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THE ARCHITECTS' JOURNAL



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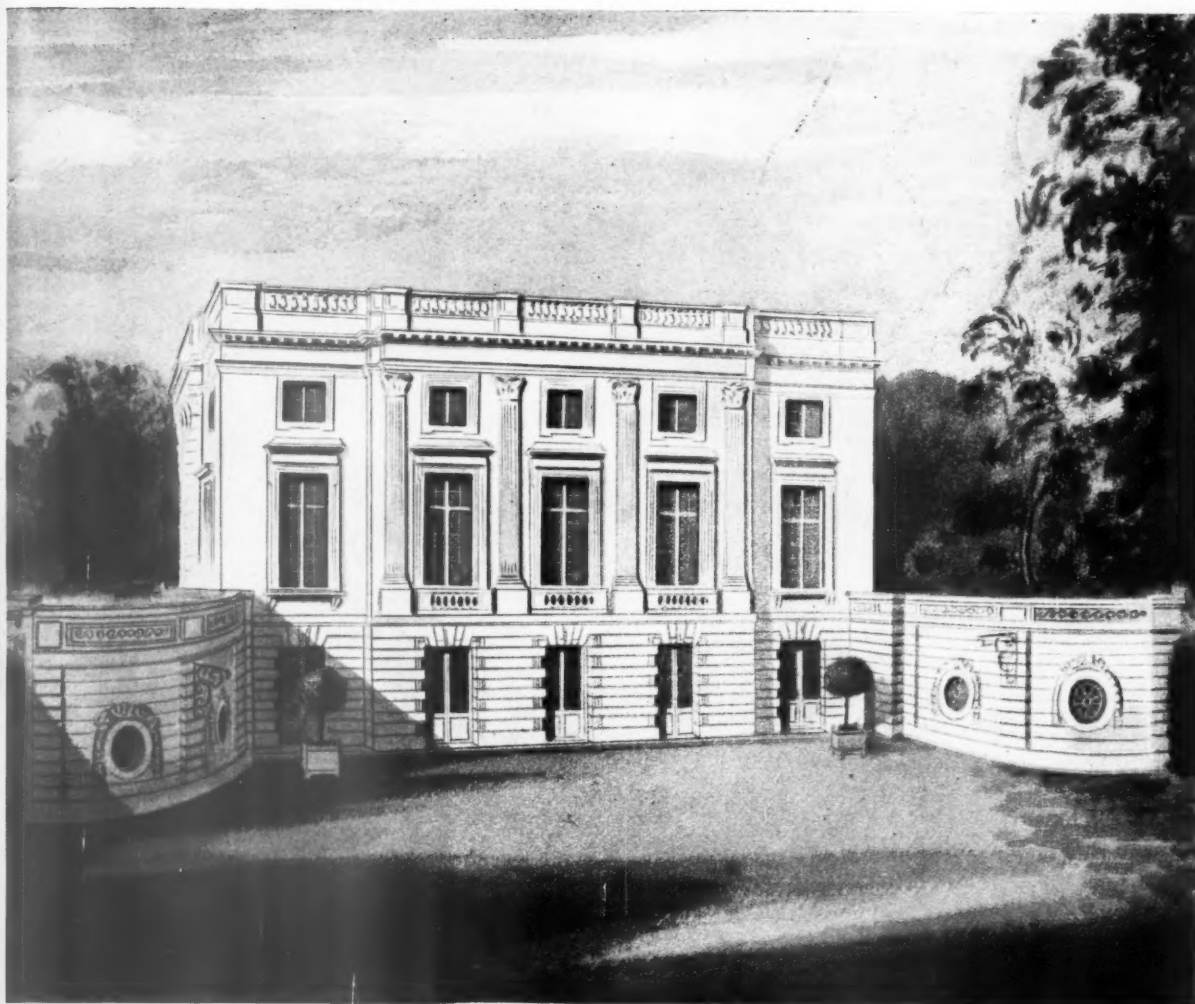
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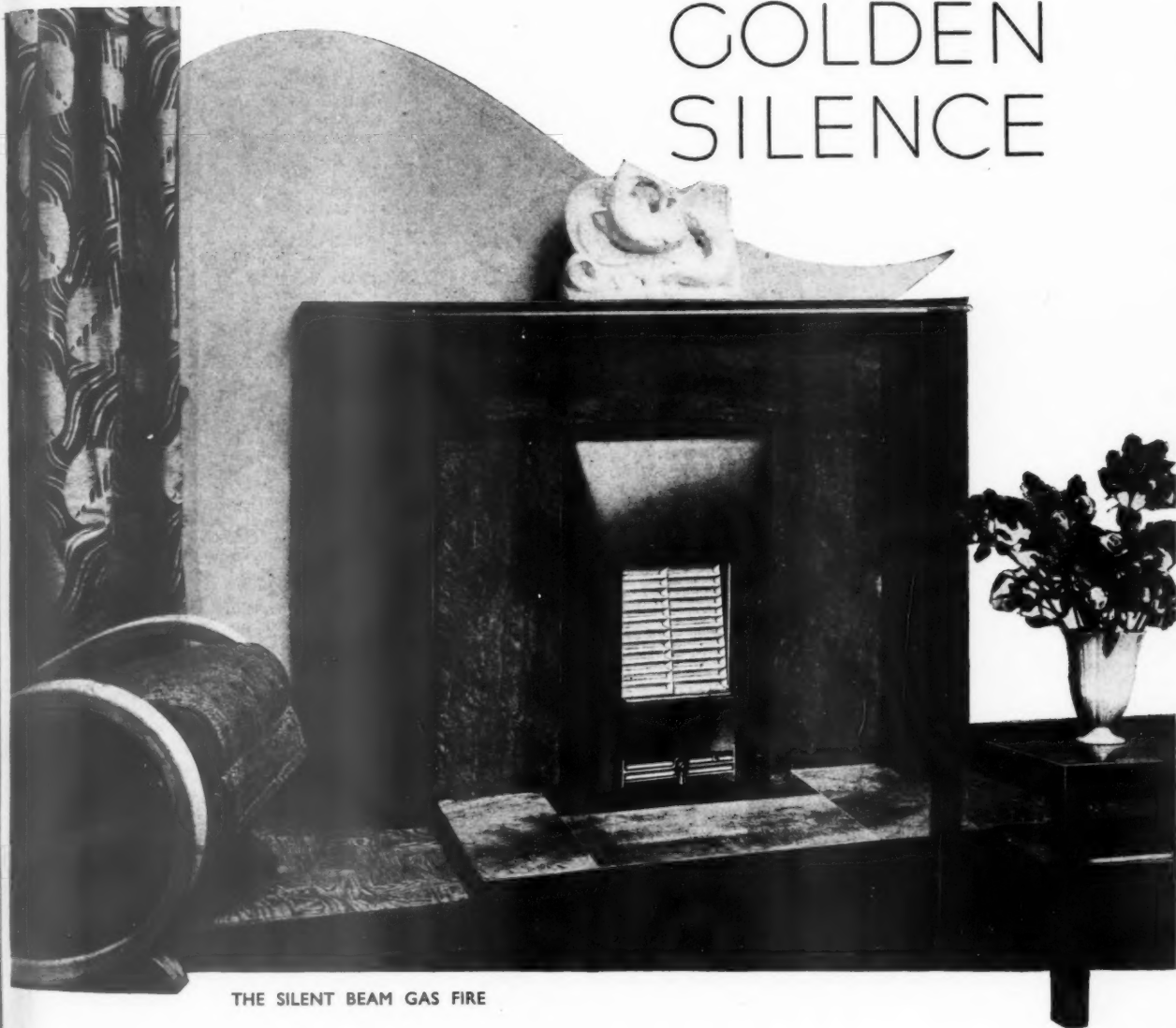
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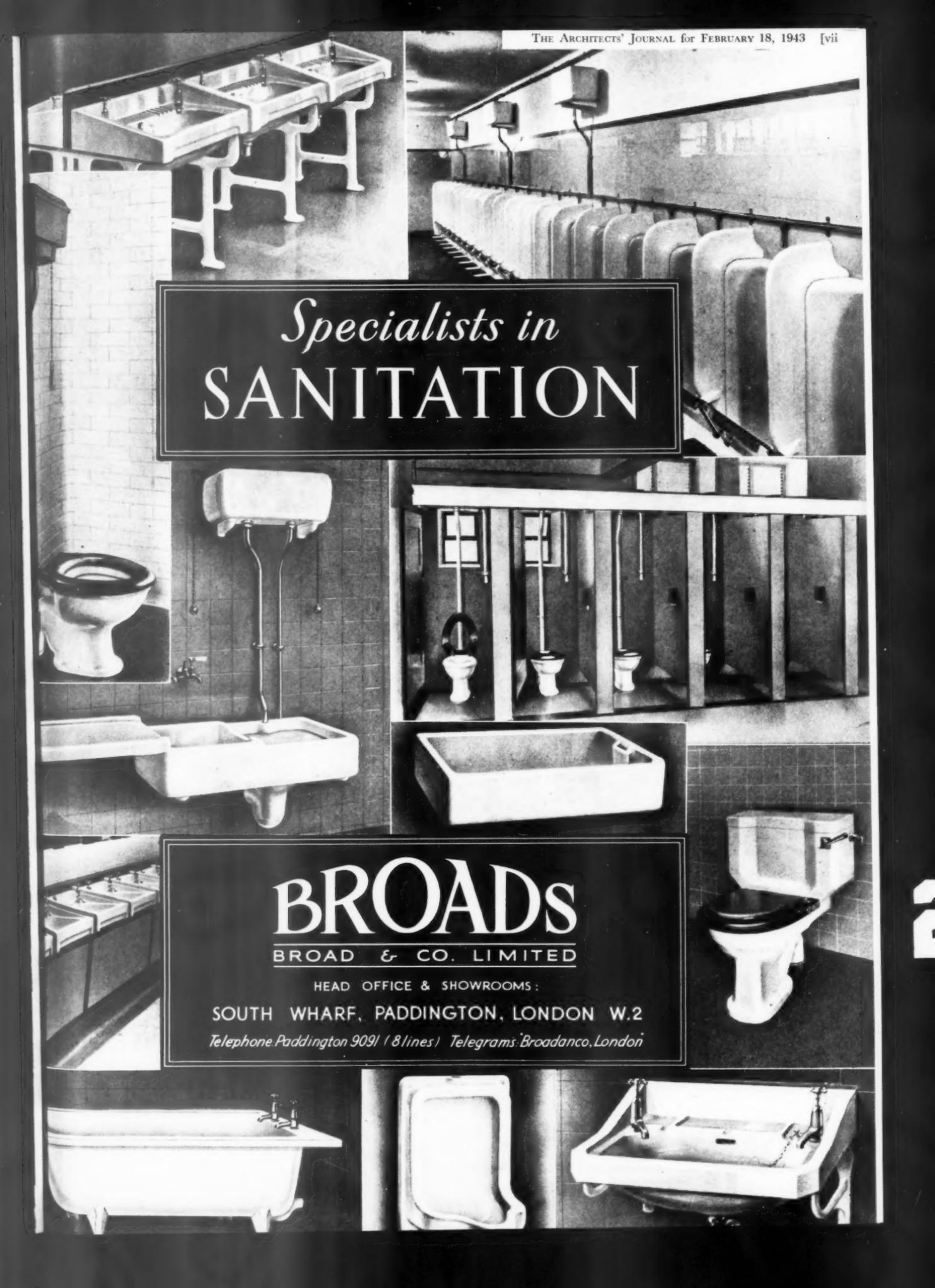
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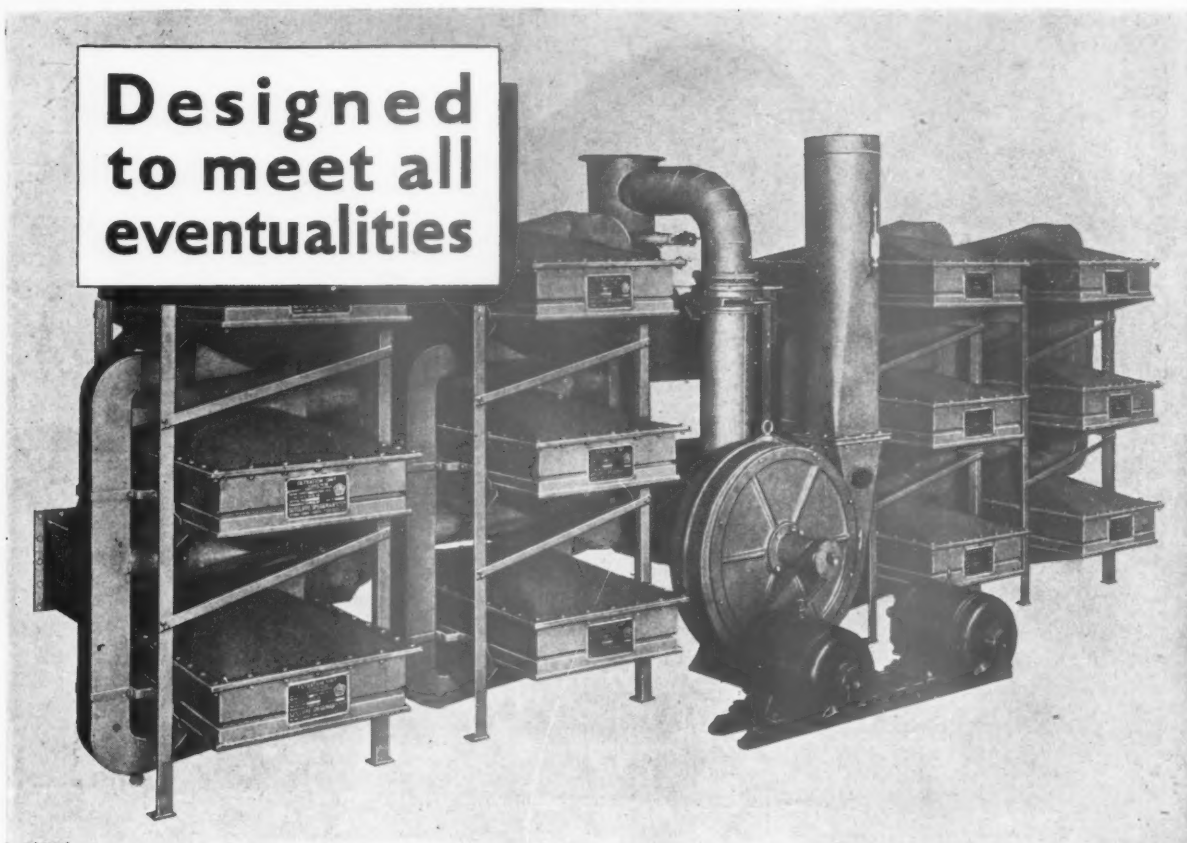
