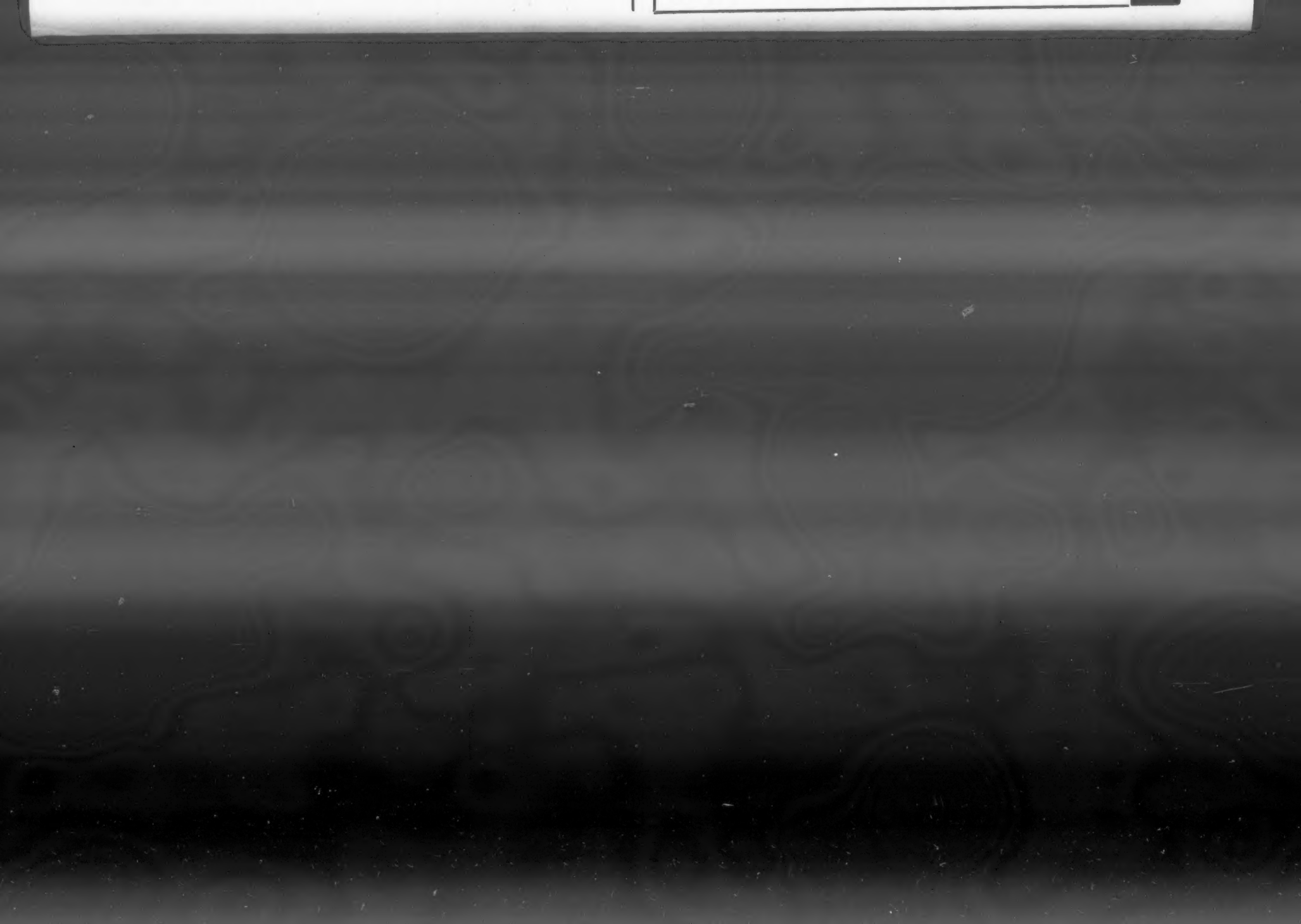
THE ARCHITECTS' JOURNAL

THE ARCHITECTURAL PRESS, *WAR ADDRESS:* 45 THE AVENUE, CHEAM

NO. 2488] Price 6d. [VOL 96.

REGISTERED AS A NEWSPAPER



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For Appointments (Wanted or Vacant), Competitions, Open, Drawings, Tracings, etc., Educational Legal Notices, Miscellaneous Property and Land Sales—*see* pages xxx and xxxii.

BUILD FOR POSTERITY

Wren, after the fire of 1666, had visions of a purer, cleaner, better London. Although petty officialdom and self-seeking merchants thwarted his dreams, many of his buildings were planned as he envisaged. Let us not commit the same crimes against the visionaries who desire to reconstruct Britain after the war. It must be a better land . . . the highest authorities in Britain and in the U.S.A. have determined that this shall be so.

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THE ARCHITECTS' JOURNAL

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

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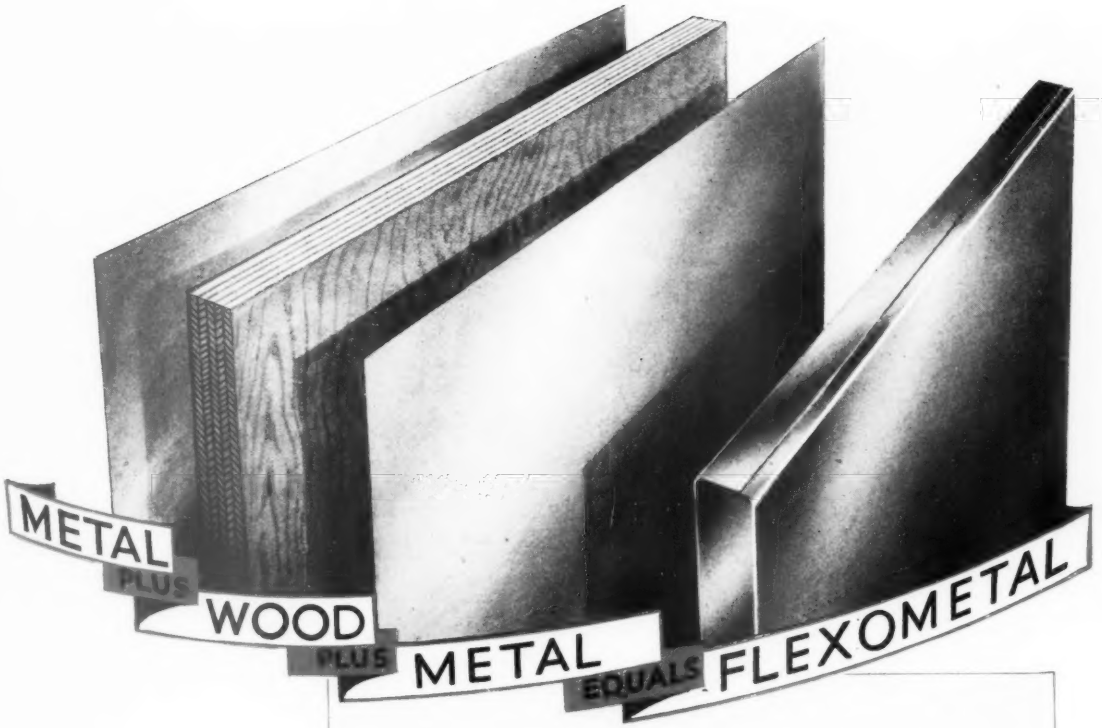
The Editor will be glad to receive MS. articles and also illustrations of current architecture in this country and abroad with a view to publication. Though every care will be taken, the Editor cannot hold himself responsible for material sent him.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 1, 1942. NUMBER 2488: VOLUME 96

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.*



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FLEXOMETAL

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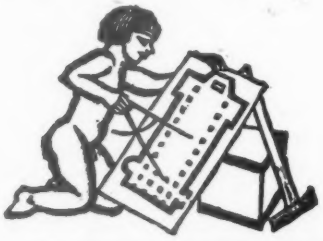
In common with every other periodical and newspaper in the country, this JOURNAL, *is rationed to a small proportion of its peace-time requirements of paper. This means that it is no longer a free agent printing as many pages as it thinks fit and selling to as many readers as wish to buy it. Instead 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*

" Perhaps these differences [between Ruskin and Pugin] sprang from the fact that Pugin was a trained architect and Ruskin an art critic ; and they took this form, that Ruskin stressed the importance of ornament and Pugin of construction. Pugin believed that if the construction of a factory or a railway station was strong, simple and bold, the buildings would, *ipso facto*, be beautiful ; but Ruskin's conception of beauty . . . . could not allow so crude a theory. To him a factory must always remain hideous. There is no doubt that Pugin's theory inspired a far sounder school of architects, the school of which Philip Webb is a typical member. ' This is a universal law,' wrote Ruskin. ' No person who is not a great sculptor and painter can be an architect. If he is not a sculptor and painter he can only be a builder.' To which Webb would have replied, ' A builder is precisely what I want to be. It is your high-falutin architects who have landed us in our present fix, and the only way out is to make our houses strong, practical and economical, with windows which don't let in draughts, and chimneys which don't smoke. From this we may evolve a new style.' This doctrine has shown an extraordinary power of survival, and . . . . nearly all the young architects on the Continent have made it their gospel." *From* the Gothic Revival *by Kenneth Clark.*

Though every news item is news to someone, it doesn't follow that all news has the same value for everyone. The stars are used to draw attention to the paragraphs which ought to interest every reader of the Journal.

★ *means spare a second for this it will probably be worth it.*

★★ *means important news, for reasons which may or may not be obvious.*

Any paragraph marked with more than two stars is very hot news indeed.

NEWS

The Lord President of the Council has appointed Sir Lawrence Bragg, O.B.E., M.C., D.Sc., F.R.S., Professor J. E. Lennard-Jones, Ph.D., D.Sc., F.R.S., Mr. A. McCance, D.Sc., and Sir Raymond Streat, C.B.E., to be new members of the Advisory Council to the Committee of the Privy Council for SCIENTIFIC AND INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH *from today, Oct. 1.*

Dr. G. M. B. Dobson and Mr. S. K. Thornley retired from the Council on completion of their terms of office on September 30.

The Ministry of Supply announce the appointment of Mr. George Briggs as the NEW DEPUTY CONTROLLER OF IRON AND STEEL SUPPLIES. *He succeeds Sir John Duncanson, who, as announced in our last issue, is now Iron and Steel Controller. Mr. Briggs will be directly responsible for the supply of iron and steel products to all the war industries.*

Mr. Briggs has been with the Iron and Steel Control since the outbreak of war, where he has been responsible for the production of alloy and special steels, steel castings, forgings and ferro-alloys, in which work he has been closely associated with the new Controller. Mr. Briggs has successively held the post of Director for Alloy and Special Steels and Assistant Controller of Iron and Steel Supplies. Prior to the outbreak of war Mr. Briggs was Special Director of English Steel Corporation Ltd., and a Director of Darlington Forge Ltd.

★

We regret to record the DEATH OF DR. RALPH ADAMS CRAM, *the famous American architect and authority on Gothic architecture. He died in hospital in Boston, after a short illness, at the age of 78.*

Among many notable buildings Dr. Cram designed the cathedral of St. John the Divine, New York, and buildings for Princeton University. He had been President of the Boston Society of Architects and the Mediæval Academy of America, had served as chairman of the Boston City Planning Board, and was a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and an honorary corresponding member of the R.I.B.A. He was also of course the famous partner of the equally famous Bertram Grosvenor Goodhue, with whose firm Francis Lorne (see the frontispiece this week) was once associated. Goodhue, Cram and Westwood's most outstanding work was West Point Academy.

