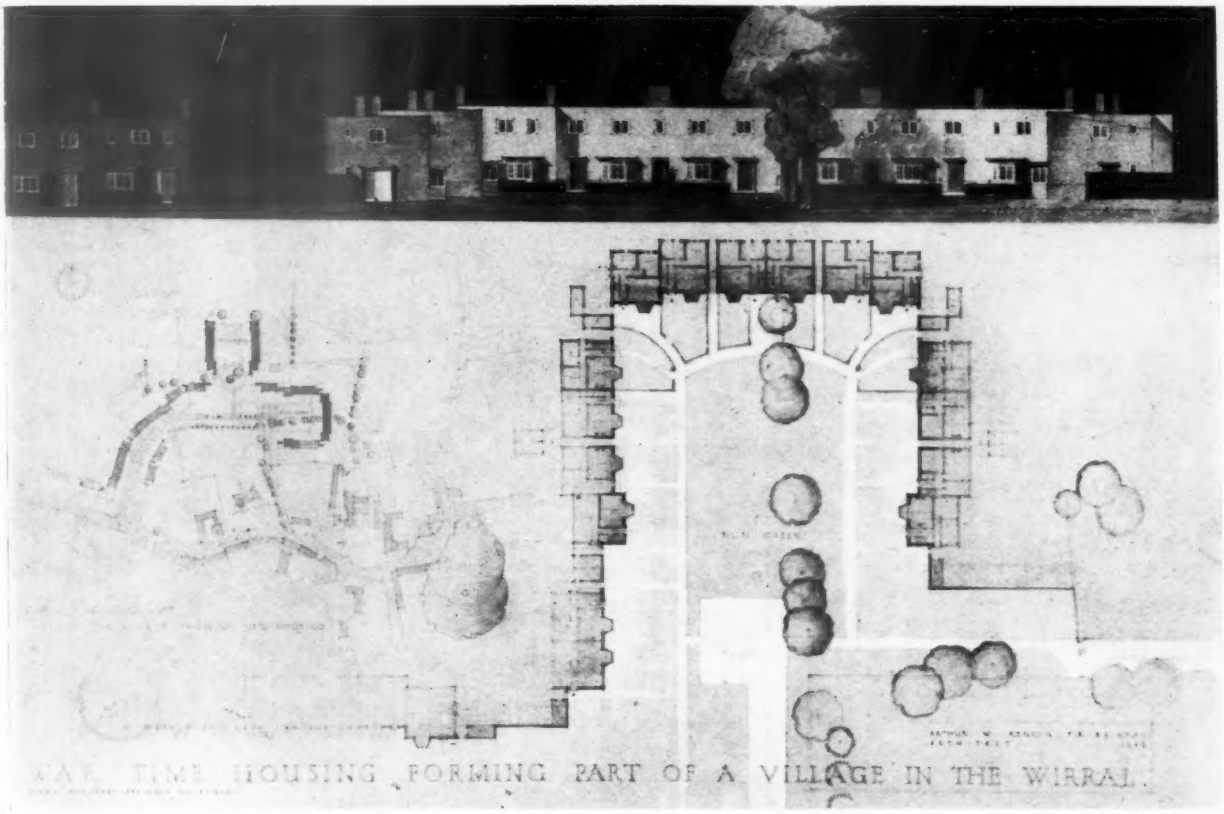
The building activity of this century has expressed no less accurately the life and driving force of our society. The chaotic development has presented a true picture of the selfish scramble for private gain at the expense of all other considerations. The coarse, stone-dressed office blocks, flats and department stores, express every line on the face of the cold and shrewd financier, the sprawling housing estates and ribbon development reflect the sad fact that the building of homes has been regarded purely as a profit-making affair; and finally we see the unashamed glorification of money, the supreme power, the supreme goal, in the vast columned temples, vying indeed with the very scale of Karnak, that have been built in the City as the head offices of banks. The Golden Calf has been given a steel frame. Hundreds of thousands of pounds were spent on these temples when we were told we had not enough money to rebuild the bug-ridden parts of the city, when the financing of open spaces was quite out of the question.

The "architecture of money" has acquired quite as clearly defined characteristics as any architecture in the past. It is self-assertive, harsh and unsympathetic, and being unable to evolve any dignity of its own, it steals features from the Grand Manner to give itself a borrowed dignity. These very borrowed features have now become thoughtlessly accepted as a building standard.

Humans—what place do they have in these meaningless and oppressive monuments?

It is not without sinister significance that there are seven drawings of banks in the Architectural Room of the Royal Academy. They seem to have as important a part in this exhibition as they do in the life of the country; and alas, they set the key-note.

Does this architecture represent what people want? I don't think so. If the Royal Academy were able to have



War-time Housing on the Wirral. By Arthur W. Kenyon. Perspective by Henry Braddock. (*No.* 666.)

by-elections they might find to their discomfort that by-elections at the moment have an upsetting habit of returning independent members.

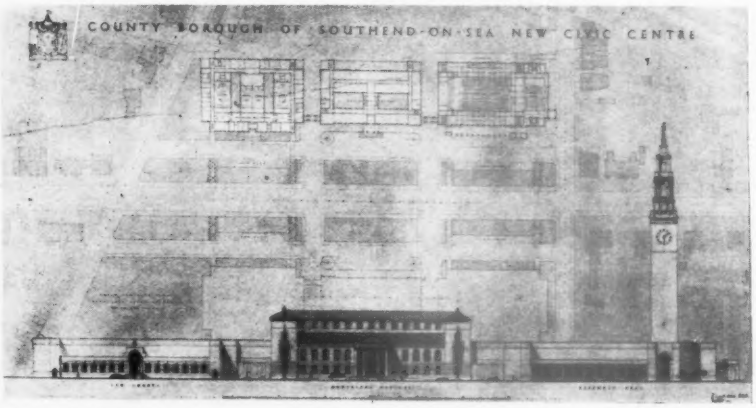
Perhaps the most depressing aspect of this exhibition is the utterly inorganic approach to architecture. No one looking round the room would realize that architecture is of its very nature a social art. In buildings people are born, in buildings people live their lives, and in buildings the more fortunate die. Buildings are the very framework in which people exist. Can this framework be divorced then from the lives of the people, their aspirations, their whims and their needs? It is a denial of life itself to try to do so. But most of the architects who have exhibited at the Academy have tried to do so. Their work is consequently lifeless, mere shells of brick and stone.

There has been an attempt to conceal this lack of perception of the living quality of architecture under the cloak of "Fine Art"; but it is neither fine, for it has no depth of spiritual or emotional feeling, nor is it art, as it does not represent a man expressing either himself or his age through his medium.

At the present time, perhaps more than at any other time, when so many people are thinking of life and conditions after the war, when the whole world is in the boiling-pot, it is essential, if architects have any life left in them, that they should show what they are doing or have done to solve the building problems of society. Architectural exhibitions should breathe a sense of life and activity. Society is crying out for a new and better framework in which to live, but this exhibition gives the impression that most of the architects exhibiting are quite unaware of this. They are not even stating the problem, let alone facing it.