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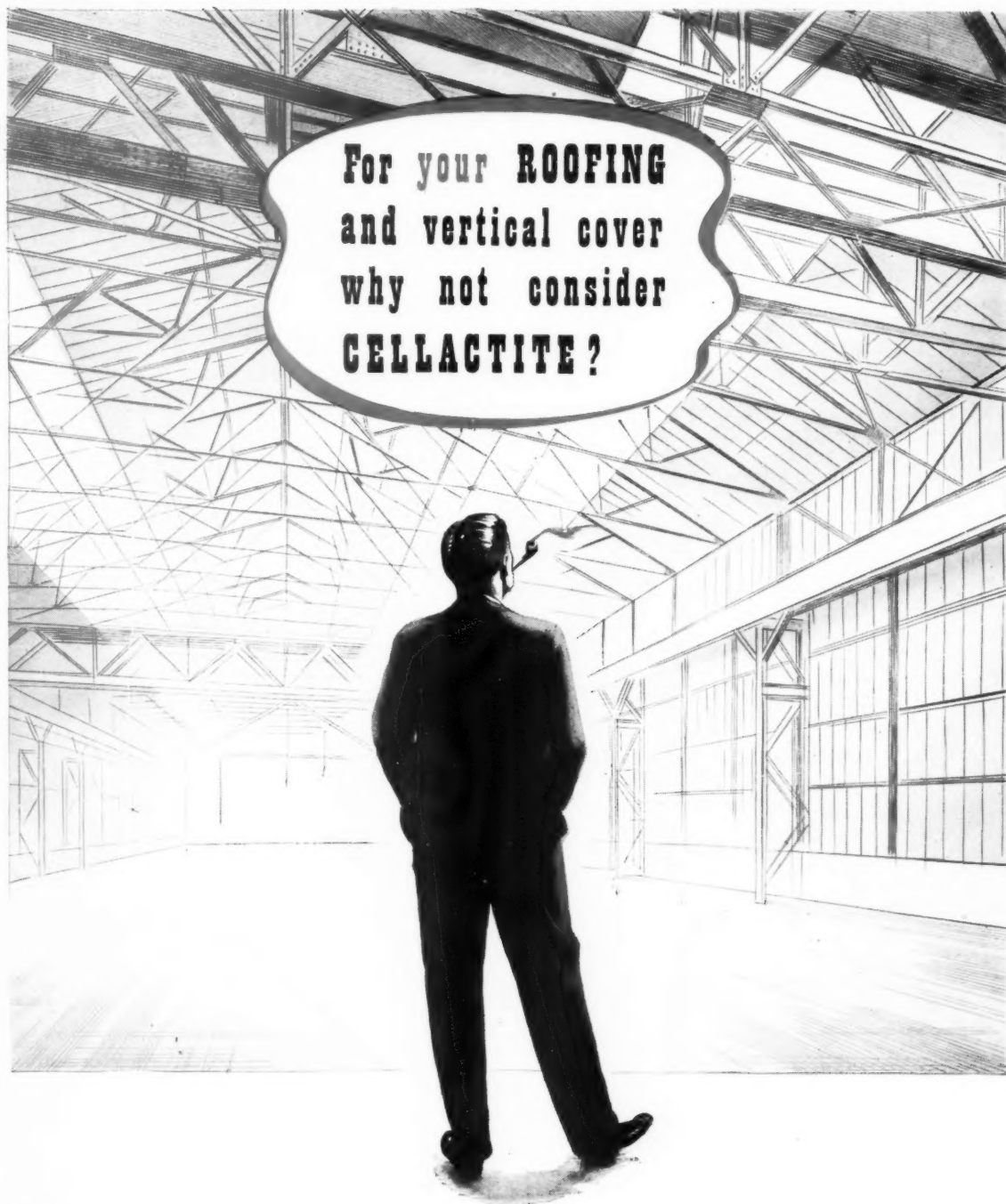
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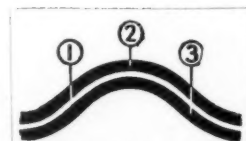
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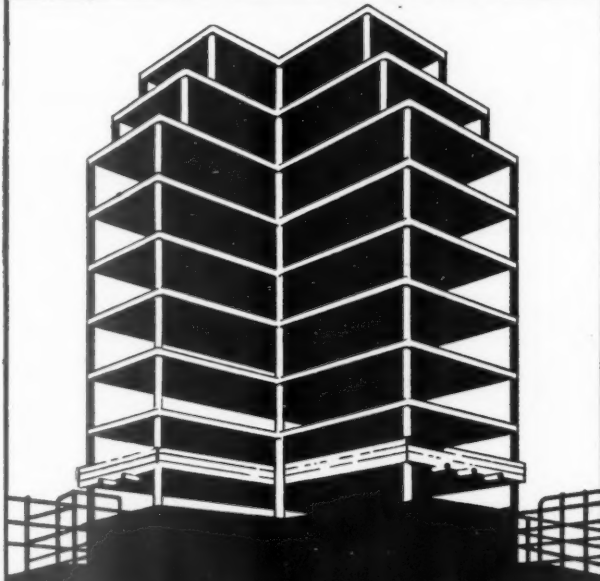
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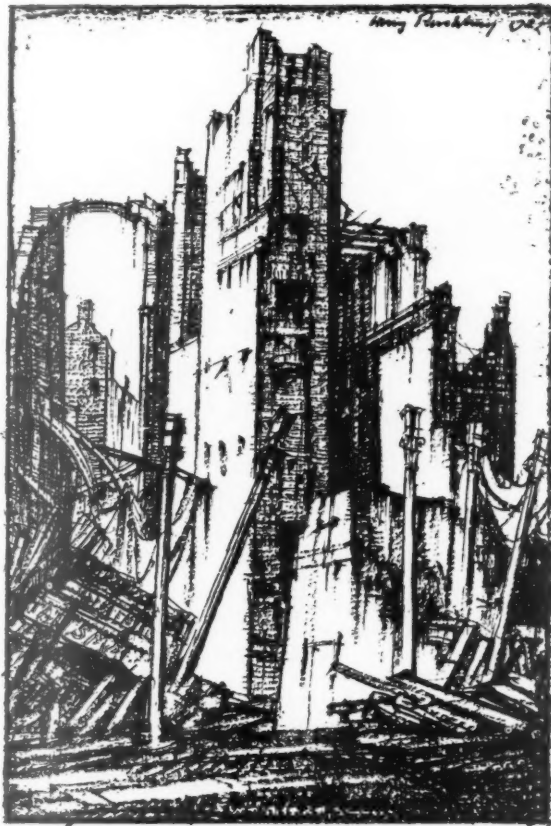
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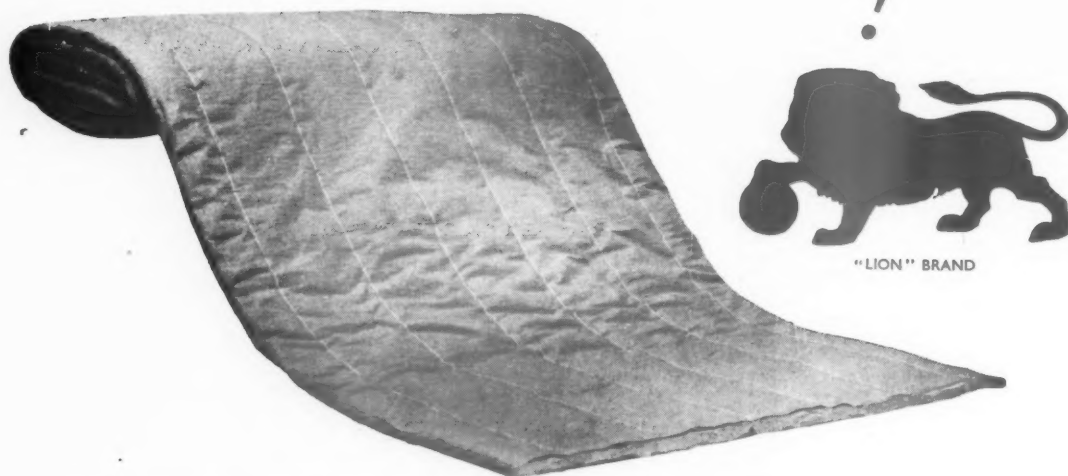