★★

Meetings are being held at the Institution of Civil Engineers to discuss the question of CIVIL ENGINEERING AND THE BUILDING INDUSTRY, *Mr. George Hicks, M.P., Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Works and Planning, was the principal speaker at the first meeting which was held on September 15.* The discussion at this meeting dealt with the*

*See Astragal, page 212 and Mr. Hicks' speech page 223.

assistant director, post-war building

" With Mallet Stevens, Roux Spitz, le Corbusier and some others," said La Revue Moderne in 1937, " Francis Lorne is of those who have really analysed the style of the age, creating without binding himself to them simple modifications upon the ancient themes. He is of those (the same paper said later) whose thoughts and realizations are large, and one cannot doubt that in this sphere his influence will be considerable." There is certainly not a word here that any Englishman would wish to contradict. Though he does not court the limelight, Francis Lorne is to-day one of the most influential architects in Britain. Before he became a partner in the firm of Sir John Burnet, Tait and Lorne he worked as an architect in Montreal and New York, where he was for some years associated in a senior capacity with the Bertram Grosvenor Goodhue Associates. He is now Assistant Director (Standardization) of Post-War Building. Last week he received two more MOWP appointments. First as one of the representatives of MOWP on the D.P.W.B. Standards Committee. Secondly, with Mr. Percy Good, Director of the British Standards Institution, on the MOWP Codes of Practice Committee. Born in Falkirk, Stirlingshire in 1889 he was educated at the Glasgow School of Art and Glasgow University. He sponsored the *Information Book of Sir John Burnet, Tait and Lorne* and the *Library of Planned Information*, which in the form of Information Sheets has appeared in this JOURNAL since 1933.

structure of the Building Industry; its component parts; the position of the operative; the relation of the architect, the engineer and the surveyor. The remainder of the discussion meetings are as follows:

2nd Meeting. Tuesday, October 13, at 2.30 p.m. The economics of Building; a planned programme; the financial implications in post-war reconstruction; employment and unemployment.

3rd Meeting. Tuesday, November 10, at 2.30 p.m. The contribution of Science and of Research to the Building Industry; the education and training of young men entering the industry; the part to be played by the universities and the technical schools.

4th Meeting. Tuesday, December 8, at 2.30 p.m. Types of contracts; the interests of the building owner; state building; competitive tendering; a standard contract and a standard schedule of prices; controls and priorities.

5th Meeting. Tuesday, January 5, at 2.30 p.m. Management and organization; the future of the Building Industry.

Tickets for these meetings may be obtained on application to the Secretary of The Institution of Civil Engineers, Great George Street, Westminster. Applicants should state whether a ticket is required for a particular meeting or for the series.

The Caravan Club demands that so called caravanning represented by derelict vans, shacks and CONVERTED RAILWAY CARRIAGES SHOULD BE COMPLETELY ABOLISHED *when peace comes.*

This decision was made in a draft declaration of policy designed to show the place of the caravan movement in a planned Britain discussed at the annual general meeting in London of the Caravan Club. Looking towards the developments expected to arise from the Scott report, the declaration emphasizes the club's interest in the protection of the countryside and the coastline, and the essential difference between mobile caravanning as practised by its members, at any rate in peace-time, and the so-called caravanning represented by derelict vans, shacks, converted railway carriages, &c. It demands that all such nuisances should be completely abolished.

★

We regret to announce that Mr. Gustav Robert Speaker, founder and director of Messrs. G. R. Speaker and Co. Ltd., was KILLED WHEN CLIMBING GREAT GABLE, *the 2,941 ft. Cumberland peak. A past president of the Rock and Fell Climbing Club, he was one of the best known climbers in the world.*

Mr. Speaker was a member of the Alpine Club and the Climbers' Club and editor of the Fell and Rock Climbing Journal. He had often climbed Great Gable. Many climbs had been named after him. In 1924 he helped to organize the Mount Everest expedition. He was 65 years of age.

SCOTT REPORT

THE Scott Report has been severely criticised because

(i) it gives no adequate reasons for its findings;

(ii) it fails to present them in a way that makes it easy to carry them out immediately;

(iii) it ostentatiously omits to trace what its recommendations are likely to involve in other fields, i.e., agriculture, finance.

For these and similar reasons it is contemptuously dismissed by some people as a beautifully written romance which is likely to have little effect on the course of British History. In other places it is hailed as a charter for the country-side. This cleavage is not caused by a difference of opinion about what planning ought to do. Here and there a solitary voice may be heard complaining that the Scott Report interferes with the right of urban escapists to put the greatest possible distance between themselves and their fellow men. But criticism of the recommendations is not the rule. Most critics prefer to ignore the statement of aims to be pursued and attack the majority for failing to specify with sufficient detail their reasons for holding these opinions—for they are only opinions—or the steps necessary to put them into practice. The reaction is not so much one of disagreement as of disappointment that the Scott Committee has not completed the business they have so ably begun.

From some points of view this reaction is encouraging. It is something of a surprise to find that an overwhelming majority of the people interested in planning want to achieve the same result—that is to keep town and country distinct and so get the best out of both. From other points of view the reaction is not so encouraging; it suggests that there are still a large number of people who are deeply interested in planning without having understood in the least what tremendous changes in our ways of thinking and our machinery of government planning involves.

The first step towards planning is for somebody to describe clearly what sort of a country we as a nation want to live in. This is what the Scott Committee has done, and done well judging by the very wide measure of assent their recommendations have received. To complain that they have not proved them to be right (meaning cheap) is to misconceive the purpose of planning altogether. For the last century and a half we have unfailingly chosen the course of action that seemed likely to yield the largest money return. As the result our *standard of living* has risen to be the highest but two in the world while our *living conditions* have sunk to be almost the worst. A clear statement of what the public wants backed by the authority of a Royal Commission is a big step towards the reorientation of national policy.

The fact that no description is given of the precise steps by which these aims are to be realised does not lessen their value. In many ways it increases it. In the first place it serves to separate questions of principle about

which there is very little argument, from questions of expediency which are likely to be highly controversial, *i.e.* the post-war policy for agriculture. In the second place machinery for carrying out the kind of planning envisaged by the Scott Committee does not exist. Any attempt to translate their recommendations into practical terms would therefore have been disastrous. Thirdly material for weighing up the best means of realising the aims they have outlined is not at present available; it is never likely to be until we have a properly organized central Planning Authority in full working order. Hence the demand that this should be set up now. The Scott Committee has not only given us a most able description of the amenities which Englishmen expect to see recreated by planning. It has done us the even greater service of recognizing its own limitations. It has set the Government a straightforward problem. It was quite beyond their power to provide a solution. Royal Commissions —invented as a suitable method of darning holes in the fabric of *laisser faire*—are totally unsuitable as machinery for National Planning.

WHAT'S SAID ABOUT THE SCOTT REPORT

Times. Aug. 15. (*Pro*)

"The committee on land utilization in Rural Areas . . . have been inspired by an enlightened conception of the nation's interest in agriculture and by a sense of the imponderable values no less than of the measurable utilities of a prosperous countryside. The Scott Report is a reconstruction paper of first importance; it gives substance and form to part of those aspirations for an ampler and more satisfying national life, effective response to which has so far been a capital omission of contemporary British statesmanship.

"Closer inspection suggests that Professor Dennison is less far removed from the fundamental position of his colleagues than he supposes. Almost all his positive recommendations are in fact perfectly compatible with those of the majority. . . . The question ultimately turns on the value that is to be given to agriculture on the balance of national interests. The majority rightly conceive that value in fuller and broader terms than Professor Dennison, and the retrospect of the past twenty-two years will rank an increasingly large body of opinion behind them."

Manchester Guardian. Aug. 15.

(*Pro*) "A great part of the report . . . is concerned . . . with the general character of our future policy and the aims that should guide our plans. . . . On many of these questions there is no serious difference of view . . . the report is an interesting picture of the problems we have to face."

(*Con*) "Professor Dennison . . . calls attention very properly to the probable effect of the new ideas of nutritive and protective foods on agriculture. That effect is bound to be considerable and it may be revolutionary. Yet the report makes no attempt to discuss it and contents itself with a bare reference."

Spectator. Aug. 21. (*Pro*)

"In the main the planned picture which the committee draws is a satisfactory one—that of a rural community well housed, adequately paid, provided with many of the social amenities and good communications—protected against sporadic, ill-conceived development ribbon building, and the invasion of ugliness."

Statesman.

(*Pro*) "With astonishing generosity it 'recommended' virtually every rural reform for which enlightened Englishmen have sighed during the last twenty years. . . .

(*Con*) "There is, to our way of thinking, no way (of doing this) short of the nationalization of all land."*

(*Pro*) "The report does, indeed, realize that all its recommendations rest on the assumption that the Government is determined to ensure the continued 'prosperity of agriculture.' This phrase gravely understates the revolution which has happened on the land. It is now producing food: what it had previously produced through several centuries was rent and profit."

Country Life. (L. F. Easterbrook). Aug. 21.

(*Pro*) "They have put first things first and taken a practical view all through. That view is based on the assumption that the primary purpose of land is to produce food for man and beast and that houses and villages exist not merely to give the minimum of shelter to men and women in the homes when they are not working, but also to create centres where life is lived, happiness exists, and human kind can flourish. These immortal values have been the guiding posts and have led the committee safely past the Scylla of the jejune and the pretty pretty, and the charybdis of meretricious economic theories that will pass into the junk attic as surely as dawn follows dusk."

Economist.

(*Con*) "What is needed from an official committee is not this hotch-potch of vague and benign recommendations which show not the slightest realisation of their effect on the British economy as a whole, but rather an authoritative enquiry into what extent, under what conditions, and by producing what products British farming can be made as *productive*† as other mainly industrial uses of the nation's resources." 'Vague romantic flub dub.'

"That thesis is a vast disservice to devoted planners like Mr. Osborn who have tried so hard to bring urban and rural interests together communally *on a business footing*. . . .

* See Uthwatt Report.

† Productive of what? [Ed.]

The Architects' Journal

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NOTES & TOPICS

CIVIL ENGINEERS CAST AN EYE OVER THE BUILDING INDUSTRY

The robust Britannia in the great hall of the Institution of Civil Engineers impended over the assortment of engineers, architects and surveyors who came to hear Mr. Hicks at the first of the discussion meetings arranged by the Institution. Speculation aroused by the presence of so many Council members of the R.I.B.A. was laid to rest when Mr. Hicks had finished. They came to learn what official quarters thought of the building industry's war effort and what was in store for it in peace.

★

Mr. Hicks spoke heartily for an hour and covered the past and present set-up of the Building Industry. He left the impression that in a world of pretensions and promises, the industry, as a whole, had done what was asked of it. He did not see any need for structural alteration inside it and appeared to consider the present division of work between, say, the civil engineering and the building industry to be effective and practical. On the other hand, he thought that big improvements in technique and in education were necessary, not only in the professions, but in the trades.

★

There are to be four more of these discussion meetings at the Institu-

tion* and if the level in the remainder is as high as in the first, they should be extremely useful to the industry. Possibly the fact that these fixtures take place as it were on a neutral ground will help to keep them non-sectarian.

GROSS MISREPRESENTATION

Mr. Ansell has been criticized for a speech he made at an earlier conference held at the same Institution which appears to have been extensively misquoted in the popular press. One cutting† reads as follows:—

Mr. Ansell, president of the Royal Institute of British Architects, said that if there was to be standardization they would have standardized streets and towns inhabited by standardized men and women.

★

When the passage referred to is reproduced in its correct context it conveys a very different meaning:—

Standardization and mass-produced prefabricated units have their uses, and so long as they remain such units as are small enough to give every possible scope to the building designer and never become so large as to take from him the necessity of having any brains or indeed of existing at all, much good may be done. But if standardization is applied not only to units of construction but to whole buildings, the immediate period after the war will be likely to be known to future architectural historians as the ready-made or reach-me-down period.

We shall be condemned to standardized streets and towns inhabited by standardized men, women and children with standardized habits and opinions—a truly dreadful prospect. I cannot forget that the fine things of the world in thought and word and deed have been and are thought and said and done by those who deviate from the standardized, and I cannot complain if you remind me that the really evil things are also done by people to whom the same description could apply.

We do not set our joiners the task of plumbing, and we should demand that every building should have its qualified designer, who can not only be scientific and functional but can provide that beauty for which war has created so remarkable a demand, a qualified designer directly responsible to his client, whether that be a Government department, a local authority or a private concern or individual.