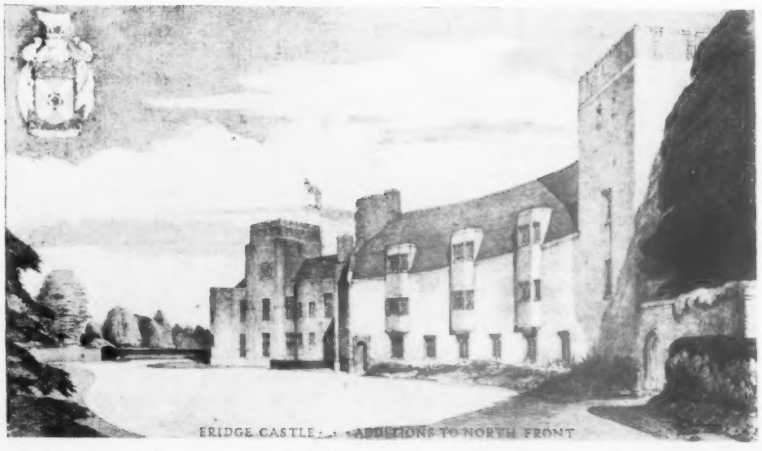
The inorganic approach to architecture is even further accentuated by the very small number of plans that are shown. Architecture is a three-dimensional art; it is primarily the enclosure of space—space to live in, or work in, or play in. But in this exhibition architecture is thought of as façades.

I have quoted the truism that architecture has always been conditioned by the social structure maintaining at the time, and by the materials and technical knowledge available. We have considered how this exhibition reflects the social order that has arisen on the foundations of the industrial revolution, the order of the rule of money. To what extent has the architecture shown been conditioned by the new materials and highly developed technical knowledge of to-day? Judging from the size of many of the buildings, one must assume that they have a steel frame somewhere inside them, although this rude fact has usually been concealed with the utmost sense of decency by covering the building with a layer of columns, pediments, swags, etc., until by comparison the women bathers in the age of Queen Victoria appear indelicately nude. To put it bluntly, if it were not for seeing the honestly expressed structure of Mr. W. G. Newton's laboratories at Marlborough College, a visitor to this exhibition would be unaware that there had been any development in building technique since the days of Gladstone, and in many cases since the fall of the Roman Empire. This is the work of those who claim to maintain loyally the traditions of the past, when at all periods of great architecture it has always been the tradition to use new building methods and not to be ashamed of them.



New Civic Centre, County Borough of Southend-on-Sea. By E. Vincent Harris, A.R.A. Perspective by F. Kennell Pope. (*No.* 721.)

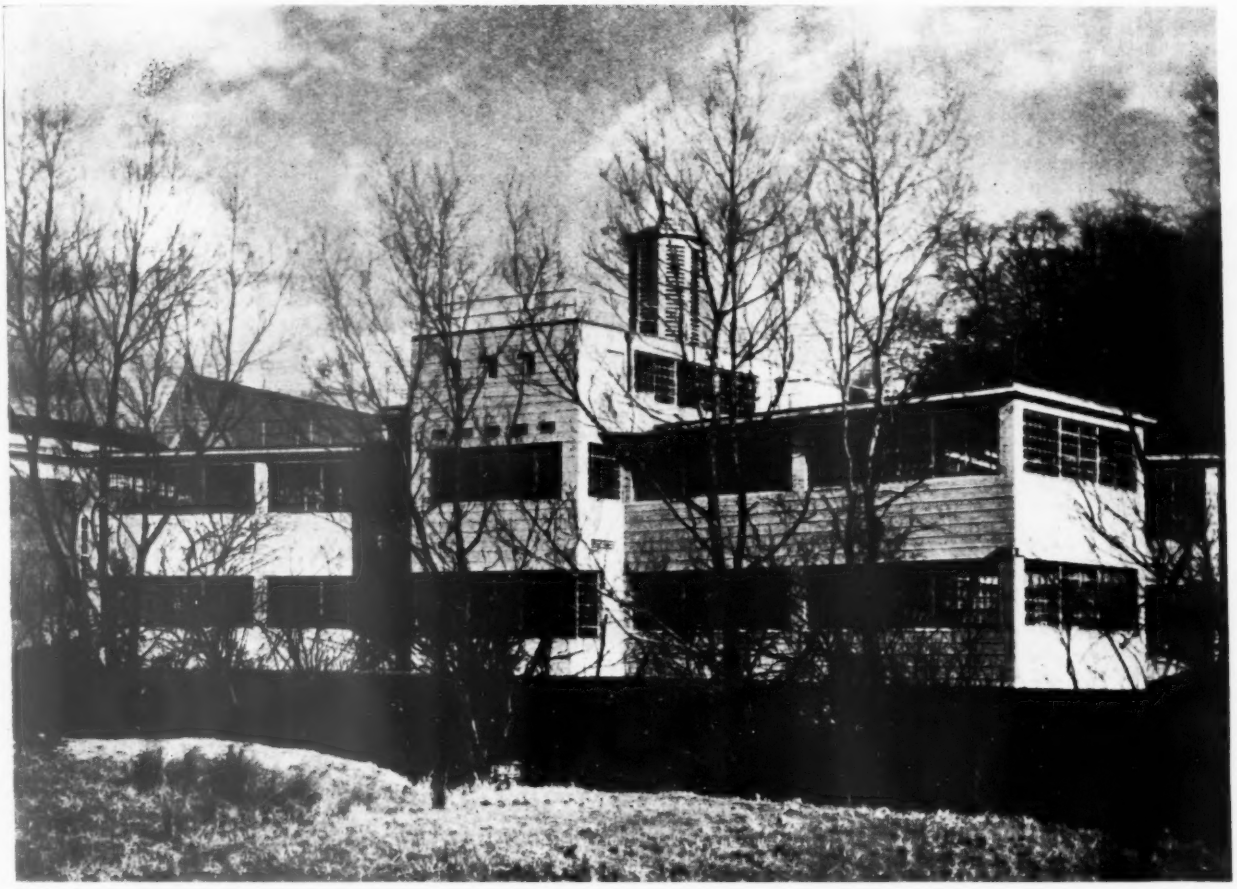
New Head Offices for the Gas Light and Coke Company, Westminster. By Robert Atkinson and A. F. B. Anderson. Perspective by Robert Atkinson. (*No.* 740.)



Additions to North Front of Eridge Castle, Sussex. By John L. Denman. Perspective by the architect. (*No.* 715.)