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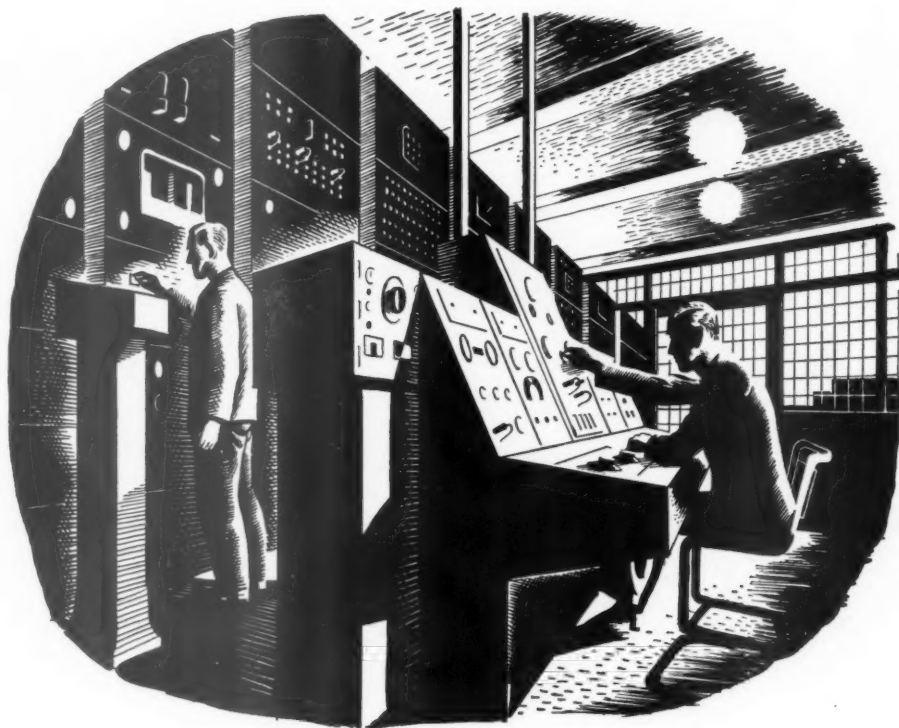
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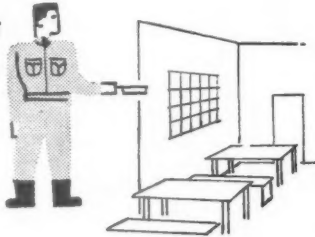
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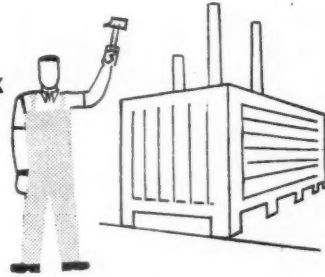
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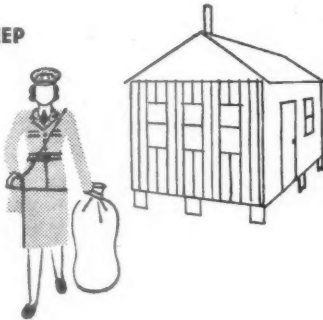
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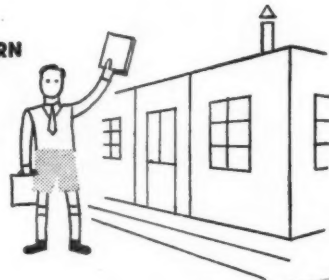
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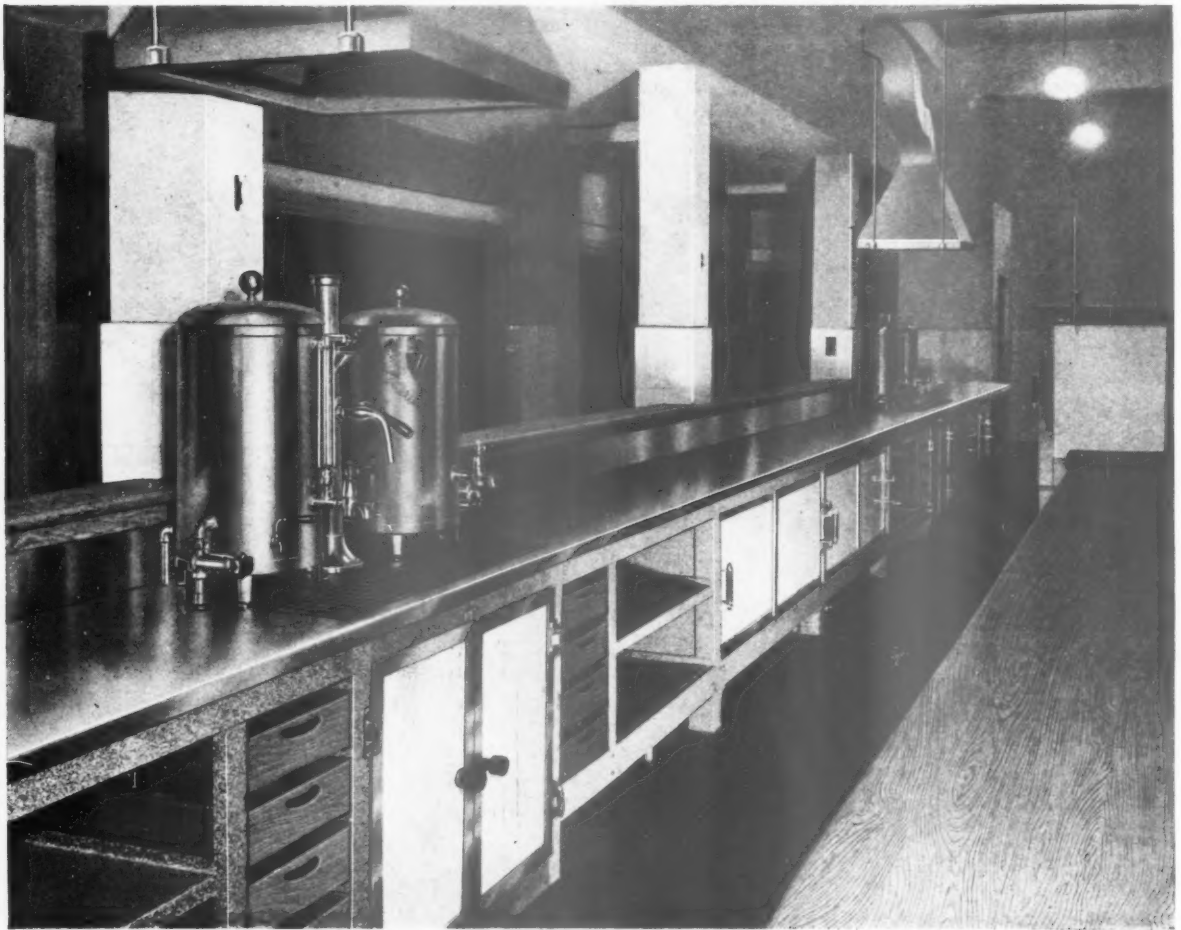


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In common with every other periodical this JOURNAL is rationed to a small part of its peacetime needs of paper. Thus a balance has to be struck between circulation and number of pages. We regret that unless a reader is a subscriber we cannot guarantee that he will get a copy of the JOURNAL. Newsagents now cannot supply the JOURNAL except to a "firm order." Subscription rates: by post in the U.K. and Canada, £1. 3s. 10d. per annum; abroad, £1. 8s. 6d. Special combined rate for ARCHITECTS' JOURNAL and ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW in the U.K. and Canada, £2. 6s.; abroad, £2. 10s. Single copies, 6d.; post free, 8d. Special numbers are included in subscription; single copies, 1s.; post free, 1s. 3d. Back numbers more than 12 months old (when available), double price. Volumes can be bound complete with index, in cloth cases, for 12s. 6d. each; carriage 1s. extra. Goods advertised in the JOURNAL, and made of raw materials now in short supply, are not necessarily available for export.



NEWS

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 1943
No. 2508. Vol. 97

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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.

Many people when asked to dispose of their old correspondence plead **SHORTAGE OF EXPERT ASSISTANCE** and lack of time to sort out what documents can go for salvage and what must be retained.

One large firm had adopted a system in which all folders containing important documents are tabbed with a mark which means "Must not be touched." The other files can be disposed of in their entirety in due course. Other firms have important papers kept in a separate filing cabinet and once a month other folders are disposed of in their entirety. This idea can be adapted in various ways to suit different filing systems and other requirements. Key letters and documents in various transactions can be marked, so that in due course all other papers relating to these can be sent for salvage. This in time solves the problem of the disposal of current correspondence, invoices, receipts, etc., but does not provide for the turning out of old accumulations. The shortage of waste paper is now acute and everybody in charge of an office is asked to contribute to the national effort by getting rid of all possible accumulations of paper, account books, old reference books, maps and catalogues TODAY.

Colonel Sir George Courthope, the Forestry Commissioner, stated in the House of Commons that 193,800 acres of land in England and 75,200 acres in Wales are, or have been, **AFFORESTED BY THE FORESTRY COMMISSION**. The number of workers employed according to the latest return is 2,540 in England and 920 in Wales.