Skill, however, does not come of itself or merely by wishing for it; it comes of training and experience working on some natural predispositions. We, therefore, have to tackle the education—professional, industrial and operative—of the industry. War-time standards of reduced quality must go as soon as possible and be replaced by a return to the highest standards of the past plus an intelligent and adventurous use of new materials and methods.

Mr. Ansell is not in fact opposing standardization but the misapplication of it.

EARLS AND ARCHITECTS

Earl's bachelor son plans ideal kitchen. Ministry thinks a lot of it. So ran the headlines in the *Evening Standard*. The article below referred to the *Hub of the House*, a serious report compiled by the Association for Planning and Regional Reconstruction recently published in full in this *Journal*. The news that this might be influencing the Ministry prompted me to show it to the sort of woman who might be expected to know about kitchens.

★

Without any hesitation at all she exclaimed "my cook would love it." "But you're not supposed to have a cook," I pointed out. "Oh aren't I," she said, "why not?" "Because," I explained, "it's for the average woman after the war." "What the hell," she retorted furiously, "does an Earl's bachelor son know about that?" "Association for Planning and Regional Reconstruction," I corrected.

★

"Well any way," she resumed, "it's such a nice kitchen that I wouldn't mind working in it myself—that is if I had a nurse to look after the children, of course. By the way, where's the larder?"

★

I began pointing out R for refrigerator, L for larder (1 ft. 4 in. by 2 ft. 7 in. by 2 ft.), and VC for vegetable cupboard. "Yes, yes," she interrupted, a trifle impatiently, "but where am I to keep a sack of potatoes?"

★

It turned out that she wanted a larder *at least* three feet square and six feet high facing north, built of stone or brick, and opening off an unheated lobby. "A bit old-fashioned aren't you," I asked. "It's old-fashioned to eat at home," she retorted.

★

She agreed wholeheartedly with the Association's decision to keep boilers and washing apparatus out of the kitchen on the grounds that a boiler made a kitchen too hot in summer, without being a satisfactory substitute for central heating or an open fire (gas or electric) in the winter. She dismissed the idea of washing dirty clothes in a small modern kitchen as unhygienic, and protested that if dried there they smelt of dripping.

MASS OBSERVATION CHECKS UP

'It is now a normal radio trick to haul a working-class woman to the microphone and record her opinion on housing as though it were of enormous technical significance. It is a good trick, but it has been recognised for some time that it is not really an easy matter to gauge what suits people best, for the simple reason that not even Mrs. Brown, the working-class woman, knows, although she may think she does. The opinion of one housewife whose personal experience is very limited is not of great value; the opinion of many, however, has a certain social significance. The surveys carried out at York or at Bournville have been enlightening, but their importance was limited by the regional character of the material. That is why a more general survey recently carried through by Mass Observation for the Advertising Service Guild should be of value.

★

The samples were taken in Midland industrial areas, garden cities, L.C.C. estates, and working-class flats, where very different conditions obtain. Likes and dislikes, satisfactions and frustrations were recorded in great detail, covering almost every phase of experience connected with the physical conditions of living. I understand there is a reasonable prospect of the Report seeing daylight within the near future. I am also told that it does not reflect enormously to the credit of some public housing authorities or those who advised them on design.

CAFÉS IN THE PARKS

There has been a good deal of talk about cafés in the London parks. They could take up to 50 cafés quite unobtrusively, and there are plenty of old bricks round London if no other materials are available. What about one in Berkeley Square?

ASTRAGAL

*Details of these are given on p. 209 and excerpts from Mr. Hicks' speech on p. 223.

†Sent by C. A. Harding, D.A.Glas., F.R.I.B.A., in a letter published in the JOURNAL for September 10.

LETTERS

Marjorie Lane

John Cunningham, A.R.I.B.A.

R. Perry,
Executive Officer, Committee for the Industrial and Scientific Provision of Housing.

V. Ramsden,
Managing Director, Orlit Ltd.

C. Douglas Boatman

The Hub of the House

SIR,—In view of some years work and study in relation to the "Hub of the House," during the course of which I was in close contact with housewives, the architectural profession and the building trade, I was very interested in the report published in your issue of August 27, which has been submitted to the Ministry of Health Central Housing Advisory Committee's Sub-Committee on the Design of Dwellings, by the Association for Planning and Regional Reconstruction.

A great deal of time and thought has obviously been devoted to the important subject of kitchen requirements in the post-war home, especially in relation to all processes connected with food-stuffs, but I note with surprise that although the authors consider "Washing and laundry work" as one of the essential activities in the maintenance of a household, no provision whatever is made for this in the kitchen.

Statistics show that prior to 1939 some 58 per cent. of the population of this country came under the "less than £150 per annum" income group. Therefore, on financial grounds alone, in at least half the homes in this country there can be no question whatever of utilising laundry services.

The working-class housewife must do her washing at home and the obvious place for it is in the kitchen. The sink is already installed and can be used for rinsing the clothes; the only additional equipment necessary (an ordinary gas or electric wash boiler and portable wringer) can be fitted underneath the draining board. The drainer has, of course, to be detachable or hinged, so that it can be removed for the washing process.

Before the war many local authorities adopted this method of fitting home laundry equipment, as it is both space saving and labour saving. The report points out "the importance of the balanced placing of the three principal units, the cooker, sink and work-table" in relation to the food preparation process; of no less importance is the balanced placing of home laundry equipment—the sink, wash boiler and wringer.

From the foregoing remarks it will be seen that in the plans put forward by the Association, it is only necessary to forfeit a cupboard under one of the draining boards to provide the working-class housewife with facilities for clothes washing, in addition to the functions already covered by such detailed and excellent recommendations.

Hove. MARJORIE LANE (MRS.).

R.I.B.A. Election

Sir,—Together with most of the Members I meet, I support the view that the time to hold an R.I.B.A. election is long overdue. All the relevant facts were set out lucidly in your recent leader, which rightly stresses that a preliminary postal poll can be avoided. The present governing body can and should call a General Meeting without delay.

During their four years in office unparelleled events have taken place—Members must be given an opportunity to say whether or not they consider the Council sufficiently representative in view of the completely changed circumstances.

J. CUNNINGHAM.

Reading.

Post-War Problems

SIR,—Astragal makes the rather sweeping generalization that the numerous committees that are studying our post-war problems never mention anything but our tight little island.

This does not apply to the Committee for the Industrial and Scientific Provision of Housing, which is fully aware of the bearing of external building problems upon our own rehousing questions and has said so.

It may seem at first sight that these problems will tend to restrict our own activities but, given adequate investigation, this need not be so. Schemes for the mechanized production of key parts of houses which would be impracticable if applied only to the comparatively limited markets in this country may become economically and technically sound if we were able to feed Continental markets. There are indications that such a process, by facilitating the use of materials indigenous to other countries, will be of great economic advantage to them.

R. PERRY.

London.

Prefabricated Huts

Sir,—In your issue for August 13 you published a description of the official prefabricated huts exhibited by the Ministry of Works and Planning on the site behind the Tate Gallery. After reading that part of the description dealing with the Orlit hut we presume that you have been misled by the temporary building erected there by the Ministry of Works and Planning as our new hut was not in production at the time of the exhibition.

The new approved Orlit hut has been designed as a monolithic structure consisting of pre-fabricated reinforced concrete units with the absolute minimum of site work. This hut with its complete framework is able to withstand lateral stresses due to blast and earth tremor as it is a monolithic structure which better adapts itself to abnormal conditions of loading.

With regard to our typical wall construction, may we point out that the prestressing of the wall planks makes it possible to space the posts at 6 ft. centres without unduly increasing the weight of the planks, which are only one inch thick.

The question of loading and handling of prefabricated units is of great importance, and many units have to be reinforced for this purpose only. This in itself justifies the prestressing of the plank reinforcement.

The coefficient of thermal insulation for the cavity is 0.487. The impervious planks and the horizontal interruption of all cavities (preventing local air currents) are important features of the construction.

If additional thermal insulation of the roof is required, insulating boards may be placed on top or fixed to the underside of the roof slabs.

We would appreciate it very much if you would mention the Orlit hut as distinct from the type previously described.

V. RAMSDEN,
Managing Director,
Orlit Limited.

Colnbrook, Bucks.

Our technical correspondent writes: I cannot discover any substantial difference between the Orlit hut on the Tate Gallery site and the "new hut."

(1) *Wall.* The primary function of the walls is heat insulation. It is not reasonable, therefore, to use hard concrete and to reduce the thickness of the slabs to the absolute minimum. The weight of the Orlit slabs is about 12.5 lb./ft². It is possible to make ribbed slabs in lightweight concrete of about the same weight per sq. ft. but of a minimum thickness of 1½ in. and of an overall depth of the ribs of approximately 2½ in. Such slabs, if reinforced, can also span 6 ft. and have a far greater insulating value than the Orlit wall slabs.

(2) *Roof.* It is needless to mention that the roof consisting of a single layer of ribbed slabs in hard concrete is entirely inadequate from the point of view of insulation, and that "additional thermal insulation" (see Messrs. Orlit's letter) will always be required if the hut is to be lived in.

(3) *Erection.* The weight of the main beam units is 12¼ cwts. (Prestressing would be very useful to reduce this weight. This is what I had in mind in my article).

The setting out of the posts must be very accurate. Messrs. Orlit's drawing "Method of Bending Reinforcement at Junction of Stanchion and Beams" gives an idea of the difficulty of the assembly. On the diagrams only eight reinforcing bars are shown, but in fact there are ten bars protruding into the small cruciform cavity, and it seems to be very doubtful whether these bars will be properly embedded in concrete. In any case, highly skilled labour and strict supervision are necessary.

(4) *Resistance to blast and earth tremor.* The firm's calculation only refers to shock from the sides, but if such forces act longitudinally, there is nothing to stiffen the main beams between the eaves over a length of 18 ft. 6 in. The roof slabs which are laid dry on the main beams without any interlocking will not act as a bracing, and a shock in the longitudinal direction may have a disastrous effect.

It should be noted that the Orlit hut cannot be dismantled. In this respect it is similar to the BCF hut. Structurally and from the point of view of mass production, it has advantages against the BCF hut; regarding erection it is no worse and no better, but from the point of view of habitability it is inferior in insulation.

Alien Architectural Students

SIR,—It seems to me that Mr. Athoe is adopting a dog-in-the-manger attitude over alien architectural students. I know that I speak for a number of students in the forces, when I say that they would not deny architectural training to exiled aliens, merely because they themselves are unable to avail themselves of such training.

Not only this. Since the Government does not consider it necessary to reserve architectural students, we shall need as many trained men as possible, aliens or British.

C. DOUGLAS BOATMAN.

Grays, Essex.

HOUSING IS NOT ENOUGH

[By MAX LOCK]

As long ago as 1842, Lord Shaftesbury, then Antony Ashley Cooper, conceived the threefold structure of the rehousing mechanism—slum clearance, replacement of cleared dwellings and reconditioning. It took seventy years against appalling opposition for him and his successors to build up this complex machinery. Then came the World War. The return of disillusioned heroes with their clamour for homes jolted the mechanism into action, and fired by the spark of subsidy it continued its journey—an uneasy journey over the road of heavy interest rates and high land values to the edge of the present morass, beyond which Dr. Elsas courageously tries to penetrate.

"Housing Before the War and After"* is a part only of a number of enquiries which, until the war, were being conducted by the Population Investigation Committee under the chairmanship of Professor A. M. Carr Saunders. Its separate publication at 5s. has been made possible by the beneficence of the Carnegie United Kingdom Trust.

The fashioning of substance out of numbers is no mean task, and much assiduous labour lies behind these valuable results.

Housing is the key factor of reconstruction because it links the problem of poverty with that of planning. The inseparable unity of these three things is clearly recognised in this little volume, but not so clearly as the inspirited fanfare inside the dust-cover would have us believe, proclaiming as it does, that the reader is taken "to the core of the question"—and that "he will find the foundation stone laid for to-morrow." Housing alone is not enough.