How long are we to await the birth of a living architecture, an architecture springing from the use of contemporary technical knowledge, and expressing purpose and vitality? Thinkers for nearly a hundred years have realized that it must come. In the middle of the 19th century, Mr. Eidlitz said: "*Nor is the scheme of creating a new architecture by a mere modification of old forms pregnant with the promise of success. Watt did not attempt to shape his steam-engine after the pattern of a wind-mill, nor were early shot-guns made in the form of a cross-bow. . . . The historical forms of architecture have become obsolete because the environment has changed. During hundreds of years, old forms have not been modified, nor have new forms been created; but the conditions surrounding architecture have changed all the same, and the gap has become too great for modification now; nothing short of re-creation will meet the case.*" In 1860, Mr. Thomas Harris, F.R.I.B.A., wrote: "*Architecture must be strictly the outgrowth of the wants and feelings of the age and country. The works of past ages, whether Egyptian, Greek, Roman, Italian, or Gothic, must and ever will claim the admiration and respect of every thoughtful mind; but a reproduction in this age must fall far short of a like result. The adoption of this or that particular period of art, however good and genuine in itself, will not suffice; no remodelling or adapting will do, but a total reproduction, arising out of and growing up with the advancement of the age. . . . This is an age of new creations; steam-power and electric communication, neither the off-shoot of any former period, but entirely new revolutionizing influences. So must it be in architecture, if it is to express these changes.*" It is hard to believe that that was written in 1860. In 1894 Mr. Thomas Harris wrote: "*Architects are not advancing with, or keeping abreast of the times, but are showing a tendency to hark back, even to the adoption of foreign styles of the past. All endeavours to* invent *a new style, as such, must be abortive. It must grow out of something: it is therefore submitted that all question of a new style must be subordinated to the consideration of a* new construction *which will prove to be the 'something' required.*" He added: "*It is mainly to the younger men who have the world before them that our hopes turn; they are the units of the power which must work the change. Will they fail us, or, with growing interest in, and profound enthusiasm for their profession, will they, availing themselves of the increasing possibilities of their time, so work that the advent of a new century may witness the awakening of Architecture from her protracted sleep?*"

Here in the Architectural Room of the Royal Academy we see the work of the young men, in whom Mr. Harris was



Laboratories, Marlborough College. By William G. Newton. (*No.* 674.)

placing his hope. If his spirit were to see this exhibition, he would learn that his hopes were in vain. The younger men of his time had failed them. It is my unfortunate task to have to write a criticism of their failure. Condemning someone who has failed is an unpleasant thing to have to do, and one instinctively tries to find some redeeming feature. But, alas ! I cannot even resort to the last escape and say that the draughtsmanship is good. Not that that would help much, as drawing is merely the architect's language, and doubly more so than in the case of a painter, for in the case of architecture, draughtsmanship is the means of putting one's ideas on paper, and the paper itself is the means again of transforming those ideas into a building. But the draughtsmanship in this exhibition is almost uniformly uninspired. The most spirited drawing is the freehand sketch for a swag on the Archway from the Quadrant to Air Street, Piccadilly, by Sir Reginald Blomfield, R.A.*

Let us consider a few of the exhibits in detail, and let us start with the two examples which stand out from all the rest for their architectural integrity: the War-time Housing on the Wirral, by Arthur W. Kenyon, and the Laboratories at Marlborough College, by William G. Newton. Both these designs are an honest attempt to find a contemporary solution to a contemporary problem. Mr. Kenyon's housing is an addition to an existing village and the layout has both unity and a sense of space enclosure (the kind of space enclosure found informally in the village green and formally in the Georgian square), qualities which are so sadly lacking in most estate development. The buildings themselves seem rather bleak and the upper floors appear under fenestrated, but this may be due to the war-time limitation of materials and A.R.P. The Edwardian water-colour wash drawing, with pale pink brickwork and dark green sky, certainly does not do the design justice.

The Laboratories at Marlborough College are the only attempt in the exhibition to find an expression for recent developments in building technique. It is a sensitively designed reinforced concrete structure and the simple structural form contrasts pleasantly with the delicate pattern of branches of surrounding trees. It is shown on a little photograph, about 7 in. by 5 in., and, surrounded by large Gothic or Classic revival drawings, it looks like a rather unassuming guest that has arrived at the wrong party.

After considering these two designs, it is only necessary for me to mention a few of the other works exhibited. There are the hardy annuals—Liverpool Cathedral, by Sir Giles Gilbert Scott, R.A.; its neighbour, the Liverpool Metropolitan Cathedral, by Sir Edwin L. Lutyens, P.R.A.; and the Bank of England, by Sir Herbert Baker, R.A. and A. T. Scott. (The name of Sir John Soane, R.A. is added at the bottom of one of the drawings.) There is a photograph which shows well the rich texture of the brickwork of the Library of Richmond College, by Edward Maufe, A.R.A. There is a modern Georgian house, "St. Michael's," Gerrards Cross. (The residence of Mr. and Mrs. Middleton.) In spite of the Georgian windows, it has a wing with a semi-circular end, fluted jambs to the front door and a sleek, black saloon car entering the garage. There is a design for Merton College, Oxford, which is a noble attempt to evolve a style from the admixture of Gothic, Classic and Modern. It has three-centred arches, some narrow, almost lancet windows, Elizabethan bays and a layout reminiscent of Holkham Hall. There is a Church proposed to be built post-war

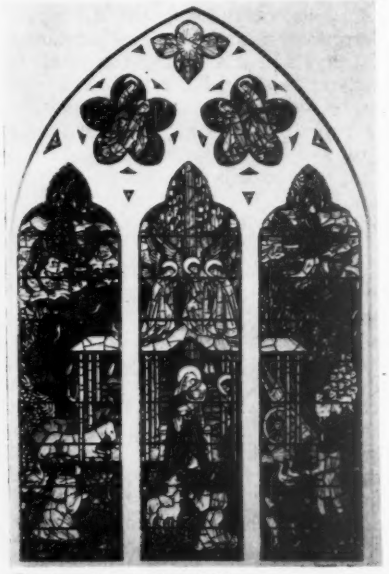
Title piece, page 340

by Sir Edwin Cooper, R.A. This is in the purely Italian manner. There is a drawing showing the additions to the North Front of Eridge Castle. These are in the mediaeval manner. There is a design for a new Civic Centre for the County Borough of Southend-on-Sea. This is in the manner of Civic Centres. It has a classic portico and a slightly Swedish but otherwise modern renaissance tower. There is a design for New Head Offices for the Gas Light and Coke Company—a large many-storeyed building surmounted by a classic pediment. On the apex of the pediment stands a figure, which appears to be a Roman Centurion (perhaps he is Mr. Therm). Finally there are designs for stained glass windows, portraying various scenes with camels, rabbits, chickens, squirrels, hedge-hogs, angels, Shakespeare's Bottom, saints, etc.

If this exhibition of photographs and drawings were not held within the august precincts of a socially influential Academy, holding its one hundred and seventy-fourth exhibition, if the revivalist and modernized classic architecture seen here were not the designs of people who were liable to transform their drawings into buildings after the war, if this exhibition had been held in any other premises, then it would not occasion even a comment in the press.

* * * *

How one sympathizes with Alice! Year after year flies by; the Queens of Industry cry "Faster! Faster!" The Red Pawns can scarcely keep up with the wheels of the machine; engineers proclaim new methods of construction; architects cry "Progress! A new era!" The bewildered visitor looks round the Architectural Room at the Royal Academy to see where he has got to. We are all just exactly where we were when we started.



Design for Stained Glass. By Harry J. Stammers. (*No.* 742.)

LETTERS

SIR IAN MacALISTER,
(Secretary, R.I.B.A)
B. A. LE MARE, A.R.I.B.A.
F.R.I.B.A.
J. L. GIBSON
J. H. CHAPMAN
JOHN GLOAG

R.I.B.A. Council Election

SIR,—Mr. J. Alan Slater's letter in your issue for April 30 is inaccurate. It is not the case that only the existing Council is capable of changing at its discretion the *ex officio* members of the Council. In nearly all cases these *ex officio* members are elected by the Bodies they represent and the Council has nothing to do with their selection.