Journal Abbreviations

AA	Architectural Association, 34/6, Bedford Square, W.C.1.	Museum 0974.
ABT	Association of Building Technicians. 113, High Holborn, W.C.1.	Holborn 1024-5.
APRR	Association for Planning and Regional Reconstruction. 32, Gordon Square, W.C.1.	Euston 2158-9.
ARCUK	Architects' Registration Council. 68, Portland Place, W.C.1	Welbeck 7938.
BC	Building Centre. 23, Maddox Street, W.1.	Mayfair 2128.
BINC	Building Industries National Council. 110, Bickenhall Mansions, W.1.	Welbeck 3335.
BCG	British Commercial Gas. 1, Grosvenor Place, S.W.1.	Sloane 4554.
BEDA	British Electrical Development Association. 2, Savoy Hill, W.C.2.	Temple Bar 9434.
BOT	Board of Trade. Millbank, S.W.1.	Whitehall 5140.
BPVM	British Paint and Varnish Manufacturers. Waldegrave Road, Teddington.	Molesey 1063.
BRS	Building Research Station. Bucknalls Lane, Watford.	Garston 2246.
BSA	British Steelwork Association. 11, Tothill Street, S.W.1.	Whitehall 5073.
BSI	British Standards Institution. 28, Victoria Street, S.W.1.	Abbey 3333.
CDA	Copper Development Association. Grand Buildings, Trafalgar Square, W.C.2.	Abbey 2677.
CMC	Cement Marketing Company. Coombe Hill, Kingston, Surrey.	Kingston 2140.
CPRE	Council for the Preservation of Rural England. 4, Hobart Place, S.W.1.	Sloane 4280.
CSI	Chartered Surveyors' Institution. 12, Great George Street, S.W.1.	Whitehall 5322.
DOT	Department of Overseas Trade. Dolphin Square, S.W.1.	Victoria 4477.
DIA	Design and Industries Association. Central Institute of Art and Design, National Gallery, W.C.2.	Whitehall 7618.
FGLMB	Federation of Greater London Master Builders. 23, Compton Terrace, Upper Street, N.1.	Canonbury 2041.
GG	Georgian Group. 55, Great Ormond Street, W.C.1.	Holborn 2646.
HC	Housing Centre. 13, Suffolk Street, Pall Mall, S.W.1.	Whitehall 2881.
IAAS	Incorporated Association of Architects and Surveyors. 75, Eaton Place, S.W.1.	Sloane 3158.
IES	Illuminating Engineering Society. 32, Victoria Street, S.W.1.	Abbey 5215.
IRA	Institute of Registered Architects. 47, Victoria Street, S.W.1.	Abbey 6172.
ISPH	Industrial & Scientific Provision of Housing. 3, Albemarle Street, W.1.	Regent 4782.
LIDC	Lead Industries Development Council. Rex House, King William Street, E.C.4.	Mansion House 2855.
LMBA	London Master Builders' Association. 47, Bedford Square, W.C.1.	Museum 3767.
MARS	Modern Architectural Research Society. 8, Clarges Street, W.1.	Grosvenor 2652.
MICE	Member of the Institution of Civil Engineers. Great George Street, S.W.1.	Whitehall 4577.
MOH	Ministry of Health. Whitehall, S.W.1.	Whitehall 4300.
MOI	Ministry of Information. Malet Street, W.C.1.	Euston 4321.
MOLNS	Ministry of Labour and National Service. St. James' Square, S.W.1.	Whitehall 6200.
MOS	Ministry of Supply. Shell Mex House, Victoria Embankment, W.C.2.	Gerrard 6933.
MOTCP	Ministry of Town and Country Planning	
MOWP	Ministry of Works and Planning. Lambeth Bridge House, S.E.1.	Reliance 7611.
NFBTE	National Federation of Building Trades Employers. 82, New Cavendish Street, W.1.	Langham 4041.
NFBTO	National Federation of Building Trades Operatives. 9, Rugby Chambers, Rugby Street, W.C.1.	Holborn 2770.
NT	National Trust for Places of Historic Interest or Natural Beauty. 7, Buckingham Palace Gardens, S.W.1.	Sloane 5808.
PEP	Political and Economic Planning. 16, Queen Anne's Gate, S.W.1.	Whitehall 7245.
PWB	Post War Building, Directorate of. Ministry of Works and Planning, Lambeth Bridge House, S.E.1.	Reliance 7611.
RCA	Reinforced Concrete Association. 91, Petty France, S.W.1.	Whitehall 9936.
RIBA	Royal Institute of British Architects. 66, Portland Place, W.1.	Welbeck 6927.
SPAB	Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings. 55, Great Ormond Street, W.C.1.	Holborn 2646.
TCPA	Town and Country Planning Association. 13, Suffolk Street, S.W.1.	Whitehall 2881.
WLA	Wrought Light Alloys Development Association. Union Chambers, 63, Temple Row, Birmingham, 2.	Midland 0721.
ZDA	Zinc Development Association. 15, Turl Street, Oxford.	Oxford 47988.

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from AN ARCHITECT'S Commonplace Book

LUTYENS THE MAN. [From Sir Edwin Lutyens, by his son, Robert Lutyens (Country Life.)] So much for the artist. What of the man? I can find no clue in his uncomplicated nature to the origin of such tremendous gifts. He is without sophistication, without moral conviction, without any deep understanding of the vagaries of the human heart. His constant spirit illuminates an engaging and cherubic childlikeness—a perennial childishness, as it were, even of body, from which is absent all that is gross or base. So much is this so that the occasional hint of shrewd and penetrating insight comes with the shock of surprise. So used are those near him to accept this undemanding man as standing apart from the eruptions of domestic and family egotism, from participation in any activity outside the sphere of his own work, that it would never occur to them to seek his judgment on any question of affairs. All the greater therefore is the affection he inspires, because it is indulgent as it were to a child. All the greater the respect for his pre-eminence. All the more certain the knowledge that his “impersonality” conceals a detached quality of spirit which is unassailable.

In the House of Commons the Secretary of State for Scotland, Mr. T. Johnston, said he is taking two steps to EASE THE ACUTE SCOTTISH HOUSING POSITION. In the first place, he is making special arrangements for expediting the completion of the houses, numbering about 5,000, which local authorities have at present under construction. Secondly, he is making preliminary arrangements for the provision of a limited number of new houses by local authorities. Plans are being prepared on the basis of 1,000 new houses, but the number that it will be possible to build during the current year will depend on the extent to which labour can be spared from other work of vital importance to the war effort.

★

Sir Geoffrey Whiskard, Permanent Secretary of MOWP, is to become PERMANENT SECRETARY OF MOTCP; Mr. L. Neal, Deputy Secretary of the Planning Department of MOWP, is to be Deputy Secretary of the new Ministry. Other appointments include: Mr. F. P. Robinson, Secretary of the War Damage Commission, to be Permanent Secretary of MOWP; Mr. W. R. Fraser, Secretary of the Department of Health for Scotland, to be Secretary of the War Damage Commission; and Mr. G. H. Henderson, Deputy Secretary of the Department of Health for Scotland, to be Secretary of that Department. Born in 1886, Sir Geoffrey Whiskard was educated at St. Paul's School and Wadham College, Oxford. He entered the Home Office in 1911 as Assistant Private Secretary and subsequently became Principal Private Secretary to successive Secretaries of State from 1915-20. Other appointments then followed:

Assistant Secretary, Chief Secretary's Office, Dublin Castle (1920-22); Colonial Office (1922-25); Dominions Office (1925-29). He accompanied the Secretary of State for Dominion Affairs on his visit to Canada, Australia, New Zealand and South Africa (1927-28); was Vice-Chairman of the Overseas Settlement Committee (1929-35) and, in addition, Assistant Under Secretary of State, Dominions Office (1930-35). He was appointed



Sir Geoffrey Whiskard, Permanent Secretary of MOTCP.



Mr. L. Neal, Deputy Secretary of MOWP.

High Commissioner for the United Kingdom in Australia in 1935—a position he held until his appointment to MOWP. Mr. L. Neal is a founder member, and member of the Council of PEP, and is actively interested in several of its planning surveys, more particularly those concerning industrial matters. He has had a wide range of commercial and administrative experience and his official appointments include: Member, Sea Fish Commission, 1933-36; Member, Retail Trade Commission, set up by the Board of Trade. Mr. Neal is forty-six years of age, and is Chairman and Director of Daniel Neal & Sons, the boys' outfitters.

Through the generosity of Col. R. ffennell OXFORD UNIVERSITY WILL OWN WYTHAM ABBEY.

The estate covers 3,108 acres and lies within the bend of the Thames, which curves round its western, northern and north-eastern sides.

The seventeenth century manor house has never been an abbey in more than name.

Up to the garden walls runs a stone-built village, clustering round its parish church.

Most of the western half of the estate is occupied by Wytham Hill, 500 ft. above sea level, and covered with woodland of oak and ash and beech. A correspondent of *The Times* states that the great ash wood of Wytham is scarcely surpassed for majesty by any plantation of those trees in the country. Where the woodlands end agricultural land begins, cultivated by tenant farmers of Colonel ffennell, and occupying rather more than half of the estate; 300 acres adjoining the house and villages have been kept apart as “amenity lands.” But in various parts of the estate parcels of ground have been devoted to a social experiment—perhaps it is now more than experiment—which has made Colonel ffennell's name familiar far beyond the boundaries of Oxford. This Wytham experiment for popular education began when Colonel ffennell invited classes from the elementary schools of Oxford to spend a day at Wytham once a week and carry on their school work in the open air and in beautiful surroundings. It has since been expanded to accommodate groups of London children for a fortnight at a time, for whom classrooms and dormitories have been built; and the war-time evacuation scheme has extended its sphere of usefulness. Colonel and Mrs. ffennell will continue during their lifetime to occupy the Abbey and the 300 acres directly attached to it.



Squadron-Leader Robert Lutyens

At forty-two Robert Lutyens, the only son of Sir Edwin Lutyens, is back where he started—in the Air Force. In between he has made a career both in journalism and architecture. He joined the RNAS just after his seventeenth birthday and went up later to Trinity, Cambridge. In 1921 he became leader writer on the *Daily Mail* and then joined Eyre & Spottiswoode, but having received a basic archi-

tectural training in his father's office it was natural that he should eventually become an architect, and he is to-day amongst other things Consultant to Marks & Spencer. He was elected a Fellow of the RIBA in 1939. He is now a Squadron-Leader in the RAF (Air Ministry). His latest achievement is to write the first biography of his father, the subject of our leading article and of notes by Astragal.

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Eton College Chronicle voices a demand that ETON COLLEGE SHOULD MOVE into more congenial surroundings.

The *Eton College Chronicle* states: The inconveniences attached to the present site are very considerable. The country in which it stands is most depressing. Close to the north-east is the well-named Slough, a perfect example of hasty, unplanned enterprise. Shrewsbury and Charterhouse thought it necessary to abandon their fine historic buildings and to move to more congenial abodes. They found that bricks and mortar alone, however old and beautiful, are not essential to tradition.

We regret to record the DEATH OF MR. ALFRED LINDSAY FORSTER, a director of Chance Bros. & Co., Ltd., and the associated company, Glass Fibres, Ltd., until his retirement at the end of last year.