We acknowledge the housing problem to be in reality the provision of houses for the lower income groups of wage earners, many of whom besides being tenants of negligent private landlords, spend more than they can afford on bus and train fares because the high cost of land in the city forces them to live far outside it, and often (without knowing it) contribute as much as 60 per cent. of their rent towards the repayment of interest rates on housing loan charges. These are facts which have too long become accepted but which, notwithstanding the skill with which he has presented his panorama of the physical aspect of the housing situation, Dr. Elsas has recognised but somehow avoided looking squarely in the face.

What we are so well told is, that a random sample of 100 people would represent twice as many families to-day as it did seventy years ago. This shrinkage of the family size, the growing proportion of older to younger people and the greater independence caused by the prevalence of pensions, has created an increasingly urgent demand for more houses. So much so, that despite all the housing that has been undertaken since the last war, we still have one family in every five having to share a dwelling, and this is a 4 per cent. increase over the number of sharing families in 1911.

Much has been done since the last war, for out of the twelve million houses now existing, as many as a third, or 4 million, have been erected since then. Of these about a quarter, or 1,112,000, are State-aided Council houses (representing a mere 8 per cent. of the total number of dwellings). The remaining two-thirds falls into two groups: The 3,400,000 houses that have been built during the sixty years preceding the last war and the 4,607,000 houses which are older than that and are therefore now over 80 years old—and incidentally no less than a million of these are over 180 years old.

Assuming the economic life of a house to be from 50 to 80 years, this means that we shall have from 4 to 8 million houses to replace or recondition—or almost twice as many houses as were built since the last war, and this does not take into consideration the normal arrears, estimated at 370,000 if the war goes on till 1943—nor are such factors as population movements, replacement of bombed houses or even 1939 arrears included in this vast total.

Of course, this does not mean that we have to replace these obsolete dwellings all at once. Dr. Elsas tells us that if we take the economic life of a house at 75 years, 150,000 a year will need replacing. He reminds us, too, that if we proceed at the record pre-war slum clearance rate of 60,000 houses a year (in 1937-8), we should take 150 years to finish the job! So supposing we take 40 years as the reasonable lifetime of a house (which Dr. Elsas does not) our rehabilitation effort *alone* will need to be at the rate of 300,000 a year, or 5 times the rate of the pre-war record, and this excludes any other factors such as population increases and distribution of families.

In view of the fact that we were not keeping pace with the demand even in 1939, nor diminishing the growing number of families that must share houses, other very careful investigations are needed, particularly into the use of existing accommodation in the 8 million privately owned dwellings erected before the last war. For many of these houses, obsolete as they are, are not filled to capacity. Indeed, it appears that "46 per cent. of working-

* "Housing Before the War and After," by M. J. Elsas. Published by P. S. King and Staples, Limited. Price 5s.

Bomb Damage at CAMBRIDGE

In a recent raid on Cambridge the Union Society's buildings suffered considerable damage. Top, an exterior view; bottom, the writing room.

class families are so housed that the number of persons in each family could be doubled without causing overcrowding in the statutory sense." What is the cause of all this unscientific waste of house space?

Dr. Elsas has made a shrewd diagnosis of at least one of the causes—Rent Restriction. For this he sees to be merely a palliative which paralyses that part of the social organism to which it is applied and as a consequence infects the whole body with a more serious disease. Indeed, he shows us that rent restriction ultimately benefits neither the community, the family, nor the landlord, since firstly it tends in practice to place an uneven burden on family budgets, secondly its inducements to the tenant to "stay put" obstructs the natural gravitation of families to the houses appropriate to their changing size, and thirdly, especially during years of rising prices like the present, rent restriction discourages the landlord from keeping his property in a reasonable state of repair.

Thus we get areas of urban blight spreading themselves out over our cities—the civic cancer that is increasing everywhere, and which bombing has revealed in all its hideousness.

But rent restriction, especially for the houses of the lowest rateable values, will sooner or later achieve its own inevitable bankruptcy and, we hope, give place to some sort of "*landlord* restriction," wherein no private interest will any longer be permitted to derive profit and livelihood from rents of the lower paid tenants. For housing, as Dr. Elsas says, is primarily a problem of poverty and low wages, and as such should be as much the subject of State aid as the other factors arising out of the same problem—such as the provision of free education, maternity and child welfare. If there is to be speculation and exploitation, let it be *of* the *middle* classes *for* the middle classes, but let even that be controlled with rigour and proper planning restrictions. It is the smallness of the number of the houses that are subsidized (a mere 8 per cent.) that accounts for the deplorable lack of choice and the interminable delay experienced by those who want Council houses.

Let us place housing in its proper perspective. Let housing go forward with planning, for although Dr. Elsas so competently reveals to us what the present housing problem is, his statistics protest, in both senses, that housing is not enough.

Although it would apparently go against the grain with Dr. Elsas, the Exchequer will need to bear a bigger financial burden in post-war housing, despite his insistence that local rates could carry most of this heavy baby. This time it will probably be found to need a number of giant government grants far greater than many Addison Schemes to hold it.

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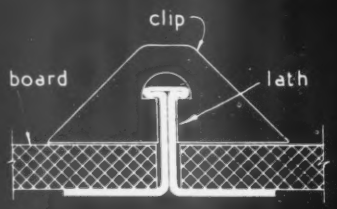
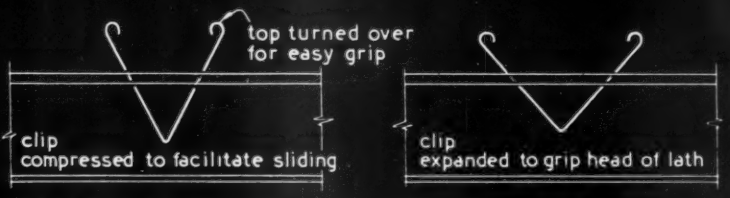
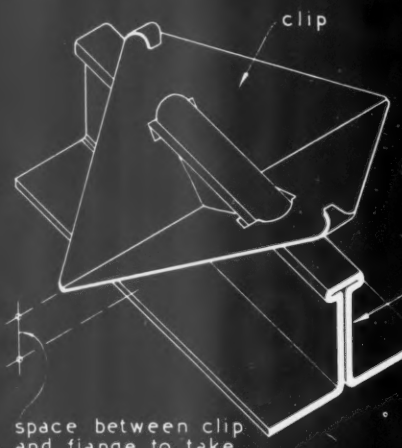
PIMCO SYSTEMS: 'V' CLIP FIXING FOR WALL AND CEILING LININGS.



CLIP WITH BOARD INSERTED.

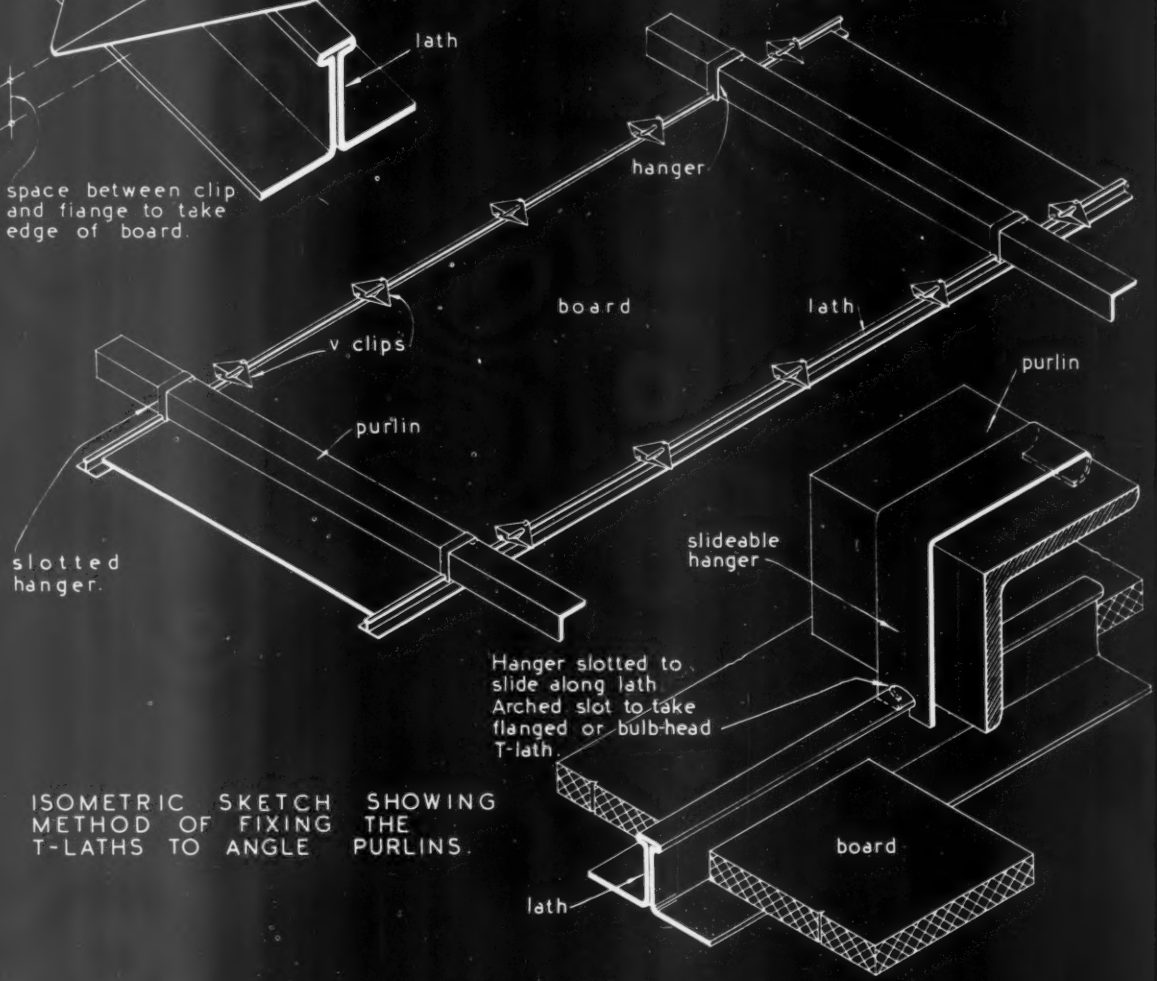


MANIPULATION OF CLIP BEFORE BOARD IS INSERTED.



ISOMETRIC SKETCH SHOWING V-CLIP IN POSITION ON LATH.

ISOMETRIC SKETCH OF COMPLETED PANEL.



ISOMETRIC SKETCH SHOWING METHOD OF FIXING THE T-LATHS TO ANGLE PURLINS.

Issued by P/M Board Co Ltd, and T.T Trading Co Ltd.

942 INFORMATION SHEET: WALL AND CEILING LININGS
Sir John Burnet Tait and Lorne Architects One Montague Place Bedford Square London W.C.1

THE ARCHITECTS' JOURNAL
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INFORMATION SHEET

• 879 •

WALL AND CEILING LININGS

Product: Pimco Systems 'V' Clip Fixing. (Patent Applied For).

Description:

An all metal assemblage for fixing any type or thickness of building board to structural members—steel or timber, or linings to soffits of concrete floors and roofs.

The V section hard steel clips are slotted to engage flanged or bulb-headed T laths. No holes or slots are required in the laths and their maximum strength is therefore retained. The clips are slid along the head of the lath by pressing the two limbs of the V towards each other. On releasing the pressure, the limbs spring back and engage the lath firmly. The clips can be assembled on the bench and there is no risk of their moving from position in subsequent handling—even on vertical work. The clips provide firm, rigid support to the board—necessary where boards are subject to impact, e.g., on walls at dado level.

The clips are of light-gauge hard steel slotted and folded diagonally, the slot at 90 degrees to the fold. A substantial overhang beyond the lath head is allowed for giving strong and adequate hold for compressing the clip. No height adjustment of the clip is necessary and clips are available with slots designed for various thicknesses of board. Rigid fixing of the board is thus obtained independently of the fixer. The clips are spaced normally at 12 in. centres. This work is done on the bench and as no further adjustment of the clip is necessary a considerable saving in time is effected, especially where the ceiling lining is to be fixed close to roofing. The holding power of the clip is not affected by atmospheric changes or vibration, and once the clip is engaged on the lath it can only be disengaged by first removing the boards and then compressing and sliding it off.