Nor is it a fact that the changes in the personnel of the Council referred to in my letter* are solely within the discretion of the existing Council. The Council has nothing whatever to do with the selection of the twenty-nine representatives of the Allied Societies who serve on the Council and who are independently appointed by these Bodies every year.

IAN MACALISTER
(Secretary, R.I.B.A.).

Sir,—I would like to add my support to those principles underlying the demand, voiced in recent correspondance to your JOURNAL, for an R.I.B.A. Council election this year. The present situation, in which a change in the composition of this Council is extremely restricted, has within it obvious dangers which it is the duty of each member to consider very seriously. The whole electoral structure of the Institute has been set up on sound democratic lines. If the Council retains too long a membership elected at a different time for different conditions it will tend to weaken this democratic basis. Surely it may cause a rift between the older and younger architects, since old age so often predominates in the council chamber. But whether such a rift is likely or not, it remains true that the Council should accurately represent contemporary thought within the total membership of the Institute.

The Institute is a significant section of a nation pledged to fight the greatest and most terrible war of human experience in order to defeat Fascism that Democracy may survive. That nation has had one complete change of government and several other radical governmental alterations to meet the changing conditions of an increasing war effort. The Institute reflects in miniature many of the national stresses. Is it not natural for this important organism to change and grow within a changing nation? Will the members of the Council consider whether it is not their duty and privilege to resign in order that other members may have the opportunity of being elected to take over their responsibilities?

B. A. LE MARE.

Hull.

* A.J., April 30, page 310.

Unity in the Architectural Profession

Sir,—In view of the recent announcement in the technical press, the present would seem to be an appropriate time to raise a point of fundamental importance which must be faced sooner or later.

I think I am correct in saying that the professional bodies which are intended to perform similar functions to those of the R.I.B.A. are the Incorporated Association, the Faculty and the Institute of Registered Architects; I exclude the Architectural Association and the Association of Architects, Surveyors and Technical Assistants as they have different functions and are not alternatives to the R.I.B.A.

I may be writing in ignorance, but I am not aware of any fundamental difference in policy which might be the reason for an entrant to the profession choosing to join one of the alternative bodies in preference to the R.I.B.A.; in fact, it seems that only the R.I.B.A. final examination and the Degree or Diploma examinations of architectural schools recognized by the R.I.B.A. are accepted as the qualifying examinations for registration as an architect under the Acts of 1931 and 1938.

I cannot help wondering, firstly, whether any architect would join an alternative society if he could just as easily gain admission to the Royal Institute, and, secondly, whether the right to use certain affixes without the trouble of sitting a qualifying examination, is not the real incentive to membership of those societies.

The answers to these questions have a very important bearing on the relative values which should be accorded to the influence of alternative societies in considering the question of unification. The questions may be very frank, but if the true facts could be ascertained they may suggest a

direction which might be explored for a possible solution of the problem of unification.

F.R.I.B.A.

Cheshire.

Pick and Portal

Sir,—Your issue for April 16 contains a most interesting letter from Mr. Arthur Welford, who is to be congratulated, I think, in bringing up a matter which seems to have been peculiarly missing from most of the deliberations which have so far taken place on the question of our future planning, i.e., the financial setting. *The Times* articles of March 24 and 25 which Mr. Welford quotes are extremely relevant to this issue.

Most people would, I think, to-day agree with the general trend of Mr. Welford's contribution, though it should perhaps be pointed out that, to be in line with fact, it is desirable to introduce a modification into the following paragraph :

"But with a system of costing which includes wages, salaries, profits and overheads (the chief of which are interest and repayment of bank loans) in price whilst distributing only wages, salaries and dividends, it is inevitable that purchasing power is chronically short."

The change I suggest is as follows :

"There is always a very present danger that purchasing power will be chronically short."

The point is that it is not merely not short ; it is excessive, when we have the inflationary boom, which simply means that amounts greatly exceeding interest and repayment of bank loans are being currently reissued for new enterprise.

It is for this reason that our own country, as other countries, requires a new mechanism to ensure that current monetary injections, whether through investment or otherwise, are always maintained at such level as to generate the maximum of new incomes and new savings from the function of existing efficient resources.

J. L. GIBSON.

Caterham.

Honest Town Planning

Sir,—I am attracted by Mr. David Pope's comments under the heading "Ideal Housing" in the JOURNAL for April 16. The phrase "An Englishman's Home is his Castle" might be modernized so that it symbolises with the unselfish ideal, and be substituted by "The Englishman's Castle is his country." So much misunderstanding arises through not confining one's thoughts to the main point. Town planning is planning for the good of the whole community and not each individual. Community of flat dwellings must predominate. Little England with her high population per acre has no alternative. We must have open spaces for everybody to enjoy and more land for cultivation. We either each have a garden and little country or confined developed areas and an abundance of beautiful country. What is the grouse about the present Town Planning effort ? New streets and arterial roads with row after row of houses ; some occupants like gardening and the majority don't or have not the time. This war is creating community life and we shall understand each other and become less selfish if we mix more. Are the women of this country going to be contented to go back and work in their five- and six-roomed houses after this war ? Would our towns look much better by orderly development with factory, commercial, shopping, amusement and residential centres all properly separated and placed. If the residential portion is spread out one would have to travel miles before reaching the country, which is one of the grievances of our present system. We are spending 14 millions a day on the war, and when it is over a time will arrive to find employment, and we must be prepared to spend freely in re-town planning, even over the whole of the country, which would give work for 50 or more years ahead.

I think the chief concern is not so much how to lay out our planning, which is an after-the-war consideration, but what legislation is the Government going to adopt to give them the necessary powers ?

We in the British Isles are born with the fetters of tradition, whereas our Colonies and even America have been free (more or less) to plan with the benefit of our experience and the light of our mistakes. Will the sacrifice and suffering of this war bring the lesson we need to open our eyes ? If not, then victory will have no meaning and our medicine will be repeated by further wars both internal and external. Why must we follow old traditions ? Our Acts of Parliament are a re-hash from the past and some still on the Statute Book date back a hundred years or more. Consider the mountainous volume of Acts controlling property to-day. What a hopeless maze and an example of the Englishman's endurance and, incidentally, *apathy*. The latter is a very grave fault.

Out of this war can we be reborn with the courage, determination and will to sacrifice in peace as well as in war ? Can we burn this cobweb of paper acts and start again ? Let us be more direct in legislation and both State and individual face their respective liabilities honestly.

There will be an avalanche of opinions on post-war reconstruction after the war and the extremist, who has a single track mind going through and over everybody and everything, will be the danger. He will advocate the dictator methods of other countries, forgetting that, although we have not yet reached the ideal, and further reform is necessary, England and her Empire with America is the envy of the world and the best place to live in. That is why we are attacked. We must not leave the extremists to prepare a policy on town planning, which will be the main issue of post-war reconstruction, but be ready with a sound scheme when peace comes.