He was a pioneer in the introduction to this country of the fabrication of glass silk, for the production of which Glass Fibres, Ltd., was formed in 1935. One of the uses of the product is for insulation. Mr. Forster was a past president of the Scottish branch of IME and was also a member of IEE. He died at Glasgow at the age of 71.

An increase in the number of WAR DAMAGED HOUSES TO BE REPAIRED was foreshadowed by Sir Kingsley Wood, Chancellor of the Exchequer, in the House of Commons, in moving the second reading of the War Damage (Amendment) Bill, which was carried.

He said that the War Damage Commission when it was first appointed took over 1,000,000 claims for property damaged before the Act of 1941. Towards the end of last year the Commission had practically wiped off these arrears. It is desirable that the Commission should complete classification of all lists of property damaged to date before the end of the war. If it is not done now it will hold up post-war reconstruction. The Bill therefore proposes that the test of whether a house is or is not worth repair should be applied with reference to pre-war prices. The general effect of the proposed solution will be to expand the field for repair and cost of work payments.

Target of some of the fiercest attacks of the Luftwaffe, the CITY OF LONDON IS GIVING ITS RAILINGS to be made into weapons for carrying the war into Germany.

Clearance began on Monday when Sir Samuel Joseph, the Lord Mayor, with Mr. George Hicks, M.P., Parliamentary Secretary to MOWP severed railings at the Royal Exchange. Among other buildings to give up their railings are the Guildhall Library, the Royal College of Arms, and the halls of several City companies, including the Ironmongers' Hall.

THE NECESSITY FOR LUTYENS

THE first biography of Sir Edwin Lutyens has been written by his son Robert. The difficulties of this task would seem to have been small for such a gifted author, but the closeness of their relationship and the intense admiration for his father led to an obvious fear of producing an acutely biased account. This has been largely, though not completely, avoided. Realising that such a work would have to be written, and knowing the embarrassments any other writer, less intimate with his retiring subject, would experience, Robert Lutyens took up the task. He has succeeded in producing an authentic, sincere and fascinating book that will help all of the old school, and the more thoughtful of the moderns, to understand and appreciate the great contribution his father has made to the architecture of England.

The confusion of the nineteenth century clamoured for clarification and those in the architectural profession who were most deeply concerned with "truth in architecture" strove hard to express it by a revival of form, ignoring the philosophic content of great structural changes, utilizing them rarely and then only to support their imitative facades. Amongst this confusion grew Edwin Lutyens, the eleventh of fourteen children—a large family, even by Victorian standards. His father was an army officer who retired when quite young to take up a career as a painter; which he did, apparently, with no little success. As a youngster, Edwin occupied himself continually in the village carpenter's workshop, or roamed the countryside with his framed sheet of glass through which he used to trace, with thin pieces of soap, the landscape and buildings around his Surrey home. His background was the very essence of the proud English country tradition and his subsequent marriage into the Lytton family confirmed his natural assumption of a privileged position amongst what the author himself describes as the governing class. In this country environment he grew to consider survivals in custom and tradition as things of unquestioned permanence. His son realises only too well their passing and the inevitable encroachment on class privilege and security. "My father," he says, "refused to admit the one and denied the other." And later, "He is convinced that the ancient ways were admirable and sufficient." Sir Edwin's uncompromising attitude to structural advances is summed up in the following sentence: "Improvements in the technique of construction, if he has had perforce to use them, he nevertheless regards as completely superfluous." So developed the great architect, "without sophistication, without moral conviction, without any deep understanding of the vagaries of the human heart."

A man "without moral conviction." If this phrase is properly to be understood, the characteristic it describes must be considered in relation to the architectural scene during

Lutyens' early successes. At that time a building was held to indicate the moral worth of the man who built it and, if an architect was a good man, he was held incapable of building anything but a good building. The arrival on the scene of one who did not share these moral convictions and was, at the same time, a brilliant designer was an opportune event for architecture, as it paved the way for the rounding off of an architectural era by means of a synthesis of the elements of all that had been most elegant and satisfying in detail, and their fusion into more than acceptable forms.

Here indeed was the man of the moment, gifted with inventiveness but not with the urge to innovate; with taste, but not with sentimentality, with the faculty for interpreting the past in the terms of his time, but with no interest in interpreting the structural potentialities of his own period. His single-minded genius concentrated on the summing up of the eclectic English tradition in domestic architecture, moving, as the author has so significantly put it, "in apt parallel to the development of the whole body of European architecture, from its beginning to its maturity."

Sir Edwin Lutyens' background provides the clue to his work. From this mould of privilege and arrogance we know that we must escape. Nevertheless, if the architecture of to-day could attain now, with its present materials and in its present direction, the maturity exemplified in the work of Lutyens, there would be no more to be said. There are, however, few architects to-day, young or old, who would not like to have built as Lutyens has built in a domestic vernacular unsurpassed yet fully identifiable with the popular demands of the period.

Instead, therefore, of turning his mind and will away from this giant of architectural humour, whimsy, elegance and humanism, the architect of to-day would do well to appreciate what has been done for him, by the only man who could have done it. In the world of wish-fulfilment we find in ourselves the desire to attain the apparent effortless security of the past, of the "good old times." This, of necessity, gives us the desire to recreate, if not the times themselves, at least the visible trappings of those times. It was easy for this to be carried out to the full in literature, in painting and even in music. It is less easy in architecture, where requirements of to-day make the association of modern conveniences with ancient form a readily appreciated absurdity. With our minds and our efforts fixed upon realities, both material and cultural, we must, for the sake of the future, appreciate the great function fulfilled by Sir Edwin Lutyens. His work provides a catharsis—a complete fulfilment of the dreams of a whole generation of architects, whose last creative days ended abruptly and for ever in September, 1939. Lutyens has summed up the best of the old world for us and has thus left us, unrepressed by frustrated desires, free to concentrate on building the new.



The Architects' Journal

War Address: 45, The Avenue, Cheam, Surrey

Telephone: Vigilant 0087-9

N O T E S & T O P I C S

HOMES AND THE ASSEMBLY LINE

The article published in the JOURNAL on January 14 was the first I have read in which the pre-fabrication of houses was looked at from the viewpoint of the mass-production engineer or that of the "time and motion expert." I found it of the greatest interest.

★

Recent American achievements and the magic that the words "Immediate Delivery" will possess in the post-war building world may cause a revolutionary development in pre-fabrication in the next five years, and the JOURNAL's article made one realise just how many ideas and methods the building industry will have to scrap if it is to take part. But it also enabled one to spot the two big differences between mass-producing a house and mass-producing a motor car or a bomber. Both the latter commodities leave the assembly factory ready for use. A house cannot, even when the most revolutionary changes are presumed. Let us suppose that twenty big building manufacturers have collaborated to design a single-floored house measuring 35 ft. by 20 ft. on plan which is capable of being transported to the site in four 20 ft. by 8 ft. 9 ins. by 9 ft. oblongs which are then lowered on to a concrete platform and clipped together.

★

Even in this case it does not seem that the actual building of a house can be reduced to less than three main phases — Preliminary Wet



Portraits from SIR EDWIN LUTYENS BY HIS SON (*Country Life*, 8/6). Left to right: Sir Edwin's father, Charles Henry Augustus Lutyens; his Irish mother, Mary Lutyens; Sir Edwin shortly after his marriage in 1897 (he was born in 1869); and in 1922, as portrayed by Edmund Dulac.

Work, Intermediate Dry and Final Wet, and is thus bound to involve two entirely different building methods. I can think of no way in which wet work can be economically avoided for levelling, concrete slab, sleeper walls or other substructure, trenching for services, path laying and possibly for party-walls in terrace housing. This meeting between new and old may prove a great trouble.

★

Secondly, the fact that completed components will have to be transported before final assembly will be one of the most important factors governing the design of mass-produced houses, the transport vehicles and workers will have to be specially designed and trained, and the avoidance of distortion during movement may provide some interesting jobs for axed naval architects. The practicability and efficiency of such a scheme will require that each man's job be determined in all respects by the necessities of the work which he has to do and not by the customs of any trade in which he was formally engaged. It may be comparatively easy to arrange this for the assembly and transport sections of the process—which will be new trades—but not in regard to site work.

★

It will be interesting to see whether mass-production of houses and other simple buildings, which most of us feel is "bound to come," will be evolved within the building industry or whether some British Henry Kaiser, at a loose end after making

aeroplanes, will step in and do the job for us: probably very much against our will.

A SON ON HIS FATHER

Mr. Robert Lutyens calls his short life of his father "an appreciation in perspective"—a one-day sketch-design for a more ambitious work to be published after the war. It is a lively, penetrating and sympathetic study of a big-scale subject, though a trifle too much on the defensive considering that Sir Edwin's eminence in the world of architecture is surely unquestioned. He is, of course, the greatest living architect in this country, and his work has influenced the development of English domestic and garden design to an incalculable extent. But that is not all. What is the secret of a Lutyens building and why is it always and instantly recognisable?

★

Partly, I suppose, for the designer's superb self-confidence in an age of stumbling experiment, partly for his virtuosity in the use of materials and his vitality of invention, and partly perhaps for the "rhythm" (based on a carefully worked-out system of geometrical ratios) which knits every one of his buildings into a perfect three-dimensional whole. But a Lutyens building is much more than the sum of these qualities. This "fifth quality" is almost as hard to define as the personality of the architect himself, and Sir Edwin emerges but faintly from the pages of his son's book. His is a fascinating and enigmatic character, childlike yet shrewd, conventional yet

eccentric, reticent and lacking in fluency yet world-famous for his verbal wit. He is a romantic who is always embarrassed by displays of emotion, and he is as completely confident in his own genius as he is unquestioning of the hierarchical system and its class privileges—(his masterpiece New Delhi has been described as "a slap in the face of democracy.")

★

Educated in the æsthetics of Morris and Ruskin, he was influenced early in his career by his country existence in Surrey and by his collaboration first with Miss Jekyll and later with Edward Hudson, founder-editor of *Country Life*, while marriage with a Lytton raised him finally to "governing-class status." The society so faithfully reflected by Lutyens' architecture has long been disintegrating, and the day of the great house and the country craftsman is passed. Yet though his work has no posterity it stands to-day like a rock above the conflicting tides of contemporary confusion, and some part of it at least cannot fail to endure.

THE LAUGH'S ON US

Some months ago I attended a meeting at which an architect and an engineer explained their joint scheme for replanning London. During discussion time a member of the audience made the proposal that the essential structure of many buildings which would be needed after the war could be erected by engineers at once. The decorative trappings could be applied by architects when the war was over. With a bitter smile

the lecturing architect replied, very properly, that if the mere decoration of buildings was the architect's chief function, his life's work had been just one long waste of time.