The clips are designed for use with PIMCO System Adjustable T Suspension (Patent No. 533541).

Erection:

(*a*) *Assembly:* Slide clips along lath to required position. A sufficient number of clips should be introduced between any two hangers to allow spacing of not more than 12 in. centres.

(*b*) *Fixing:* When clips and hangers are fixed to lath, it is offered up, the hanger slid into position and bent round purlin. The board is then inserted between the lath flange and clips. When fixing next lath the edge of the preceding board is inserted, hangers slid into position and fixed as before. Alternatively, a lath and board may be offered up as one unit, the free edge of the board being inserted between the clips and the flange of previously fixed lath, and then the hangers slid into position and engaged over purlins.

Last Board: Usually narrow strip, edge first positioned under clips and remaining edge swung upwards against wall or truss, thereby forcing board into position between clips and lath head. If obstructions occur or if it is desired to use a wide board instead of a narrow strip, a special adjustable clip may be used, details of which will be found in Sheet No. 872.

Previous Sheets:

No. 854, Metal-framed Partitioning; No. 858, Edge-Pinned Roof and Wall Insulation; No. 861, Adjustable T Suspension for Wall and Ceiling Linings; No. 864, Edge-Pinned Insulation Board Ceilings; No. 868, Concealed Reinforcement to Ceiling Panels; No. 872, Wall and Ceiling Linings (Removable).

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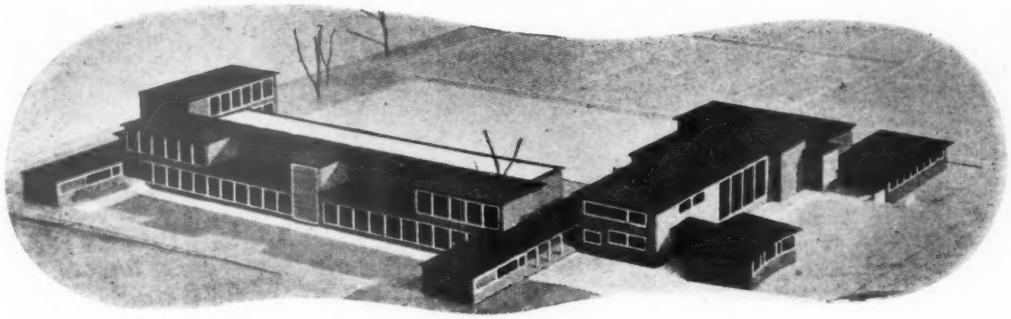
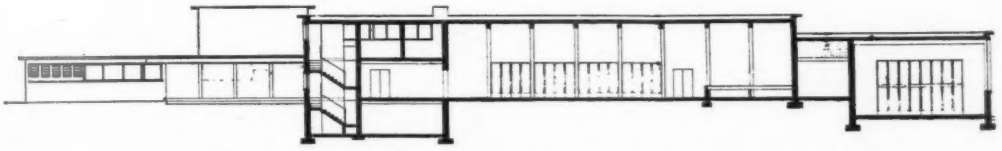


SCHOOL

AT SCALBY, YORKSHIRE

DESIGNED BY F. X. VELARDE



SECTION THROUGH ASSEMBLY HALL AND GYMNASIUM

This school by Mr. F. X. Velarde was illustrated in model form in the JOURNAL for May 18, 1939. The photographs of the model are reproduced again in these pages together with those of the completed building. By comparing them it will be seen that there is a perfect resemblance between the preliminary model and the completed job. The school has just been officially opened by Mr. W. H. Ansell, the President of the R.I.B.A.

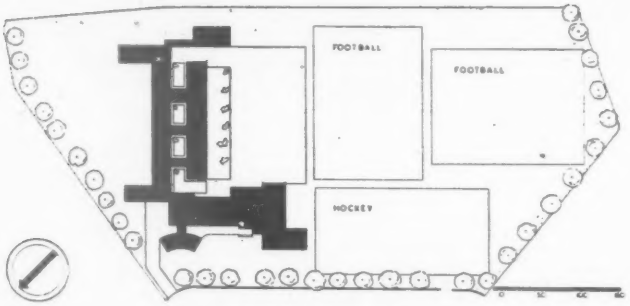
GENERAL — Senior Elementary School to accommodate 320 boys and girls from Scalby and fifteen neighbouring villages. The site is a low-lying one in the centre of a housing scheme.

CONSTRUCTION — Reinforced concrete frame; brick walls. The exterior is faced with small hand-made bricks of a warm texture. Roofs are flat and can, if necessary, be used as a roof playground. Internal walls are brick. The elevations are designed to provide the maximum area of glass windows.

PLAN — To overcome difficulties created by the site, the classrooms on the ground floor are not approached directly from the main corridor, but by short branch corridors. This allows the classrooms to be lighted naturally from both sides, adds to the quietness of the rooms and provides cross ventilation. The gymnasium is at playground level. Folding doors at the east end enable the gymnasium to be thrown open to the air and to have direct access to the playing area, thus providing excellent P.T. facilities. Any resultant noise is guarded against by the introduction of a garden area between the classrooms and the playground. The assembly hall is used as a dining room and is served by an adjacent kitchen with gas cooking.

INTERNAL FINISH — All floors are concrete. In the teaching

Above, view of completed building taken from the south. From left to right are the gymnasium, kitchen, assembly hall and classrooms. Folding doors enable the gymnasium to be thrown open to the air and to have direct access to the playing area. Below, photograph of model taken from the south.



SITE PLAN

SCHOOL AT SCALBY, YORKSHIRE

Above, looking north-east between the assembly hall (left), and the classrooms towards the girls' cloakrooms on the ground floor and the practical room above. The roof is flat and can be used as a roof playground. The exterior of the school is faced with small hand-made bricks.

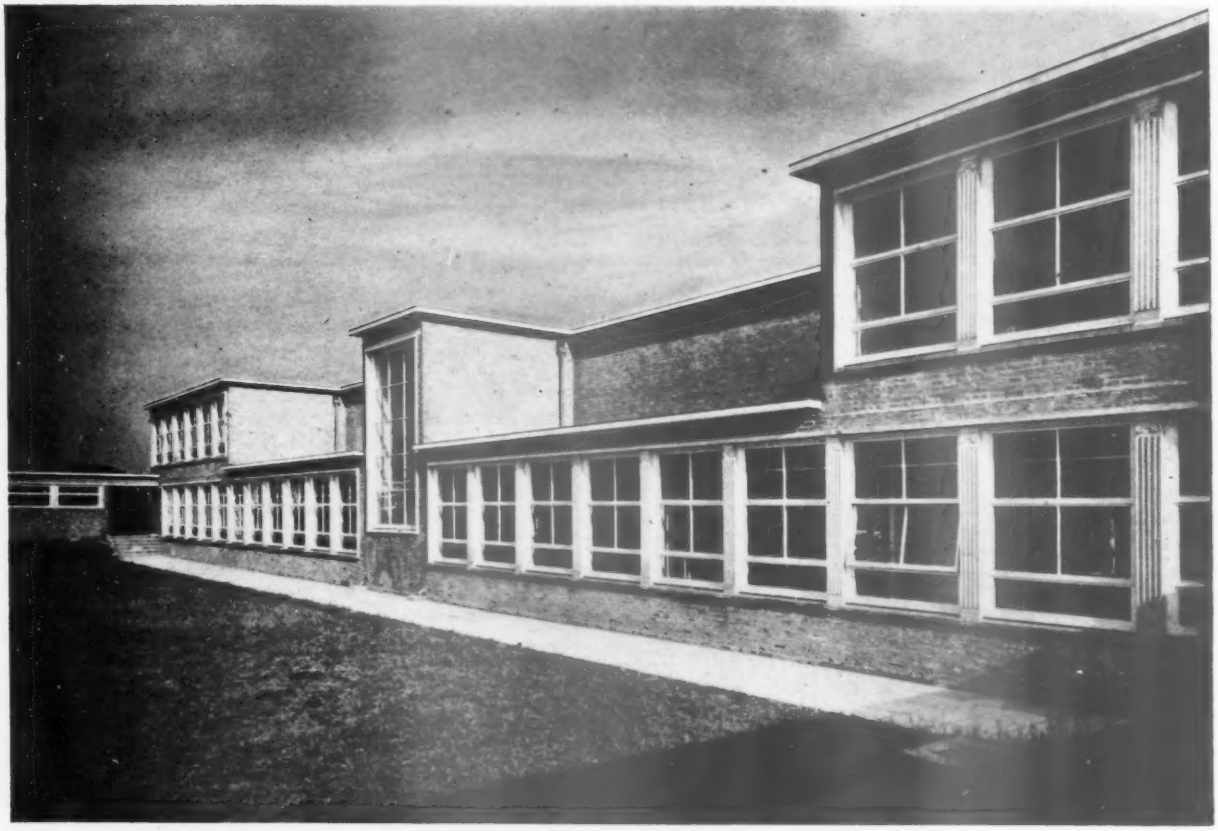
rooms they are finished with polished Burma teak blocks, and in the corridors and cloakrooms with 12 in. square brown quarry tiles. Internal walls generally are plastered, and the ceilings are finished in composition boarding, the colouring of the latter forming a pleasant contrast with the lighter shades of the walls. Furniture has been specially designed for the important rooms. In the classrooms the seating accommodation is by chairs and there are dual table desks. There are also built-in cupboards, with blackboards above. Book lockers are arranged in the branch corridors.

Single contract—Price approximately £24,000.

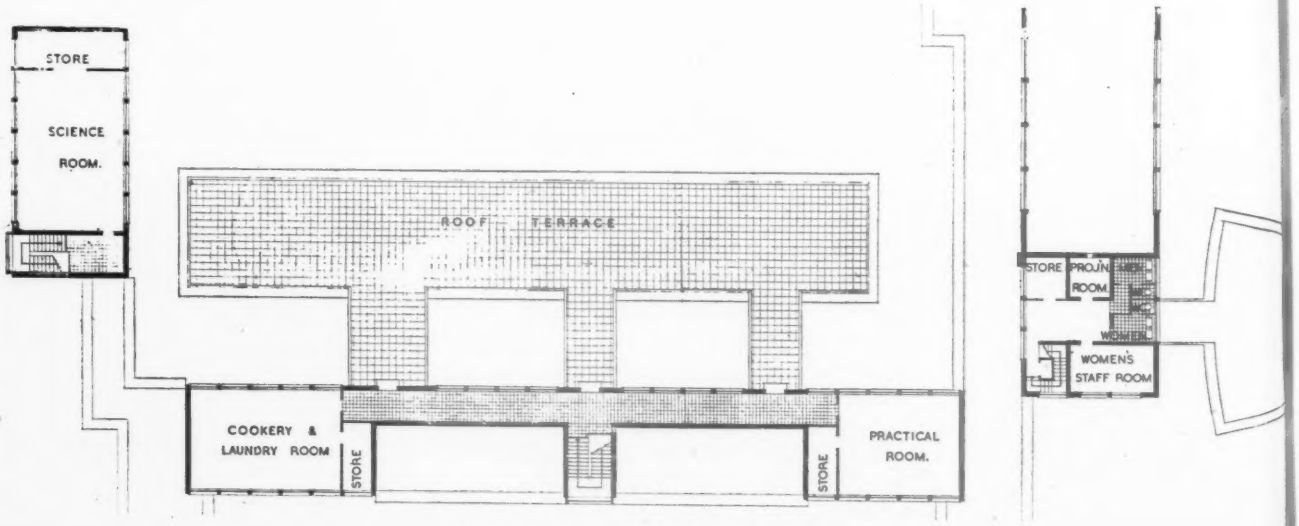
The general contractors were F. W. Plaxton & Son. For list of sub-contractors see page xxvi.