What is being done about it and by whom ? The Ministry of Works and Planning has been formed under very capable leadership, and in matters connected with the war may be carrying out very fine work and would be suitable for operating any Town Planning Act. The formulation of the scheme, however (which is the vital point), should come from those who have spent their life in dealing with property, or at least they should be given the opportunity of submitting their suggestions. It should be a moral obligation on every person so engaged to submit suggestions to the institutes governing the various professions dealing with land and buildings. Such suggestions should be classified and the main principles be the subject of discussions by not only the institute councils but first by its members with a Ministry of Works and Planning representative in attendance; then, a concluding report from the council of the institute sent to the Ministry. Past Governments have failed in their attempts, therefore mobilize and make use of the experts in this country. They will have to face the consequences of the Act and should be allowed to put up a scheme for investigation in the same way as acts governing labour are framed by the people affected. The Government would be the final arbiters on any scheme and if not acceptable as a whole there would be much valuable advice from those who should know provided it is not limited to a chosen few.

J. H. CHAPMAN

Esher.

The Bricklayer Vindicated

Sir,—May I register my objection to a statement made by Astragal in your issue for May 7 ? He has committed himself to these words :

"In peace time the bricklayer and his unions—both true creatures of capitalist price economy—are out to do as little as possible for as much as possible for as long as possible. So are building contractors, quantity surveyors and architects, and all *their* unions."

This statement, conceived in a spirit of vapid cynicism, is a libel upon the bricklayer as a craftsman, upon the character of his protective organization, namely, the trade union ; it is also a libel on the building contractor, the quantity surveyor and the architect. It qualifies for the description Bernard Shaw once gave to remarks of this nature, namely, "silly clever." It is

quite unworthy of Astragal's normal high level of common sense and discerning criticism.

JOHN GLOAG

London

MOWP

Two notices dealing with the control of cement sacks and bricks have been received from MOWP.

Cement Sacks, whether jute, hessian, or cotton, are to be controlled from Wednesday, April 15, 1942, under an Order, S.R. & O. 1942, No. 568, made by the Minister of Works and Planning.

The Order provides that :

i. Any person (not a manufacturer of cement) having under his control a sack which has been used for containing cement must deliver that sack to a person engaged in the manufacture or sale of cement within one month of receiving it.

ii. Sacks under the control of persons (not manufacturers of cement) before Wednesday, April 15, 1942, must be so delivered within one month of :
(*a*) the person having received them or
(*b*) Wednesday, April 15,
whichever is the longer period.

iii. Sacks used for storage of cement shall be delivered as above within one month of ceasing to be used for such storage.

iv. No person having any cement sack under his control shall :
(*a*) allow the sack to become damaged or unnecessarily exposed to the weather or anything likely to cause damage to or the destruction or deterioration of the sack ;
(*b*) allow the sack to be used for any other purpose than containing cement in accordance with the provisions of this Order ;
(*c*) sell or otherwise dispose of any sack or allow it to be sold or disposed of excepting in accordance with the provisions of this Order.

v. The Order does not prejudice or affect any right of any person required to deliver any sack to receive payment or credit therefor or in respect of the delivery thereof.

Bricks : Manufacture of bricks is to be controlled from May 4, 1942, under an Order S.R. & O. 1942, No. 675, made by the Minister of Works and Planning.

The Order provides that :

(1) No person shall produce building bricks except at such premises in such quantities and subject to such conditions as may be specified in a licence granted by or on behalf of the Minister of Works and Planning.

(2) In this Order the expression " building bricks " means " walling units " (not being hollow blocks) which :

(*a*) consist of any hard and durable inorganic substance other than refractory substances employed specifically on account of this refractory property ;

(*b*) are suitable for building and bonding ; and

(*c*) are of such a shape, size and weight that they can be manipulated by one hand.

This Order is a first step to implement the recommendation of the Simmonds Committee to the Minister of Works and Planning that the current total national output of bricks should be decreased by 12½ per cent. and 4 per cent. by the closure of specified brickworks, or in the case of larger works by reduction of productivity.

Licences to manufacture bricks in accordance with this Order will be issued to all producers in due course, but manufacturers who do not receive a licence before April 25, 1942, should apply to the Director of Bricks, Ministry of Works and Planning, Lambeth Bridge House, Albert Embankment, S.E.1.

Manufacture of glass substitutes and anti-scatter treatments for glass is to be restricted to 36 glass substitutes and 23 anti-scatter treatments approved by MOWP. Details are given below.

G L A S S

All the materials at present used in the manufacture of glass substitutes and anti-scatter treatments are in short supply, among them being wire mesh, cotton nets and fabrics, cellulose acetate, nitro and ethyl cellulose, certain solvents, plasticisors, viscose wood pulp, glycerine, resins, linseed oil and waxes. These materials are required for urgent war purposes and must therefore be used with the utmost economy. Over 300 glass substitutes and 250 anti-scatter treatments have been investigated by representatives of the Ministry of Supply Raw Materials Department, the Research and Experiments Department of the Ministry of Home Security, the Building Research Station and the Ministry of Works. Accordingly, it has been decided that to conserve materials, to ensure their distribution only to manufacturers producing the most useful substitutes and treatments, and to conserve factory space, certain restricted materials will be released for their manufacture only if the Ministry of Works considers it essential. Government departments will limit their demands for glass substitutes and anti-scatter treatments to those indicated in a schedule which has been prepared. Existing stocks of other glass substitutes and anti-scatter treatments, which have previously been approved by the Ministry of Home Security, will be exhausted, but not replaced. The schedules are subject to revision from time to time.

Glass substitutes

Over 300 proprietary substitutes, produced by some 130 manufacturers, have been under tests at the Building Research Station, mainly with reference to their behaviour under outdoor exposure, to their fixing, and their light penetration and anti-blast values. Of these approximately 100, produced by 58 manufacturers, were proved to be the most satisfactory.

These 100 were then put to more searching weather tests and considered with a view to rigid economy of their constituent materials. As a result, 36 substitutes, produced by 26 manufacturers, have been approved by the Directorate of Standardization of the Ministry of Works, and particulars of them are contained in the schedule just issued by MOWP. ; they are classified under the following headings :

(A) Plastic with metal reinforcement.
(B) Plastic with textile netting reinforcement.
(C) Plastic without reinforcement.
(D) Impregnated fabrics.

Anti-scatter treatments

There is on the market at present a large number of anti-scatter treatments for application to glass as a protection against the effect of blast. Over 250 of these treatments have been tested at the Building Research Station, mainly with reference to adhesion and efficacy. The 23 of them (representing 19 manufacturers) that have been approved for manufacture are contained in the schedule and are classified under three headings :

(E) Adhesive (ready gummed) anti-scatter fabrics.
(F) Fabric-varnish treatments.
(G) Scrim or muslin and paste treatment.

Type (E) can, in some cases, be used alone, but frequently requires to be varnished over to protect it against moisture. The fabric-varnish treatments (F) listed, consist of plain non adhesive fabrics which have been tested in conjunction with the particular adhesives and protecting coats named.

Types (E) and (F) are being made the subject of a British Standard Specification which will cover treatments suitable for use on windows of various types, e.g. those of domestic houses, offices, factories, transport vehicles and shops and also for use on roof lights.

When this specification is published it will be adopted by the Ministry of Works and Planning as the basis for approval of fabric anti-scatter treatments. In the meantime the present lists (E) and (F) give the names of treatments provisionally approved as the result of certain tests which have already been made. The inclusion of any name does not necessarily signify that the fabric will comply with the proposed specification. Once the specification is issued, the proprietors of these treatments will be required, as a condition for their names being retained on the approved lists, to furnish within three months a certificate from an independent testing authority showing that their treatment has been tested and found to comply with the specification.