★

Another example of this far too prevalent conception of the architect's job, which has brought the profession so much disrepute, comes in an auctioneer's folder advertising the "Particulars and conditions of Sale" of the King's Picture Playhouse, King's Road, Chelsea, which was up for auction on January 20 last. "The building," the folder states, "which is of brick construction, has been well treated architecturally by the application of cement rendering to the external elevations, into which modern pilasters have been introduced. The final effect is to leave the appearance of a "Moderne" steel-framed building." *Architecturally* is the key word.

★

Note the inversion of the "architectural" vernacular from the Antique to the Moderne. Ten years ago we should no doubt have been surprised by the above description and would have expected to read that the building, "of steel construction, has been well treated architecturally by the application of brickwork into which timber beams have been introduced. The final effect is to leave the appearance of a fine old Tudor mansion." The laugh, brothers, is on us. Or should I say on *some* of us.

MR. SHARP DEFENDS HIMSELF

DEAR ASTRAGAL,—You get me wrong. I wouldn't like a town without pubs any more than you would: and I'd like that long drink a good many times before the job of reconstruction is done—otherwise we're going to be pretty thirsty. We could get that drink in at least half-a-dozen places in my little town: at the place marked 'inn' on the model, at that marked 'hotel,' and at one of those in the street marked 'shops, offices and pubs'—all the various kinds are there, you see. What point in 'local shops' in this small town? No-one is more than quarter of a mile from the main shops.

THOMAS SHARP.

ASTRAGAL



LETTERS

Percy J. Waldram, F.S.I.

A. Calveley Cotton

George H. Frazer

N. C. Stoneham

The Cruciform Plan

SIR,—You report that Mr. Allen, in his Cantor Lecture on Sound Insulation, stated that "the hollow square is not only the natural but practically the only arrangement which results from the independent development of individual properties," giving as the reason that "everyone naturally wants to make use of his frontage, and the result is a ring of buildings round the perimeter of the block."

From this he concludes that the cruciform plan, giving the maximum insulation against traffic noises (to which might be added the maximum of light, air and sunshine) is Utopian and impracticable.

May I suggest that this pessimistic view is scarcely fair to those architects who have recognized that frontage building, as such, has special value only on the ground floor, above which they are free to substitute the indented facade for the inefficient and unsanitary light well (sic) and the cruciform for the hollow square. Realizing also that light, air and sunshine had, on the lowest computation, material rental value, they put this long overdue reform into practice before the war.

It is now quite an old story how in the London Transport building over St. James' Park Station, originally intended mainly as an ordinary office block, with only two floors for the offices of Underground Railways, an earlier design with internal light wells was discarded for the present cruciform plan above the ground floor. This entailed a loss of about 20 per cent. of lettable office floor space, but a material gain in net rental value; together with such enhanced lettable space that at the time of a pronounced glut of offices in Westminster it was stated that the entire building was fully let before completion.

I recall that at the meeting of the RIBA, at which this building was awarded the Street Architecture Medal of its year, the Chairman and Managing Director of Underground Railways agreed that they had been suitably punished for not believing their architect, and for having chosen an upper floor, I believe the fifth, for their offices, only to find later that the typists whom they had relegated to the

first floor had no less light, air and sunshine, but no smoke.

So many architects have learned and practised the lesson of this example of planning for daylight (i.e., town planning) that there is no reason to fear that the indented facade and the cruciform plan will be absent from post-war designs of urban buildings.

Edgware.

PERCY J. WALDRAM.

Profit Sharing Groups

SIR,—May I answer Astragal's criticisms of the profit sharing group system.

The PSGS has the following advantages over any official architects department:

1. After the war there will be a boom in the building industry, in which all building professions and trades will have every likelihood of prospering. Under the group system the architect could share in that prosperity; in an official architects' department very few could earn more than a mediocre salary.

2. With the group system there would be competitive business to induce that certain liveliness essential to good work.

3. Before architects are demobilized preparations will have to be made for their business welfare. It will not be enough to demobilize them quickly, and it would not be practical to instal them in high positions over permanent officials. On the other hand, it will be hard for an ex-soldier to watch a booming building trade, while he gets £350 a year. The group system offers him a partnership in a private practice with very favourable prospects.

4. Private practice gives the best training to the would-be architect.

Astragal seems to doubt the possibility of a successful group system. The answer is that at least one group system was running successfully before the war.

Lastly, I do not advocate the group system solely because I want to be independent. I want to make the profession unified, strong, prosperous and efficient.

Bath.

A. CALVELEY COTTON.

Tabloid Technics

SIR,—*re Use of our Registered Trade Mark, "Tabloid" in your Journal of January 28, 1943.*

We invite your friendly co-operation in a matter which is as important to us as is the preservation of copyright in your publication to you. We refer to the safeguarding of our exclusive rights in the trade mark "Tabloid." Our attention has been directed to the use of this word in the article "Tabloid Technics" in your issue of the 28th ult.

We invented this previously unknown word and registered it as a trade mark in 1884, and have continuously employed it since then in respect of various classes of goods, including medicinal compressed products, medicine chests, publications and food products (amongst other references see Sir James Murray's Oxford English Dictionary, under "Tabloid"). Our exclusive rights to the use of this word in connection with goods for which it is registered have been upheld both by the Chancery Division of the High Court and by the Court of Appeal. Similar legal decisions in our favour have been obtained in many other countries of the world.

Our trade mark "Tabloid" has become so well known in connection with the goods in relation to which it has been used that, in accordance with the provisions of section 27 of the Trade Marks Act, 1938, we have been able to register the word as a Defensive Trade Mark in respect of all classes of goods other than those in which the word is employed by us in the course of trade, in addition to our registrations in respect of goods in which we regularly trade. No other trade mark has received similar protection in all classes. Our registrations of the word "Tabloid" thus extend to every class of goods, and it is therefore not open to anyone to make use of this word in relation to any goods other than those of our manufacture. The 1938 Act extended the exclusive rights granted to proprietors of

registered trade marks, particularly as regards the use of their trade marks by others even in cases where such use was not actually upon goods.

In consequence of the word "Tabloid" becoming so well known in association with our compressed products, it has sometimes been associated with the idea of compression, compactness or high potency in a small space, for these were the distinguishing features of certain of the products to which, among others, the mark "Tabloid" was applied. Unfortunately, the word "Tabloid" has occasionally been misused to denote these characteristics of some product, rather than to denote goods of our manufacture, whether they possess such qualities or not. Any such extension of the meaning of the word "Tabloid" is, however, inaccurate and such misuse of words is obviously undesirable. Other words or phrases which may be more correctly employed to give the desired meaning include "tablets," "in compressed form," "miniature," "pocket size," "concise," or "concentrated," and we shall be grateful if you will co-operate with us by using such non-proprietary words or phrases in future.

We feel sure that now the true position has been brought to your notice you will wish to avoid any misuse of our registered trade mark in future, and will, as far as possible, take all necessary steps to correct previous misuses.

GEORGE H. FRAZER,

Patent and Trade Marks Officer.

BURROUGHS WELLCOME & CO.

[The phrase Tabloid Technics was used in the introduction to the new Information Centre. We think that Messrs. Burroughs Wellcome & Company have not fully appreciated the fact that we have employed "tabloid" solely as an adjective in connection with abstract ideas and not in relation to goods, and we suggest that the word is in common English usage in the sense in which we have used it.—ED.; A.J.]

Hard Plaster

SIR,—What is this little something that others haven't got that so endears hard plaster to the heart of the modern architect? Go into any block of flats recently built and there, in all its virgin purity, is hard plaster covering all the walls.

The tenant, in his misdirected enthusiasm, may think that another shelf might be nice in the kitchen. Out comes the Rawlplug drill and the hammer, immediately followed by a knock on the front door. "Is it necessary to make all that noise?" from other tenants who have already completed their drilling.

Forty minutes hard work with the Rawlplug drill and a hammer and the shelf is up. If the new tenant be particularly hard-boiled, he will now set to work on the toilet roll holder unless, of course, the landlord has telephoned or the police have arrived.

One cannot help sympathising with the other tenants because the acoustic properties of hard plaster are so perfect that the thrilling metallic ring of the hammer hitting the Rawlplug drill on the fifth floor is heard perfectly by those living on the ground floor. The whole building rings with blows.

Of course, it may be possible that the modern architect considers that he has so perfectly designed the new block of flats that there is no need for anyone to be so presumptuous as to drill a hole in the walls, not even for the toilet roll holder! If so, I must bow to such architect's Godlike prescience that he not only can cater to all the needs of all the fifty-odd first tenants, but also can cater to all the needs of all the subsequent tenants.

Is it possible that hard plaster is specified in order to deter interference with his heaven-sent creation? Will somebody tell me what the blessings of hard plaster are?

London.

N. C. STONEHAM.



BEFORE

The War

[BY A. C. MANUEL]

Recent contributions to the JOURNAL have shown what architects mean to do After the War. Here is a reminder, a very keen one, of the sort of thing that went on Before the War and will go on again if it gets half a chance. Before the hero of this story is put down as a difficult person remember the conditions with which any architect striving for a higher standard was faced.

In the spring of 1936 the fancy of Edward Banks, like many another at this season of the year, turned to thoughts of love and to its lawful corollary—home-making. "I am a qualified architect," he mused. "I was the author of the winning design in the recent £1,000 house competition for which the master—Sir Edwin Lutyens—was the assessor, and I have built quite a number of houses for a variety of clients. True," he thought in parenthesis, "all have not been eager to complete the payment of the code fees, while one was so unfortunate as to die as soon as he had moved in, but each was entirely satisfied with what I had provided for him."

Thus, with some reason, he judged that as a professional man of some experience he would escape those difficulties and snares which encompass the layman on such an occasion. And so he promised his sweetheart that before the winter snows came to cool his ardour he would carry her over the threshold.

Site Search

So, first things first, they searched for a suitable site—but seven weary months

were to elapse before he was able to stand upon it and say in the words of the schoolboys' most popular poet, "I am monarch of all I survey" (using the last word, of course, in its more technical sense). The initial choice—a piece of land at Woldingham—had to be abandoned at the end of April because the titled owner was not disposed to sell: the second—at Merstham—was rejected at the end of June because the owner's agent stipulated that no trees were to be cut down, as this would expose the (as the agent said) "unusual" type of house—the site was too thickly wooded to build on at all without cutting a few down. In September a third site—at Riddlesdown—could not be obtained because the agent could not recommend his client to "approve the plan . . . on account of the . . . type and design of the building which . . . would be unsuited to the estate."

During October a fourth and fifth were found and lost—the former because the estimated value of the house was less than £800 and Sanderstead could not stand for that, and the latter at Purley, because the owning company would "not be disposed to approve a house . . . designed in accordance with the drawing." Finally, before the mists of November descended upon the now somewhat disillusioned architect, a forty-foot plot was found on the Woodcote Park Estate at Coulsdon and the owners agreed to permit the building providing the local Council approved the design.