DESIGNED BY F. X. VELARDE

SCHOOL AT SCALBY, YORKSHIRE

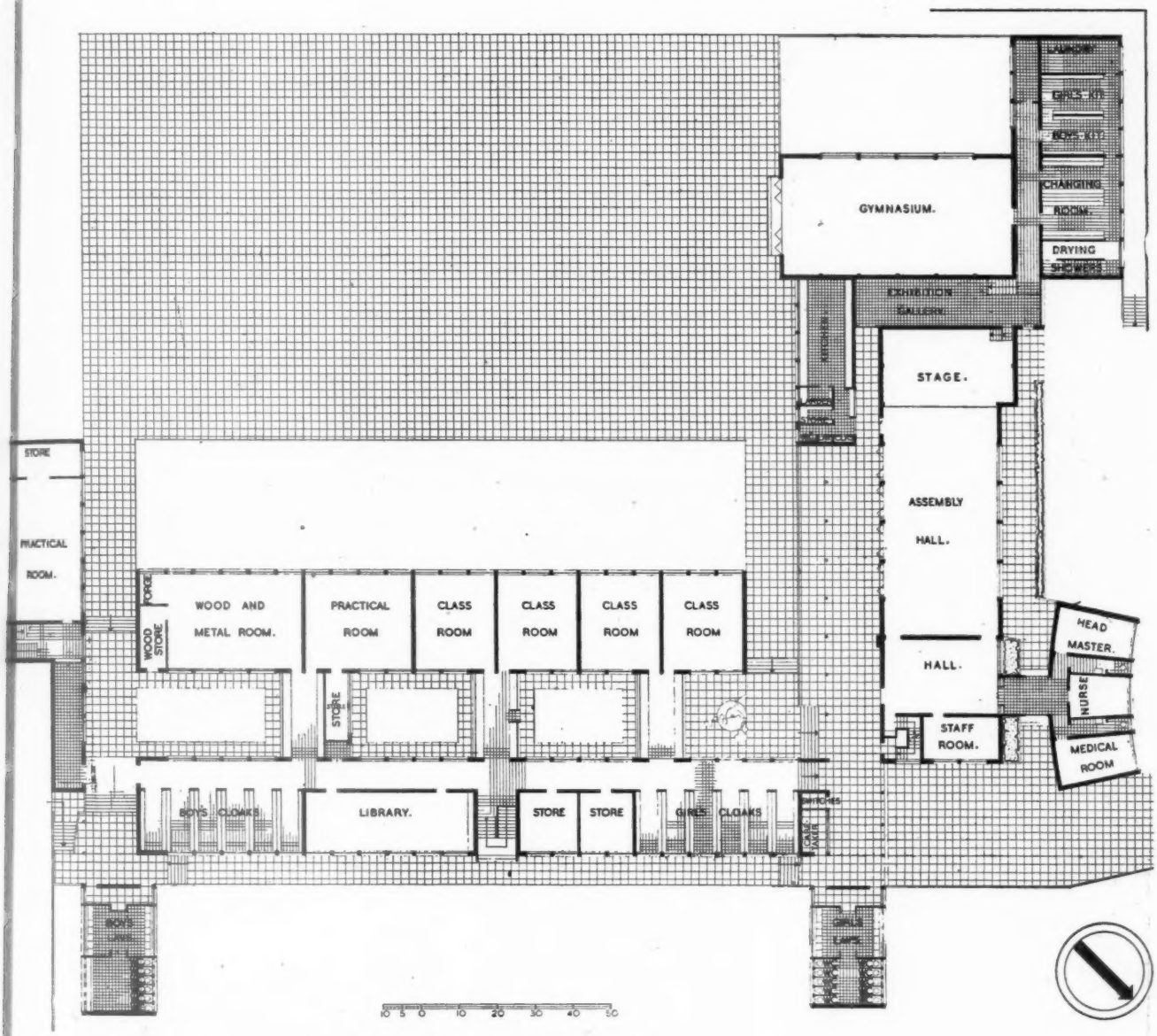


Above, north-east front. On the left of the central staircase window are the library and boys' cloakrooms with cookery and laundry room above, and on the right, store rooms and girls' cloakrooms, with the practical room above. Facing page, another view of the same front. The elevations are designed to provide the maximum area of glass windows.

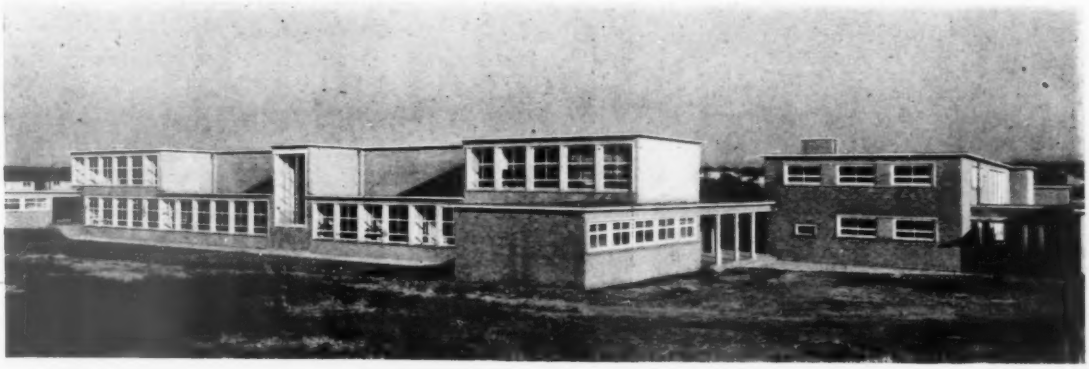


FIRST FLOOR PLAN

DESIGNED BY F. X. VELARDE

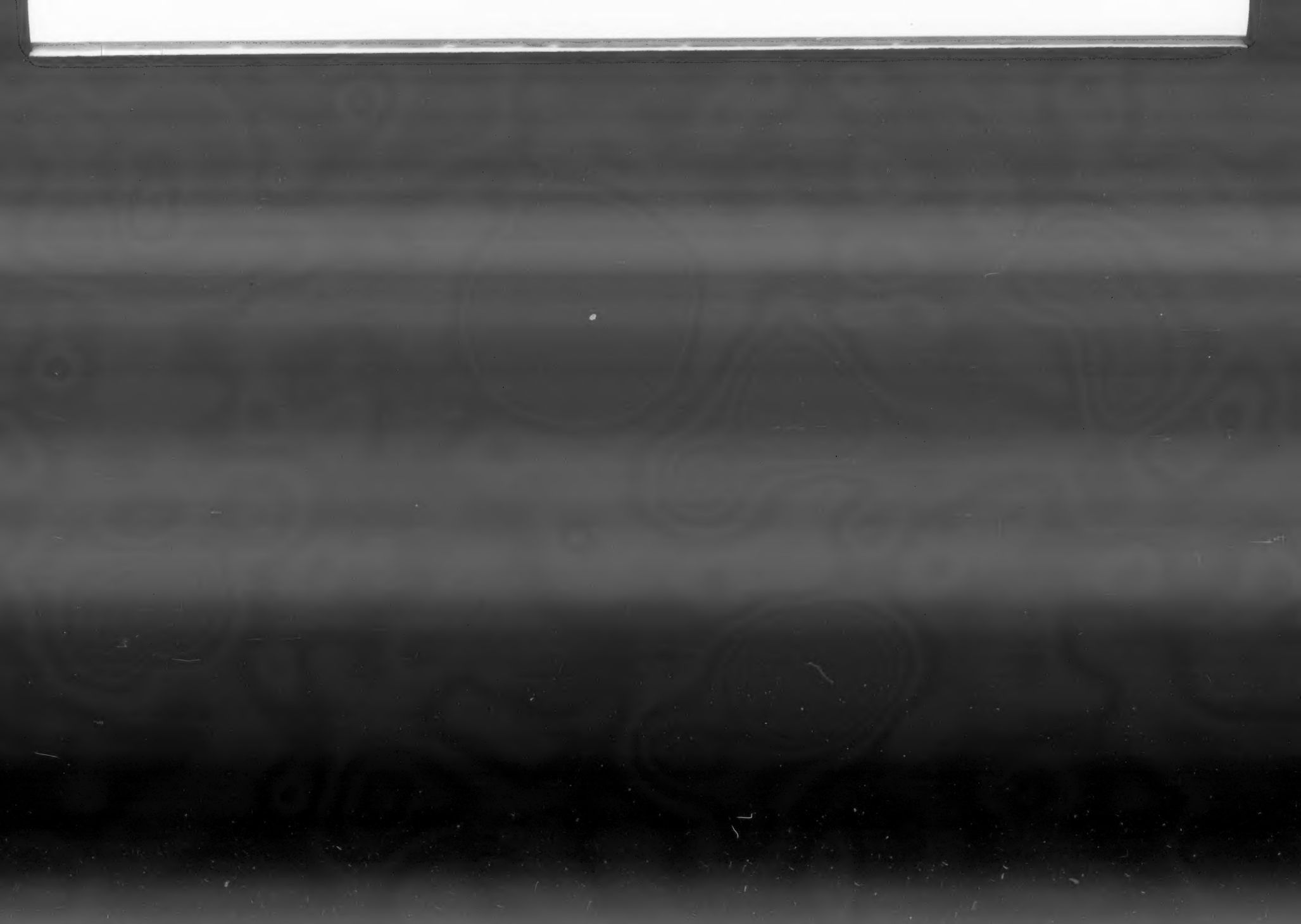


GROUND FLOOR PLAN



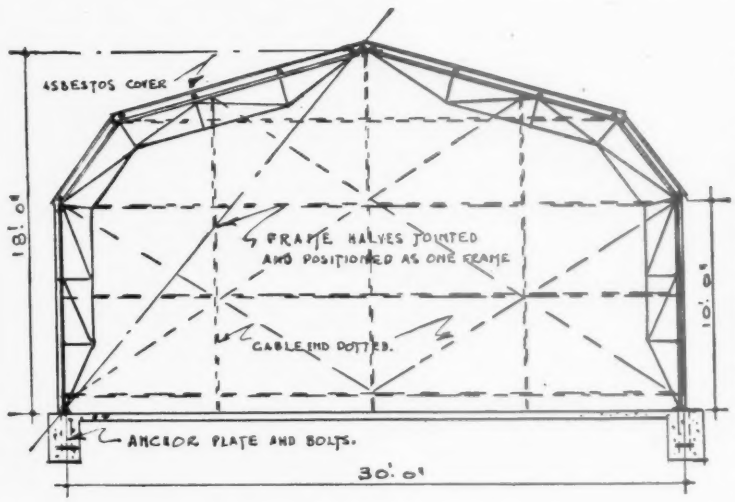
Above, The library. Below, from left to right, gymnasium, main corridor, a classroom; assembly hall, another view of the main corridor, domestic science room. In the classrooms, seating accommodation is by chairs and there are dual table desks. There are also built-in cupboards with blackboards over. The assembly hall is used as a dining room.

SCHOOL AT SCALBY, YORKSHIRE



PATENT WELDED TUBULAR CONSTRUCTION

Data Sheet No. 6



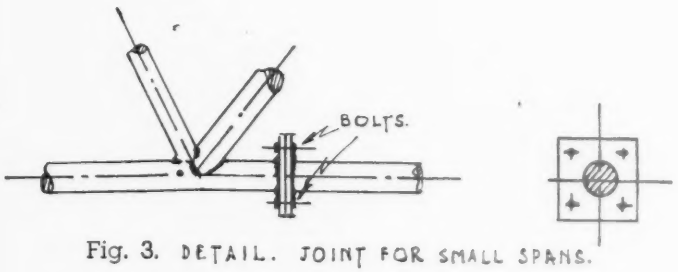


Fig. 3. DETAIL. JOINT FOR SMALL SPANS.