Consideration has been given to the question of the most economical use of cotton in relation to the bursting strength of the fabric and the specification will take this into account. The effect will be to eliminate certain fancy patterns of lace anti-scatter net and to encourage the use of other materials of simpler construction.

For Government building such as hutments, camps, hostels, factories, etc., a brown, black or cream-coloured

fabric should be selected, whether for windows or roof lights, according to the camouflage requirements. As an alternative to the approved anti-scatter treatments given in the schedule, windows may, in suitable cases, be protected by applying to the inside of the glass a light cotton scrim or butter muslin, using as the adhesive a "cold-water paste," such as "Rex" paste or "Tapwata."

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR USE

The following recommendations are made for the selection and use of glass, glass substitutes and anti-scatter treatments:

New buildings (vertical windows)

(1) *Normal "non-target" areas or buildings*: O.Q.R. (ordinary quality rough) or equivalent 24 oz. glass.

(2) *Normal danger areas or buildings*: O.Q.R. glass as above with an approved anti-scatter fabric of type (E) or (F) applied to the glass and with (E) varnished if necessary; alternatively (where suitable) a light muslin or scrim, type (G) may be applied, as previously described with a cold-water paste.

(3) *Specially dangerous areas or important buildings*: Reinforced plastic as (A) and (B) above. Unreinforced plastic as (C) above, may be used on authorization of Ministry of Works and Planning. If glass is used it should be wired cast glass or O.Q.R. glass protected with an anti-scatter treatment as (E) and (F) above.

Emergency repairs and replacements

Impregnated fabrics as (D) above should be used. Plastics with textile netting reinforcements as (B) above may be used, but special approval is necessary from the Assistant Director of Works (Maintenance), Ministry of Works and Planning O.Q.R. or equivalent 24 oz. glass with approved anti-scatter treatment of type (E), (F) or (G).

Internal works

Generally, neither glass nor glass substitutes should be used where borrowed light is required. If privacy or protection is necessary a fabric such as muslin or impregnated fabric as (D) above may be used.

Roof lights

Plastics with metal or textile reinforcement as given in the schedule on pages 4 and 5 are generally the most useful types for use in roof lights. All the materials require additional support beyond that afforded by the glazing bars. Black and dark coloured glass substitutes of a matt surface texture may be used for camouflage purposes.

Particulars of fabric-varnish treatments for application externally to glass in roof lights is included in the schedule on page 8.

Note: This report includes translucent materials and treatments only and is not intended to preclude the use of opaque materials or treatments which wholly obscure light.

★ *COULD you let me have the names and addresses of manufacturers of the various types of concrete floors?* - - - - - - - - - Q 902

★ *CONSIDERABLE trouble is experienced by traps and drains from urinals being choked; this is due to incrustration in the trap and drain. What is the best way to remove the incrustration?* - - Q 904

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.

Questions should be sent to—
THE ARCHITECTS' JOURNAL
45 THE AVENUE,
CHEAM, SURREY.
Telephone: VIGILANT 0087

Q 901

ARCHITECT, WILTS.—*Owing to cockroaches all the FELT LAGGING and WOODEN BOXING was found to be REMOVED from the hot-water system of an old house. I should like to relay them, but do not wish to risk the cockroaches choosing it as a resting place again. What material would you suggest as satisfactory and easily applied by the local plumber and carpenter in the country, and what other suggestions have you for dealing with this pest.*

It is difficult to rid an old house of cockroaches after they have established themselves, as they breed in considerable numbers. The conditions in which they thrive are those of warmth and damp and where there is a good food supply. Unfortunately "food" for the cockroach includes almost anything that can be considered edible, including hair, etc., so a hair felt is not the best commodity to use if it can be avoided. The cockroaches only move about in the dark, and during the day normally remain hidden in crevices, etc.

Although it is impossible to stop up all crevices in an old house, it would be advisable to see that there are no suitable resting places in close proximity to hot water tanks, pipes, stoves, etc. Tanks and pipes should be fixed on brackets well clear of the floor and wall and preferably not hidden in cupboards or covered with wood casing; particular attention should be paid to the making good of holes through walls, etc.

Any form of wood trough filled with sawdust, etc., is obviously unsuitable for insulation, and glass silk would presumably be better than hair felt, though we have no knowledge of its effect on cockroaches. Any lagging used should fit closely to the pipes and, if possible, should only be used where the pipes are exposed and well clear of the wall, etc.

There are numerous ways of killing cockroaches. A good powder to use is a mixture of sodium fluoride and pyrethrum powder in proportions of one to three; it should be scattered about the haunts of the cockroaches at night and swept up each morning, as it is a poison. Food must not be contaminated with this mixture.

Traps may also be used successfully, and there are many good traps on the market. Manufacturers advise on the question of baits, but aniseed solution and beer are two that have proved effective. A home-made trap may be constructed by placing the bait in a jam jar covered with a cardboard lid in which a wide hole has been bored. A stiff paper cone with an opening at the apex just large enough for the pest to enter should be suspended. Runways should be laid from the floor to the rim to enable the insects to ascend.

Q 902

ARCHITECTS, NORTHAMPTON.—*In the* JOURNAL *for February 5, various types of CONCRETE FLOORS were illustrated in connection with a housing scheme at Glasgow. Some of these we are conversant with, but the following*

types in which we are interested are unknown to us, and we should be glad, therefore, if you would let us have the names of the manufacturers. "Invictus," "Springbank," "Myko," "Unicon."

For information in connection with "Myko" floors, you should get in touch with Sydney M. Myers, B.SC., M.I.S.E., 48, Vincent Gardens, Dollis Hill, London, N.W.2, who is one of the designers. We understand that the flooring units can be made by any contractor, by arrangement with the designers.

We give below the manufacturers of the other floors mentioned in your enquiry.

Invictus: Messrs. Aerocrete (Scotland), Ltd., Victoria Works, Gartlea Road, Airdrie.

Springbank: The Springbank Quarry Co., Ltd., Airdrie.

Unicon: Messrs. W. A. Henderson and Partners, 5, Oswald Street, Glasgow, C.1.

Q 903

ARCHITECT, HANTS.—*I am anxious to obtain the names and addresses of firms who specialise in the manufacture of mechanically operated EXHAUST VENTILATORS for the extraction of steam from canning apparatus.*

The approximate cubic capacity of the canning room concerned is 38,000 cubic feet, and when work is in progress, the room literally is thick with steam and more often than not it is more or less impossible to see a hand's length in front of a person. My clients, who are proposing to construct a new roof, for which I understand a building licence will be forthcoming, are very anxious for proper apparatus to be installed at the same time to remove the steam as fast as it is given off from the plant if this is practicable.

I trust, therefore, these brief details will enable you to assist in this problem.

We give below a list of some of the manufacturers of mechanically operated exhaust fans. Advice as to the number and disposition of fans, trunking, etc., can only be given by a competent ventilating engineer with a knowledge of the layout and type of machines, size and height of room, amount of natural ventilation, etc.