The Elevations

The subsequent evenings were spent, with the love-sick maiden advising as best she could, in the eager preparation of the drawings for submission to the Urban District Council of Coulsdon and Purley, the designer hoping meanwhile that this body would not be as long-winded in their actions as their title might seem to prognosticate. As it turned out he had very little time to wait for a decision. On October 30 came the disapproval of the drawings which it was said "did not comply with the Town Planning Scheme as to Elevations." Furthermore, as if to clinch matters, the Council threatened to cause any works as may have been executed to be pulled down if they did not conform to the By-laws and Town Planning Scheme in force.

The architect reeled under this blow but, considering it unworthy of the Council, as he said, to "prohibit a progressive house by an architect while it permitted speculative builders' clerks' efforts," lodged—on November 14—an appeal with the Ministry of Health. A week later the clerk to the Council informed Mr. Banks that the plan was being referred to the Advisory Committee under the Town Planning Scheme for their decision upon the Elevations and that this course of action had been decided upon in view of the

fact that they were of the opinion that the proposed building would "seriously disfigure the street by reason of the design thereof." The ambiguity of this phrasing can be clarified by the reader if he will refer to the illustration which shows the property immediately opposite the site under review (p. 125).

The members of the Advisory Committee to adjudicate upon the quality of the design of the elevations were to be Messrs. Chart & Poulter and Sir Arthur Spurgeon, respectively Chartered Surveyor, Chartered Architect and Justice of the Peace.

To the letter conveying this information Mr. Banks addressed the clerk of the Council in the following terms:—

"I beg to state that I am unable to agree that the building would 'disfigure' the street. In my opinion my house would appear to be a rose among thorns, and I am not willing to prostitute my architectural knowledge by copying spec-builders' utter tripe.

"I further consider that your remarks about my design were rather premature (in view of the fact that you had not obtained any architectural advice) and your disapproval an affront to my knowledge of my own job, and in this respect I would like to mention that, as a pupil of your Advisory Committee's Architect member, I gained many prizes at the Croydon Atelier of Design, and at the Royal Academy of Art I was awarded a medal for Architecture, and again a few years back I received the Premier Award in the Empire-wide Contest in Domestic Design. Over 370 architects from all over the world entered for this and the assessor was the great architect Sir Edwin L. Lutyens, K.C.I.E., R.A., LL.D. I only mention these matters as I have reasons to believe I am just a little qualified in my judgment.

"As to the style of the projected house, this progressive style is typical of the work of W. M. Dudok, the eminent Dutch architect, upon whom (as you may know) His Late Majesty conferred His Royal Gold Medal, through the Royal Institute of British Architects, in 1935. By this Royal recognition a worthy example was set to the whole country, and I for one feel confident of the happy marriage of this new spirit in building to the English soil, as typified by the work of Sir John Burnet, Tait and Lorne in their new building of the Royal Masonic Hospital at Ravenscourt Park."

This letter was considered by the New Streets and Buildings Committee of the Council who, however, decided to go ahead with the reference to the Advisory Committee but the clerk pointed out that "owing to a clerical error" in his previous letter he had stated that the Committee was appointed under the Town Planning Scheme whereas he should have stated "under the Surrey County Council Act of 1931." Mr. Banks pointed out that the previous

At Riddlesdown, Surrey, an estate agent refused to allow this house, designed by Edward Banks for his own occupation, to be built as the "type and design would be unsuitable."

At Coulsdon, the Council first disapproved because the house "would seriously disfigure the street by reason of the design thereof," and a building society would not grant a loan as the house was "flat roofed." When later Mr. Banks complained of the Rates Assessment he was informed that "the elevation and planning . . . would appeal to many tenants . . ." Right, the north front. Facing page, the model, east side of the house, and garden; extreme right, the U.D.C. Surveyor's house (top), and houses facing Mr. Banks' house.

disapproval and refusal notices had all referred to the Town Planning Scheme so that there appeared to be quite a crop of clerical errors: in any case the land was covered by the Town and Country Planning (General Interim Development) Order, 1933, so that the question of an appeal to the Minister of Health was still applicable. This department, however, advised the architect to await the decision of the Advisory Committee before taking any further action.

The architect thought he would acquaint the three members of the Committee of the true facts of the case and so sent them each the following letter:—

"I beg to submit herewith a copy of the drawings in question, together with copy of my letter to the Council concerning their disapproval, and also a set of photographs of a model of the house, and other specimens in the district.

"In my opinion this building is not violently modern (all concrete and cantilever) but of a progressive type, both in plan and design, and of simple brick construction. In view of the general type of house in this district, of which about four-fifths are ungodly spec-builders' clerks' efforts, I do not consider the Council's disapproval an example of proper administration of the Acts."

And so passed the old year. But with the advent of the New Year came new hope and new promise. On January 5 the Committee of Three signified their approval of the Elevations; on the following day the New Streets and Buildings Committee did the same. Within three weeks, not to be outdone and in the new spirit of the times, permission was also given by the Council in pursuance of their powers under the Town and Country Planning Order of 1933.



Finance

Things, the architect felt, were now looking up and but for the matter of getting some financial assistance it seemed that something in three dimensions should very soon appear. It was, after the experiences of the past year, with a somewhat chastened heart that Mr. Banks, spurred on by his desire to do the right thing by his fiancée and his country (for is it not the home which has made Great Britain what she is to-day!) indited an exploratory letter to several well-known Building Societies which he knew from their public statements and advertisements were only too willing to help, in their grandfatherly way, those like himself who had at the moment no great surplus of cash but who had every prospect of getting hold of some during the ensuing 16, 20 or 21 years.

Once more certain difficulties arose not, be it said, altogether to the surprise of the young pair who were by now acquiring a more cynical and sceptical outlook upon the world.

The letter to the Societies was framed in the following way:—

"I am about to purchase some land locally and build a modern house. I should like you to tell me exactly how you can help me with a loan to secure these ends. I anticipate the house will cost about £800. I am an architect and I should like to hear of the procedure under these circumstances, also I should like to know if you will recognise my certificates issued to the successful contractor, at three or four stages during construction. The Contractor will be found by open tendering.

"I should like to add that I am purchasing the plot of land outright at a cost of £180."

The first reply received was discouraging—it ended up as follows:—

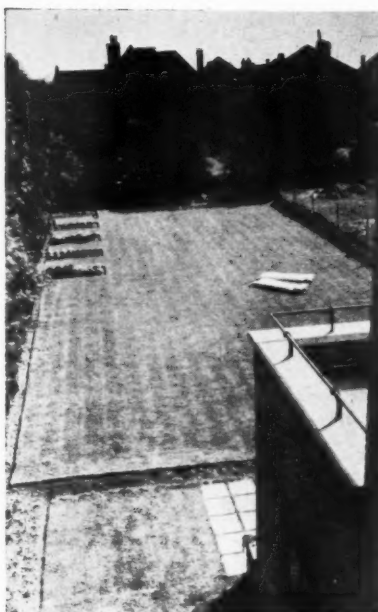
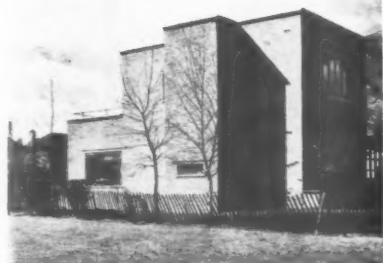
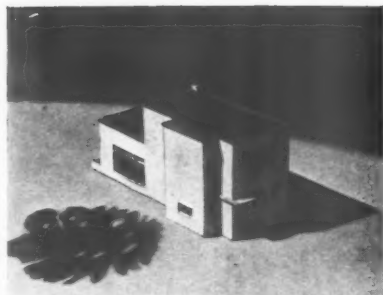
"I note particularly your first sentence

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refers to a modern house and if by this expression you mean *fittings*, it will be quite in order but if you propose to have a flat roofed dwelling erected then must I regretfully inform you that the proposition is one which would not interest my Directors at the present time."

These Directors had perforce to remain uninterested. The reply from the second Company belied the name of its Secretary (Kéén) and stated that they were "not favourably inclined towards arranging building finance." This Company had therefore to be left at the angle they favoured. The third reply, from a firm whose letter heading bore the honeyed phrases "Liberal Advances, Easy Repayments" said that Mr. Banks' letter had been considered by the Board but not entertained—like a frayed blonde.

Another Company approached, having inspected the plans and the specification, said they regretted that the property was of the "type upon which the Directors were not prepared to grant loans on mortgage." Finally the Civil Service Housing Association agreed to consider a loan.

Construction

Spring had now come round again and once more, this time he hoped with more likelihood of success, Mr. Banks renewed his promises to his patient sweetheart, assuring her that before the "fall" there would be a satisfactory conclusion to the affairs in hand. And so the contract was put out to competition, and on May 27, 1937, the tender of Messrs. F. Wills, Limited, was accepted. Within a few days the first sod was turned.

For some months the building work continued, with the eager architect, not unmindful of previous experiences,

constantly on the job to ensure that his carefully studied details were exactly executed. By September the many and varied difficulties and snags were successfully overcome and, with not more than the usual delay in the completion of the contract, the last operative was finally induced to leave the house. With the goods and chattels and—subsequently—the wife, duly installed, Mr. Banks, with might and right on his side, threw out his chest and assumed patriarchal functions in the proper way.

Rating Bogey

With the occupation of the house in September, 1937, came the notice of the assessment of its value for rating purposes. Mr. Banks judged the assessment figure to be extremely high, but the Valuation officer gave, by way of reply, the text book definition of "gross value for rating purposes" and followed this up by the statement that "the suggested values may appear to be excessive in relation to accommodation, but the elevation and planning . . . are such as would appeal to many tenants seeking a well built house on a good site, a house economical to run with features different to the more or less stereotyped small houses of to-day."

The owner, true to his now well developed sense of the incongruous, pointed out that the Council had previously thought the house a disfigurement; further, he stressed that the letting value of a house was dependent rather on the number of rooms than on "features different (I hate to repeat this grammatical error) to the more or less stereotyped house." The Valuation officer subsequently reduced the assessment by 6 per cent. or so but Mr. Banks did not consider this morsel sufficient to

make a meal and the following letter passed on November 3:—

"I note you are unable to vary the figures of assessment levied on this property, and in the same way I am unable to vary the opinion of your Council, as stated in their letter to me about a year ago, that my house would disfigure the neighbourhood.

"Concerning the meetings to be held on the 16th and 22nd of this month, it would seem that the case is already decided against a substantial reduction in the proposed assessment as you state 'an objection form will be posted to you before the end of the month.' This sounds to me like a verdict before a trial."