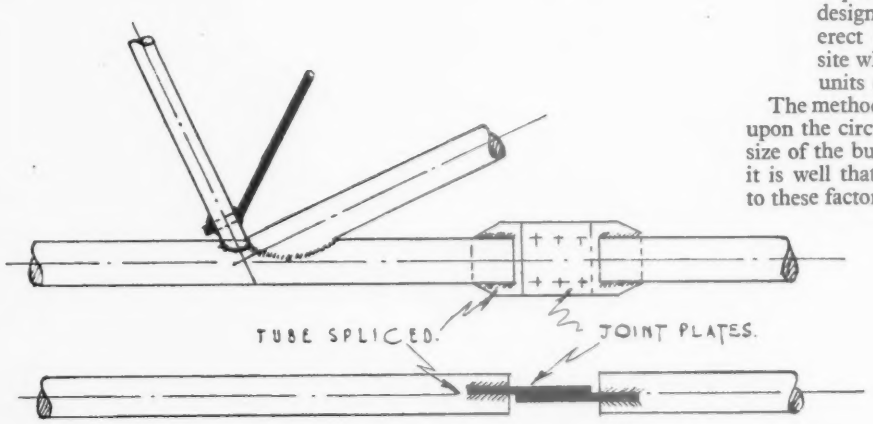


Fig. 4. Bolt connection for larger trusses.

METHODS OF FABRICATION

This form of construction lends itself admirably to the prefabrication of single storey buildings of any size. The standard sections (roof trusses, wall frames and columns, and door and window frames) are light in weight and conveniently transportable. Assembly on the site is simply and rapidly effected, the sections being bolted or welded together according to specification. The buildings can be dismantled with equal facility, and only the loss of foundations is involved since the various sections all remain available for re-erection—thus it may be said that this form of construction has all the essentials of a permanent building plus the facilities of a portable building. A further consideration is the flexibility of the system, allowing alterations or extensions to be made to existing buildings simply and quickly.

Three alternative methods of fabrication are available :—

(1) Complete factory prefabrication, leaving assembly only to be carried out on the site.

(2) Site welding. The welding of the final fixings and connections is sometimes more satisfactorily effected on the site ; where site welding is not practicable or economical special bolt joint or joint plates are supplied for such connections (see Figs. 3 and 4 reproduced from data sheet No. 3).

(3) Site fabrication and welding. In certain circumstances complete site fabrication is advantageous. Though more costly than factory prefabrication, in cases where transport costs are heavy and access to the site difficult, and where the fabricated sections required are large in number and simple in design, it sometimes proves economical to erect temporary portable workshops on the site where the fabricators and mobile welding units can execute the whole of their work.

The method to be adopted is in each case dependent upon the circumstances prevailing, and the type and size of the building, or buildings, to be erected, and it is well that proper consideration should be given to these factors before a decision is made.

NOTE.—These data sheets are appearing weekly in THE ARCHITECTS' JOURNAL *—they will be available shortly in complete Folder form and application for these Folders should be addressed to Scaffolding [Great Britain] Limited, 77, Easton Street, High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire*

Meetings to discuss generally the question of Civil Engineering and the Building Industry are being held by the Institution of Civil Engineers. Mr.* GEORGE HICKS, M.P., *Parliamentary Secretary to MOWP, was the principal speaker at the first meeting. Here is what he said concerning, among other topics, the relation of the*

ARCHITECT and the ENGINEER

IT is not possible to have a really efficient building industry unless those who employ the industry have a better idea of their responsibilities. I wish to go a little further than my friend, Mr. Coppock, who said that engineers had been weighed in the balance and found wanting. I have said many times, in Parliament and elsewhere, "The inside of the building may belong to the owner, but the outside belongs to me." I am very concerned about the type and character of the elevation of buildings and their effect on the beauty of the street and the town, and every citizen should have this feeling. Those who build should realize their responsibility to the public, and they should co-operate in every way with good town planning.

In the first place, they should demand harmonious architectural design and good standards of workmanship; in short, they should avoid "stunts."

Secondly, they should decide, with the help of the architect, what they really want before the plans are finally drawn, and should stick to it; they should not chop and change in the middle of the contract.

Thirdly, they should make their financial arrangements well in advance.

Fourthly, they should realize that rush building is generally bad building; it is always expensive, and often not at all the kind of building wanted. It must be realized that an extra week spent on planning and site organization might easily save a month on the contract.

Fifthly, those who build should realize that good workmanship and good materials cost very little more than shoddy workmanship and shoddy materials.

Sixthly, those who promote building should not waste the valuable time of architects, specialists and builders on plans and estimates for wild-cat or abortive schemes. Some people seem to think that designing and estimating can be done for nothing, judging by the way in which they ask for plans and sketches to enable them to consider whether they want to go forward or not.

The work of original conception and delineation is the work of the architect, who, with his imagination and planning ability, has to think out the building in all its parts before it is built. In this he is assisted by other designers and specialists—the structural engineer, the heating and ventilating engineer, the sanitary engineer, the electrical engineer, the mechanical engineer, and, by no means least, the quantity surveyor. The leader of the team is the architect, and, to be successful, the team must work together right from the start, and from the start of planning, not from the start of building on the site, although the latter is often the case in practice.

In addition to his ability as planner and designer, the architect has to be a leader and co-ordinator, and to weld all the specialist requirements into a harmonious whole. This does not mean that he is expected to know everything about everybody else's job, but it does mean that he has to know enough about their jobs to know whether they are "delivering the goods" or not, and it does mean that he should be able to organize the team so that they worked together sweetly and without friction.

In an excellent booklet published by P.E.P., it is suggested that for large and complex works, or in large architectural practices, the functions of designer and co-ordinator should be separated, and in fact that there might be a case for a separate profession of building co-ordinators.

Personally, I am not satisfied about that. In the great majority of cases, at any rate, the architect will be the co-ordinator as well as the chief designer, and that system works well enough, particularly if certain improvements are made in the training of the architect, which should prepare him for his function as co-ordinator as well as for his function as designer.

The architect may need to learn more about the building industry as a whole, more about the relative functions of the different specialists and more about the whole complex of the supply and assembly of building materials and equipment, about which there is a great deal to be learned. The architect will also need to know more about the better organization of the work on the site, so as to be able to make speed without haste, and with a clearer appreciation of what the contractor, the foreman and the workmen have to do, in terms of human labour, to carry out his instructions. It is a big job, but it is not beyond the capacity of a man who has been properly trained from the start. The architectural schools should look into the matter, and at least provide a proper introduction to the work of the chief members of the building industry.

Whether the quantity surveyors should develop into a separate profession of building co-ordinators and surveyors is an interesting speculation. It would, of course, mean changes in their training; they might need to know more of the practice of modern building and of the scientific theories behind it. It has been said that there is too much measurement of building on the basis of the old methods of construction. Surveyors might need greater sympathy with standardization in building technique and in the economics of standardization, and possibly the training of the young quantity surveyor in taking off quantities should be supplemented by practical experience on actual building jobs.

There are certain classes of structure, such as bridges, docks and harbours, which the civil engineer is much more qualified than anyone else to undertake, and where he should in fact act as chief designer and co-ordinator; but in the case of many undertakings the civil engineer will be well advised to consult a good architect who is qualified to advise him on the aesthetics of his design. Some of the designs of engineers had been evil designs. The architect can relieve the engineer of some responsibility in that respect.

In my view there is no fundamental difference between great architecture and great engineering; in fact, I will go further and say that civil engineering at its highest level becomes great architecture. The new Chelsea suspension bridge is an example of this. The intelligent architect of the future will not want to overload a well-designed structure with architectural tarradiddles, as had been done in the past, with "wedding-cake" minarets popping up here and there, nor will the civil engineer neglect the beauty inherent in his work. Both can with great advantage study and consult each other.

During the war, circumstances had brought about a much closer co-operation between builders and civil engineering contractors than existed before. I can speak from practical experience, having known representatives of both industries for a very long time, and having had to meet them separately and discuss mutual problems in different rooms. The war has brought about much closer consultation and co-ordination of effort. There has always been, and still remains, a so-called line of demarcation which might come into

*See Astragal's notes on page 212 and details of forthcoming meetings on page 209.

operation in certain cases, but the position is capable of adjustment. Many of the bigger firms belong to both industries and are members of the two Federations, and it is sometimes a matter of the convenience of the individual to decide whether he wishes to be considered for the moment as a civil engineering contractor or a builder.

However different the extremes of civil engineering and building may be, there is obviously a wide field in which no clear definition can be drawn and in which in fact they frequently overlap. Many large building works have been carried out by civil engineering contractors on civil engineering forms of contract which might just as easily have been carried out by builders under R.I.B.A. form of contract. Certain classes of engineering work require special treatment in regard to their conditions of contract, but I think it would be very difficult to argue that construction and reconstruction, involving all forms of building in its widest sense, could not properly in the future be carried out on the basis of one agreed form of contract.

The services of the structural engineer have become essential in modern building, and pressure will be brought to bear in future in the direction of putting up more steel-frame and reinforced concrete buildings. The structural engineer will therefore become of greater importance in the industry. The structural engineer is fortunate, as compared with the architect, in being able to concentrate more on one field of knowledge, but, like the architect, he has to know what the others want and what they are doing. The structural engineer is not always brought into the project from the very outset, but it is really essential that he should be brought in right from the stage of the architect's skeleton design. A modern building is structurally a frame and decking; its external and internal walls are not load-bearing in the old sense. The plan of the architect, therefore, must be related to the stanchion layout just as much as the stanchion layout should try to satisfy human requirements in the planning. The friendliest co-operation is required between the architect and the structural engineer. It is said that the architect set the structural engineer impossible or uneconomic problems to solve, and on the other hand it is said that the structural engineer thinks too much in terms of the structural frame, and not enough in terms of the building as a whole. There again an appreciation of the economics of standardization in beam and stanchion design will not be out of place, and there again there is the complaint that the young structural engineer, like the young architect, spends too much of his time on the drawing-board, with a slide-rule and a steel section catalogue, and not enough on the building job.

To sum up with regard to the professions, what is required to begin with is much more friendly co-operation between them. They ought to get to know each other better in a friendly way, and not merely as individuals; the professional bodies ought to get together more often and invite representatives of related bodies to their conferences.

I have information concerning 530 associations, federations and other bodies in the building industry, of which 38 are professional, 28 are of operatives, 295 are of employers, and 170 of building material manufacturers and distributors; and that list is not complete. Personally, I have no doubt that a great rationalization ought to take place, not to diminish the importance of what each branch can contribute but to give each a better opportunity for light and lustre in a bigger organization than it can have on its own. I think that the National Federation of Building Trades Operatives, with its close-knit and effective organization, is a source of strength to the building industry, and is to some extent helping to overcome the forces which seem always striving to divide the building industry more and more into sections and divisions.

It is necessary to ensure that all the craftsmen in the industry are able to take a pride in their work. The more intelligent craftsmen must be given better opportunity for advancement. If cut-throat speculative building is the only way in which the craftsman can improve his position in life it is bad for the industry, and tends to produce jerry-builders and bankrupts.

The war has knit the industry closer together than ever before. The war has done an immense amount of harm, but it will also have done some good if it at last develops a sense of unity within the industry and a sense of corporate service, and if it makes all those in the industry conscious of the great part that they have to play in the national wellbeing.

I.S.E. EXAMINATIONS

The following have passed the examinations of the Institution of Structural Engineers:—

Graduateship Examination

D. A. Ball, W. H. Booker, J. M. Bramfit, J. W. N. Burnett, A. F. Butters, P. S. Chester, N. S. Cleaver, R. L. Coulson, G. E. Garvey, L. Glover, S. G. Hall, J. E. Hallam, H. E. Harridge, F. Harrison, F. A. Hill, R. King, J. K. McDonnell, A. G. McNamara, J. G. Marsh, A. W. D. Marshall, D. N. Mitchell, H. V. Morris, J. Robinson, M. Russell, W. S. Sharp, A. F. Smith, G. C. Stevens, D. J. Vickery, A. R. Weaver.