Your best course is to employ a consultant or a good firm of heating and ventilating engineers for the installation. If you are unwilling to do this, you would be advised to ask the manufacturers to what extent they are prepared to assist in the preparation of a scheme, when writing for quotations.

The Airscrew Co., Ltd., Grosvenor Gardens House, Westminster, London, S.W.1.

The General Electric Co., Ltd., Magnet House, Kingsway, London, W.C.2.

Messrs. Hornby Electric Supplies Co., Ltd., Carlisle Street, Dean Street, London, W.1.

The London Fan and Motor Co., Ltd., Darnoc House, 33-37, Alfred Place, London, W.C.1.

Messrs. Marelli & Co., Ltd., Artillery House, Artillery Row, London, S.W.1.

Messrs. Millns Electrical Co., 133-137, Fetter Lane, London, E.C.4.

Messrs. F. V. Williams & Co., 307, Borough High Street, London, S.E.1.

Q 904

ENGINEER, MIDDLESEX. — *Considerable trouble is experienced from time to time by traps and drains from URINALS BEING CHOKED, and on inspection it is found that the trouble is caused by an incrustation in the trap and drain immediately adjoining, which builds up to such an extent as to almost completely block the outlet.*

I should be very grateful for any information in answer to the following questions:

1. *The best means of removing this incrustation by chemical or other means without opening up the drain.*
2. *The cause of the incrustation and any steps which can be taken on the design or maintenance of the fittings to prevent this formation.*

We are not able to state the reason for the drains, etc., becoming choked, without examining them, as normal urinal fittings and drains are not subject to incrustation in this way, although drains connected to urinals are often found to be choked by an accumulation of cigarette ends, etc.

We suggest that the urinal may be inadequately flushed, in which case the remedy would be a larger or an additional flushing cistern.

For cleansing the drain we would advise the use of "Clensol" (made by Messrs. Clensol, Ltd., of 6, Glasshill Street, London, S.E.1), which should be used in accordance with the manufacturers' instructions. It is necessary to stop off the drain in the manhole and to leave a solution in the drain over a certain period.

TRADE NOTES

Alterations in Personnel

The following changes have taken place in the Board of the Brush Electrical Engineering Co., Ltd., at Loughborough, and subsidiary companies. Mr. T. B. Keep, M.I.MECH.E. has retired from the board of the Brush Electrical Engineering Company, but is remaining on the board of two subsidiary companies—Brush Coachwork Ltd. and Petters Ltd. Mr. Alan P. Good, deputy-chairman of the Brush Electrical Engineering Co. has been appointed managing director of the company in succession to Mr. Keep. Mr. M. A. Fiennes has joined the board as an executive director. Immediately prior to joining the board he was responsible for the armament production of the United Steel Companies Ltd. Mr. W. M. Good, A.C.A. has been appointed managing director of Brush Coachwork Ltd. He was previously general manager of the projectile division of Wyndham Hewitt Ltd.

Screw Down Valves

The Easy Clean screw-down valves for steam, water, gas or compressed air, made by Messrs. Hopkinsons Ltd., have been designed to prevent the lodgment of dust and for easy cleaning. Body, lid and internal fittings are chromium plated. Internally, in each valve, there is a simple screw-down valve with a renewable valve face of special composition. To protect the lid and gland nut from dust and dirt a smooth-surfaced cover is provided, all sharp corners being avoided. This cover is screwed to the valve by a left-hand thread to prevent it being unscrewed by careless operation. The handwheel is of solid plastic moulding, devoid of corners and claimed to be always cool. The valves are made in five standard sizes. The maximum pressure allowed is 150 lb. per sq. in. for saturated steam and 250 lb. per sq. in. for water, gas and compressed air.

Aerodrome Hangar Doors and Partitions

Information concerning the resistance to blast damage and spread of fire, localization of fire and blast damage, and gale worthiness of Esavian aerodrome hangar doors and hangar partitions is given in a leaflet issued by the Educational Supply Association, Ltd. The door has been one of the major productions of the firm since 1916. One of the chief characteristics of the large hangar door, it is claimed, is that it stands "corrugated" even when in the fully closed position, and that it has, therefore, inherent in its structure, an ample margin of strength. The door is also claimed to avoid excessive weight and to economise in materials. Other claims made are that the doors resist frontal pressure up to 50 lb. per square foot and, that at 70 miles per hour a gale produces less than half this pressure. Esavian specialists have, of course, for many years concentrated on the production of doors, windows and partitions which combine ease of movement with maximum resistance to pressure.

Copper

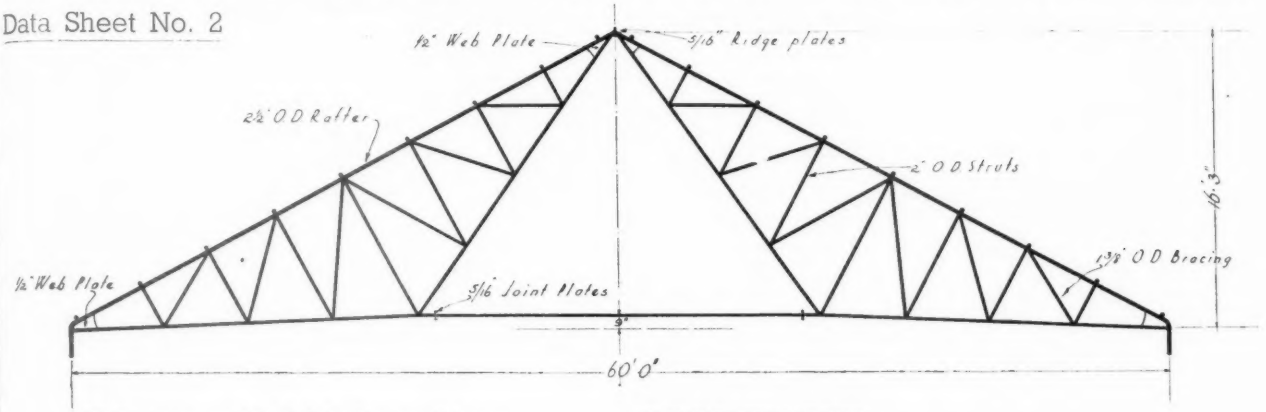
We have received from the Copper Development Association a copy of their publication No. 36, entitled *Classification of Copper and Copper Alloys*. The booklet shows at a glance the more important properties and applications of the principal types of copper and copper alloys, and should prove of value at present when alternative materials for particular purposes have to be selected. In this connection, the references to the appropriate British Standards should also be helpful. A limited number of copies of the booklet are available on request, and can be obtained free of charge by those who make application to them on firm's headed notepaper or otherwise give evidence of responsible status or genuine interest. Address of Association: 9, Bilton Road, Rugby.

Fireproof Doors and Shutters

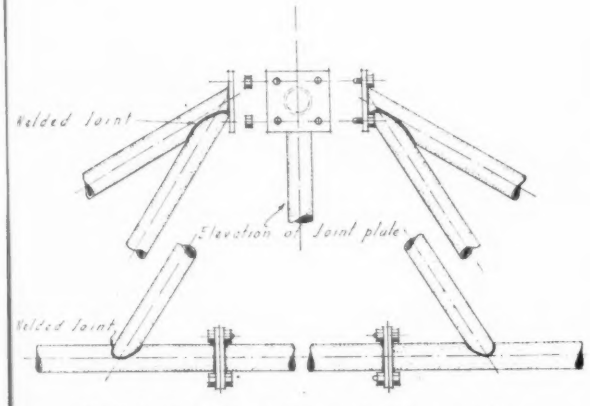
Two new publications have just been issued by Messrs. Durasteel Roofs, Ltd. One is a leaflet giving details of the official tests on Durasteel 3 DF2 for resistance to incendiary bombs made by the Fire Offices Committee in conjunction with the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research; the other a brochure on Durasteel fireproof doors and shutters. Durasteel 3 DF2 is a rigid sheet of three-ply construction, having steel facing sheets bonded under high pressure to an asbestos composition core. The sheets are made in three thicknesses, which are incorporated in the doors according to the weight or resistance specified. The doors are usually purpose-made to site requirements, but generally fall into three main types: light fire-check doors, fire-resisting doors to F.O.C. specification, and ultra heavy A.R.P. doors. The chief Government departments and over 150 municipal authorities use Durasteel 3 DF2. Full dimensions and structural details of the standard type Durasteel doors are given in planned information sheet No. 818, which is reprinted in the brochure from the ARCHITECTS' JOURNAL. Other data of Durasteel sheets applied as roofing fire breaks and as glazing replacements are given in information sheet No. 846.

PATENT WELDED TUBULAR CONSTRUCTION

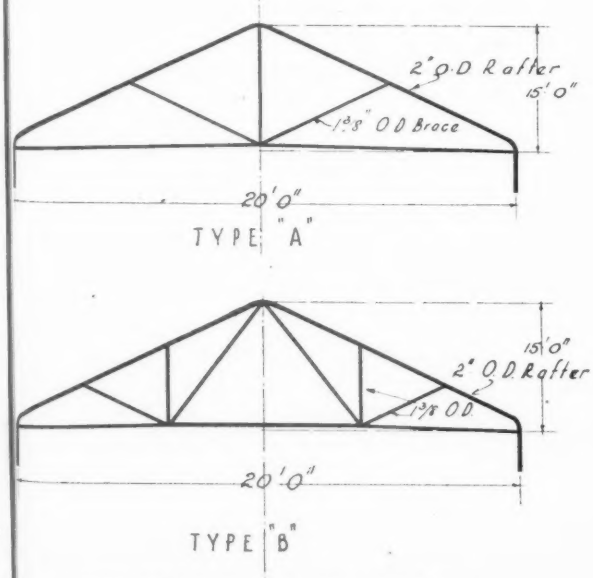
Data Sheet No. 2



60 ft. span welded tubular roof truss



Detail of joint plates and ridge plates.



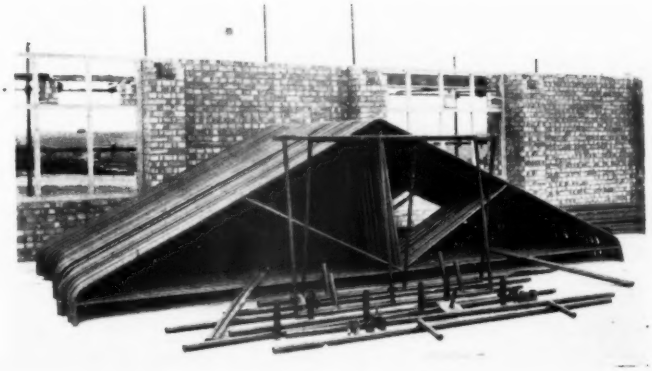
Two types of 20 ft. span roof trusses. The photograph on the right shows a number of these trusses ready on the site for assembly.

ROOF TRUSSES

The standard series of welded tubular roof trusses available range from 15 ft. span, rising by multiples of 5 ft. to 60 ft. span. They can be fully fabricated and welded at the factory and delivered to the site ready for assembly, or, as is often advantageous where the larger trusses are to be used and where long distances in transport are involved, sections of the trusses can be factory fabricated and welded together after delivery to the site. A special mobile welding plant and a mobile unit of skilled welders is available for this purpose. The truss sections, or complete trusses, are easily stacked for transport and are exceptionally light.

The hollow circle is recognised by structural engineers to be a most economical section and in construction it uses the least material for the greatest resistance to stress. The roof trusses are singularly neat and light in appearance, and with the circular section there is a marked absence of dirt-retaining angles and corners ; where protection against chemical attack or corrosion is specially necessary anti-corrosive paints are most simply applied. The trusses have great strength and it is a feature in this form of construction that the joints, usually the weakest parts in a structure, are the strongest parts.

This is the second of a series of informative data sheets outlining the principles of welded tubular construction and planned to give (1) *An analysis of the various sections that comprise the system—roof trusses, sectional wall frames and door frames, etc.* ; (2) *Typical details of war-time construction* ; (3) *Factory fabrication and/or site welding* ; (4) *Permanent and post-war construction—details showing how the system is used with brick construction and with concrete construction. As the completion of this series will be spread over a period of approximately twelve months, it is believed that some readers of* THE ARCHITECTS' JOURNAL *might like to have the information in advance of publication, in which case would they send to us, on their business notepaper, requests to this effect.* Scaffolding (Great Britain) Ltd., 77, Easton Street, High Wycombe, Bucks.



PRICES

BY DAVIS AND BELFIELD, CHARTERED QUANTITY SURVEYORS

No changes have occurred during April in rates of wages or in the prices of the basic materials given below.

BASIC MATERIALS	Increases over pre-war prices at end of			
	January, 1942	February, 1942	March, 1942	April, 1942
	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.
Portland cement	+37·8	+37·8	+37·8	+37·8
2-in. Unscreened ballast	+71·01	+71·01	+71·01	+71·01
Fletton bricks (at station)	+11·89	+11·89	+11·89	+11·89
Stoneware drainpipes (British Standard) 2 tons and over	+28·13	+28·13	+28·13	+28·13
Roofing tiles	+30	+30	+30	+30
Steel joists (basic sections) ex mills	+47·5	+47·5	+47·5	+47·5
Lime greystone	+35·29	+35·29	+35·29	+35·29
Sheet lead	+54·35	+54·35	+54·35	+54·35
Iron rainwater goods and soil pipes	+26½	+26½	+26½	+26½
Copper tubes	+29·79	+29·79	+29·79	+29·79
White lead paint	+31·82	+31·82	+36·36	+36·36
RATES OF WAGES (Central London Area)				
Labourers	+19·05	+22·22	+22·22	+22·22
Craftsmen	+14·29	+16·67	+16·67	+16·67

LABOUR—Rates of Wages since 1st February, 1942.

LONDON DISTRICT	Craftsmen	Labourers	N.B.—Painters
Within 12 miles radius	2s. 0½d.	1s. 7½d.	½d. less than
From 12-15 „ „	2s. 0d.	1s. 7d.	other craftsmen

GRADE CLASSIFICATIONS

	A	A¹	A²	A³	B	B¹	B²	B³	C
Craftsmen	1/11	1/10½	1/10	1/9½	1/9	1/8½	1/8	1/7½	1/7
Labourers	1/6¼	1/5¾	1/5½	1/5	1/4¾	1/4¼	1/4	1/3½	1/3¼

O. A. DAVIS, F.S.I.