Associate-Membership Examination

G. W. Andrews, D. A. Ball, R. G. N. Barlow, R. W. Bishop, D. W. Brewster, T. G. Brooke, A. F. Butters, E. Butterworth, C. J. Catchpole, R. L. Coulson, E. W. Drury, L. W. Edser, J. E. Ellerton, E. Emms, J. D. S. Evans, H. Feather, A. J. Gathergood, R. Heselton, C. E. Hicks, A. E. Highfield, P. Howkins, W. J. Irwin, J. C. Johnson, T. Kane, M. Kasriel, R. King, G. B. Lambert, D. B. Lumley, A. G. McNamara, A. W. D. Marshall, A. Mason, A. J. Michie, H. H. Partington, C. K. Peter, M. C. Privett, L. H. Roxby, W. H. Sneddon, J. T. Stevens, P. W. Tanner, T. R. Tighe, J. S. Tooke, F. W. Turner, W. C. Tyler, J. Ward, S. H. Warren, A. R. Weaver, E. C. White, J. Whitten, D. T. Williams, R. Williams, R. A. Williams, R. H. Wood, E. Wrigley.

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.

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

War Address:

45 THE AVENUE, CHEAM, SURREY.

Telephone: VIGILANT 0087

THE ARCHITECTS' JOURNAL

INFORMATION CENTRE

Q 975

ARCHITECT, DEVON.—*Further to your answer in Question* 955 *I would like to draw your attention to a contingency not satisfactorily covered by the clauses in the Uniformity Agreement.*

On a housing site recently where the Uniformity Agreement was established and the works were scheduled under the Essential Work Order, 1941, *a dispute arose between the Contractor and the operatives concerning the payment of overtime when work is stopped during the eight-hour guaranteed period. The clauses of the Agreement appear to leave this contingency to the discretion of the Contractor—presumably in consultation with the Union representative. The operatives claimed that they should be paid full overtime rates when they work extra hours in spite of loss of working time in the guaranteed period. The Contractor contended that they should give up their overtime pay in proportion to the loss of the working time. In fact he made a ruling to this effect but owing to the serious discontent it caused he later reversed the decision and paid the full overtime rates.*

Question 1. *Was the Contractor correct in his first decision?*

Question 2. *Or was he correct in his subsequent ruling?*

Question 3. *Has any official amendment yet been made to cover this contingency?*

We cannot agree that there is any ambiguity in either the Uniformity Agreement or the Essential Work Order in regard to the points raised. The

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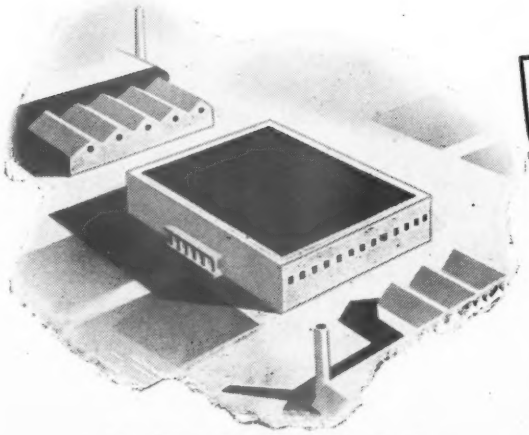

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Briggs' "Challenge" Flat Roofing System was used on the new Senior Council School at Scalby, Yorkshire.
Architect: F. X. Velarde, F.R.I.B.A.

answers to your questions are (1) No ; (2) Yes ; (3) No—unnecessary.

In the Uniformity Agreement, the periods during which work is to be regarded as overtime and the manner in which it is to be valued are clearly laid down, e.g., any time after 8½ hours on a weekday, during Summertime, must be paid for at the rate of "time-and-a-quarter" for the first two hours, "time-and-a-half" for the second two hours, etc. Further, it can be seen by reading the Uniformity Agreement in conjunction with the National Working Rules that overtime commences 8½ hours after the recognised starting time except when loss of time is due to the man's own fault, when he has to make up the full 8½ hours before charging overtime.

There is nothing to over-rule these provisions in the Uniformity Agreement or the Essential Work Order and if a man has worked overtime he must be paid accordingly.

The guarantees against broken time under the Uniformity Agreement and Essential Work Order differ. Under the Uniformity Agreement a man is only guaranteed a weekly payment equivalent to 30 hours at plain time rates. Thus, if a man works 11 hours on Monday and Tuesday and 6½ hours on Wednesday, he has already earned the equivalent of 30 hours at plain time rates (although he has only worked 28½ hours), and he is not entitled to payment for "idle time" during that pay week.

Under the Essential Work Order a man is guaranteed the normal wage for the prescribed period and in working out the amount due, overtime is treated *as if* it had been paid at plain time rates. Thus a man guaranteed an 8-hour day who was prevented from working during the morning but worked 5 hours in the afternoon and 2½ hours overtime would be entitled to payment for half-an-hour "idle time" although he had earned the equivalent of more than 8 hours pay at plain time rates.

We think we have made it clear that although overtime must be taken into consideration when calculating the payments due under the guarantee against broken time, nothing can rob the man of overtime earned.

REFERENCE BACK

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

Q 945

In answer to this enquiry we gave the names of Messrs. Williams and Williams and Messrs. James Gibbons as manufacturers (pre-war) of aluminium window and door frames and we mentioned that the Northern Aluminium Co. supplied the sections. We are now informed that the British Aluminium Co., Ltd., of Oakley Manor, Belle Vue, Shrewsbury, Shropshire, supplied all the aluminium used by Messrs. Williams and Williams for some years before the war.

MOBILE KITCHEN

In our issue for September 17 the name of the architect for the Mobile Kitchen, illustrated on pages 188, 189 was incorrectly printed as J. Fraser Reekie instead of R. Fraser Reekie. It should also have been stated that the manufacturers were Messrs. Easiwork.

BUILDINGS ILLUSTRATED

The general contractors for the School at Scalby, Yorkshire (F. X. Velarde, F.R.I.B.A., architect), illustrated on pages 217 to 222, were Messrs. F. W. Plaxton, Ltd. The sub-contractors were : Richard Hill & Sons, reinforced concrete ; William Briggs & Sons, Ltd., special roofings ; A. M. McDougall & Son, woodblock flooring ; A. W. Dawson, Salford, central heating and boilers ; Scarborough Gas Co., stoves and gas fixtures ; R. W. Leck, Newcastle, electric wiring and bells ; Shanks & Co., Ltd., sanitary fittings ; Quiggin Bros., Ltd., Liverpool, door and window furniture ; Niels Larsen & Co., Ltd., gymnasium.

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS

Advertisements should be addressed to the Advt. Manager, "The Architects' Journal." War Address: 45 The Avenue, Cheam, Surrey, and should reach there by first post on Monday morning for inclusion in the following week's paper.

Replies to Box Numbers should be addressed care of "The Architects' Journal." War Address: 45 The Avenue, Cheam, Surrey.

Public and Official Announcements

Six lines or under, 8s.; each additional line, 1s.

The Incorporated Association of Architects and Surveyors maintains a register of qualified architects and surveyors (including assistants) requiring posts, and invites applications from public authorities and private practitioners having staff vacancies. Address: **75 Eaton Place, London, S.W.1. Tel.: Sloane 5615** 991

SOMERSET COUNTY COUNCIL.

COUNTY ARCHITECT'S DEPARTMENT.

Applications are invited for the temporary war-time post of Quantity Surveyor in the above department.

Candidates must be over 50 years of age, or by reason of disability exempt from military service. Applications stating age, qualifications, experience, present position and salary, and also salary required, should be delivered to the undersigned not later than the 8th October, 1942.

R. O. HARRIS, A.R.I.B.A.,
County Architect.

Park Street, Taunton.
25th September, 1942. 814

DORSET COUNTY COUNCIL.

COUNTY ARCHITECT'S DEPARTMENT.

Applications are invited for the temporary appointment of an Architectural Assistant at a salary of 7½ guineas per week. Candidates should have good general experience, including work in connection with Civil Defence and either be exempt from military service or over military age. Applications stating age, qualifications, and experience, together with the names and addresses of two persons to whom reference may be made, must be received by Mr. H. E. Matthews, A.R.I.B.A., County Architect, Shire Hall, Dorchester, not later than Saturday, 10th October, 1942.

C. P. BRUTTON,
Clerk of the County Council.

Shire Hall,
Dorchester, Dorset.
25th September, 1942. 815

Architectural Appointments Vacant

Advertisements from Architects requiring Assistants or Draughtsmen, and from Assistants and Draughtsmen seeking positions in Architects' offices will be printed in "The Architects' Journal" free of charge until further notice. Other "Appointments Vacant" and "Wanted" will be found under later headings, and are subject to the charges given under each heading.

Wherever possible prospective employers are urged to give in their advertisement full information about the duty and responsibilities involved, the location of the office, and the salary offered. The inclusion of the Advertiser's name in lieu of a box number is welcomed.

SENIOR ASSISTANT required in the office of the Architect to Local Authority (within Greater London) for the preparation of large Reconstruction Scheme. State age, experience, qualifications, salary required, and if exempt from service with H.M. Forces. Box 812.

ARCHITECTS AND SURVEYORS (female), R.I.B.A. Intermediate Standard, urgently wanted for War Organization. Minimum salary £5 0s. 0d. per week. Box 813.

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DRAUGHTSMAN (Architectural), requires change, aged 17, 2½ years' experience in preparing working drawings of small structures under supervision, constructional details, tracing and building surveys. Write A.H., 61, Openview, Earlsfield, S.W.18. 483

ARCHITECTURAL STUDENT, at present engaged as Engineering Draughtsman, requires part-time Architectural Drawing work. D. Wheeler, 28, Endymion Road, Hatfield, Herts. 484

ARCHITECT, Alien, Swiss and Hungarian University Degree, 10-years' practice, good draughtsman, experienced designer, desires full or part-time work with firm or at home. Box No. 489

ARCHITECTURAL ASSISTANT, just completed 5 years' course at Regent Street Polytechnic School of Architecture and qualified for election as A.R.I.B.A., seeks employment. London or Kent preferred. Write, J. T. Dannatt, Church Road, Halstead, Nr. Sevenoaks, Kent. 490

REGISTERED ARCHITECT, available shortly, requires whole or part-time post. Experienced in supervising work on site. Designing and drafting, building maintenance and surveys (W. D. claims), variations builders accounts. Salary £450—£500 per annum. Box 491.

DRAUGHTSMAN, last 2½ years civil engineering, requires engineering or building appointment, available September 1. London area. Box 494.

PART TIME WORK, surveys, war damage, etc. Qualified and experienced Senior Assistant offers services in London area. 496

ARCHITECT AND SURVEYOR (Registered), requires responsible position (West or Mid-Wales preferred). Age 36, married, experienced in Factories, Commercial Buildings, Licensed Premises, Hospitals, Alterations to Existing Buildings, One-Eighth Scale Working Drawings, Details, Specifications, Preparing Bills of Quantities, Estimating, Land Surveying and Levelling, Checking Building Contractors' Accounts, Measuring War Damage and Preparing Schedules of Repairs. Salary £9 per week. Box 498.

ARCHITECT'S ASSISTANT (28), having 10 years experience in an architect's office, seeks position as architectural draughtsman or supervisor of works. Experienced in surveying, levelling, the preparation of working drawings and details, and the supervision of work. J. C. O'Dwyer, River View, Ballinacurra, Limerick. 499

ADAPTABLE YOUNG MAN, 19 (exempt from military service), studying for R.I.B.A., seeks position in architect's office. Extremely keen, practical, willing to do anything connected with architecture; one year office experience; R.S.A. certificate.—Write R. W. Terry, 37, Morley Avenue, N.22. Phone BOW 5366 (after 6 p.m.). 1

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VERY KEEN YOUTH, studying for R.I.B.A., seeks post in architect's office. Willing to do any work concerning architecture. Four months' office experience. Sec. Ed. Write: R. E. P., 45, Mayfield Road, E.8. 12

Classified Advertisements continued on page xxxii.

Other Appointments Vacant

Four lines or under, 4s.; each additional line, 1s.

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WANTED. Copy of the "Architectural Review" for September, 1940 Box 475.

WANTED. Complete set of copies of "The Architectural Review," July, 1940—June, 1942. Box 495.

TO MANUFACTURERS.—Wanted, a large iron or copper kettle and large saucepan (iron), suitable for hanging on chain over cottage fire. Send prices to Box No. 2.

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