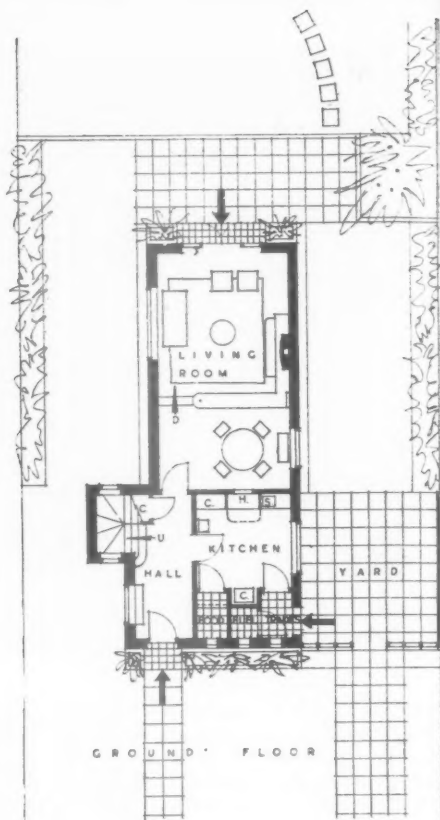
Subsequently Mr. Banks found that his assessment was based on 1s. 5d. a square foot, whereas the others in the road were on a 1s. 1½d. basis, because of the amenity value to his house of a nearby recreation field. The Clerk to the Surrey (Mid-Eastern Area) Assessment Committee would not, however, agree that the basis for all the houses in the road should be uniform on the grounds that they all benefited. Subsequently the Clerk to the U.D.C. said that the figures of 1s. 5d. and 1s. 1½d. had little to do with the total assessment because smaller houses command, pro rata, higher rates per square foot.

Mr. Banks, on February 21, 1938 (time was still marching on) put forward a seven-point Memorandum giving reasons why the assessment was considered too high. These were:

(1) That the Council had *first* decided that the cottage disfigured the street and *then* that the elevation and planning would appeal to many tenants and was well constructed with some individuality (such diverse statements were hardly worthy of a Council that considered itself worthy enough to have a Charter



Above, bedroom No. 1 in the house of Mr. Edward Banks at Coulsdon. Right, ground and first floor plans. Extreme right, two views in the living room, bathroom, and part of kitchen. Mr. Banks appealed to the Quarter Sessions against the rate assessment, and "he lost his appeal for the reduction of his rates but costs for the Assessment Committee were refused because, as the chairman of the appeal committee said: 'the whole of this trouble seems to have arisen through the difficulties Mr. Banks had in getting his house built, and the great slight he thought he received in the description of the house. I think it is a rather exceptional case, and it is an exceptional house, and I think he was justified in bringing the case before the Court.' He pointed out, however, that he could not make the Council give a public apology to Mr. Banks for the statement that the house was a disfigurement."



and Borough status and Mr. Banks thought that it should make up its mind as to whether his cottage was a monstrosity or a masterpiece).

(2) That a tenant would rather have a three-bedroomed house than a two-bedroomed house if the rents were the same (if his house had only one bedroom he supposed they would consider it worthy of a rateable value of about £64).

(3) That the road was only half made up, was nearly a mile from a bus route, and necessitated climbing a most tiring hill from any direction.

(4) That the house abutted a school playing field which would keep normal tenants away unless there was the inducement of a low rent.

(5) That the house was kept small to save rates, and high rates would make it a white elephant.

(6) That, as this is common practice, £1 should be taken off the assessment until such time as the road was made up.

(7) That they may have been under the impression that a professional practice was carried on whereas this was not so.

Following the receipt of the notice of objection by the Rating Authority to the proposal for amendment of the assessment Mr. Banks wrote to the clerk of this Authority expressing his surprise that this officer could insult him with his criticism one year and then later praise his work when there was a question of higher rates; in a

further letter on the same subject, the owner regretted that the clerk could not follow the argument that as the house was a disfigurement it was obvious and logical that it could not be worth much. He pointed out that the elevations were an indivisible part of this house even as one's face was an indivisible part of one's head and therefore if the elevations were condemned then in actual fact the house was condemned.

An event of importance took place on March 28—Mr. Banks PAID HIS RATES; but he did so under protest and asked when he was going to be told how it was that an ugly disfigurement could become such a valuable masterpiece within the short space of a year.

Dishonour

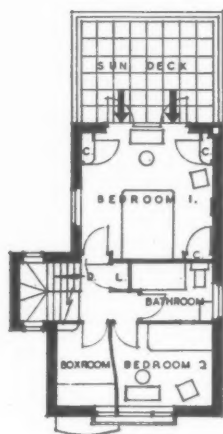
The unfortunate architect was now feeling very strongly about the indignity he had been subjected to and on May 6 he wrote to the clerk to the Council demanding an apologetic withdrawal of their statement that his house would seriously disfigure the street by reason of its design—the Council now considering that it was now an architectural asset justifying high rateable values. The clerk could not, however, find that the Rating and Valuation officer had stated that the Council considered the house an "architectural asset" and, to the enquiry as to whether the Council were still of the opinion that the cottage was a disfigurement, the clerk said he

had nothing further to add to the previous correspondence.

Mr. Banks at this point decided to appeal to Quarter Sessions against the high assessment. This entailed sending copies of the notice to appeal, not only, as the clerk somewhat sardonically pointed out, to the Assessment Committee, but also to the Rating Authority and the clerk of the Quarter Sessions court, the latter to be appropriately addressed "Clerk of the Peace."

A firm of surveyors and valuers were deputed by the Assessment Committee to give evidence on their behalf and for this purpose they wrote to Mr. Banks asking to be allowed to inspect the property; he gave them permission to see "the disfigurement at the date and time mentioned." In the event, the owner lost his appeal for the reduction of his rates but costs for the Assessment Committee were refused because, as the chairman of the appeal committee said: "the whole of this trouble seems to have arisen through the difficulties Mr. Banks had in getting his house built, and the great slight he thought he received in the description of the house. I think it is a rather exceptional case, and it is an exceptional house, and I think he was justified in bringing the case before the Court." He pointed out, however, that he could not make the Council give a public apology to Mr. Banks for the statement that the house was a disfigurement.

An estate agent and valuer gave it as his opinion that if you contented



FIRST FLOOR

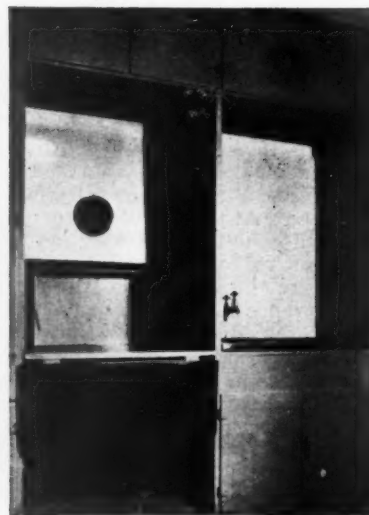


yourself with the outside you would be put off, but the inside was very attractive; this illustrates the popular misconception that the inside and the outside of a building can be dissociated from one another.

Mr. Banks invited the Royal Institute of British Architects to testify as to the lack of popularity of this type of progressive work but they replied that this would not be possible.

This was in February, 1939 (Hitler had not yet fully taken Czecho-Slovakia into his protection) and the architect, whose patience was not yet exhausted (no true Briton ever knows when he is beaten and hence always goes on to win in the end), once more tackled the Council on the subject of the apology, his letter to the clerk finishing:—"What a remarkable paradox. What an amazing change of tune. What an astonishing case of eating the cake and wanting it after. (The Italian phrase 'volte face' would, of course, have been slightly unpatriotic to use). Therefore I demand the unconditional withdrawal of the original disapproval notice (i.e., of the plans), together with a public apology for the remarks contained in the letter, (i.e., that the proposed building will seriously disfigure the street by reason of the design thereof)."

The Council decided, however, to take no action and the intrepid ratepayer wrote to his Ward Councillor pointing out that the Council, notwithstanding its first attitude, had, after the building



of the house had been approved by a panel of men of culture and vision, come along to assess the property for rating purposes, stating that the values might appear to be excessive in relation to accommodation but the elevation and planning were such as to appeal to many. He characterized this as an amazing piece of Hitlerism (events on a continental scale had by now, of course, taken place). Events in Coulsdon did not, however, move with any rapidity and by the middle of December two months later, no reply had been received from the Councillor or the Council. Once more Mr. Banks demanded an apology and proposed to offer only a proportion of the rates levied upon the property compatible with the Council's original opinion of it. He stated that he was prepared to deposit the balance of the rates with an Arbitrator. In a letter to the Rating Officer he asked him to play his part in bringing about an expungement of the offending records and quoted, in reference to the professional status and honour involved, Shakespeare's dictum—

"If it is a sin to covet honour, I am the most offending soul alive."

The first black-out Christmas having passed, the Ward Councillor replied at last saying that although the Council had banned the erection of the house, they had but followed normal procedure and had stated, in referring the matter to the Advisory Committee, what they thought to be the position, i.e., that the building would seriously disfigure, etc. He did not see what action he could take in the matter, but Mr. Banks pointed out that the Council's clerk had, in fact, signed a notice disapproving the works on grounds of elevations and threatening to have them pulled down if they were proceeded with. February, 1940, came but no further reply from the worthy Councillor.

The balance of the rates was sent to the Valuation Officer and Collector, asking him to put it to the credit of the Council if they agreed to the expungement of the offending records, but if not, to send it to the President of the Institute of Arbitrators. This suggestion did not appeal to the recipient who was requested by the Clerk to the Council to keep the matter of the outstanding rate "separate and distinct" and "not to discuss the matter further." At the end of February the Council again intimated that they were not prepared to take any further action, and were also not prepared to let Mr. Banks appear personally before the New Streets and Buildings Committee. Another local councillor was approached for help, but his answer passed on from the Council was that the later approval automatically cancelled the previous disapproval and

that records could not possibly be destroyed.

Repartee

In September (great events were now on the tapis), following the announcement in the local press of Mr. Banks' success in the RIBA competition for war-time housing, it was stated that readers would recall "that early last year Coulsdon and Purley Council objected to a design for Mr. Banks' own house, condemning it as a disfigurement to the street," and "threatened to knock the building down, but were persuaded to let him build and eventually valued it as an architectural asset," but were "not prepared to expunge the records of their mistake." Mr. Banks sent a cutting of this to the Chairman of the U.D.C. and his reply was as follows:—

(a.) "I cannot understand the suggestion that a resolution of a Local Authority made in the exercise of its statutory duties can be expunged. If the House of Lords or the Court of Appeal

(b.) reverses the decision of a lower court, the record of the lower court is not expunged.

(c.) I think you have good reason to complain that the local press should have revived the subject and in doing so should have

(d.) aggravated the position by such mis-statements as that the Council had threatened to pull down your house—needless to say there is no such Resolution on the Council's minutes—and also that the Council refused to rectify its 'mistake.' The Council

(e.) made no mistake. It exercised its right as a Town Planning Authority to express an opinion on a matter of taste—but that such opinion was not shared by the majority of the consultative

(f.) panel does not constitute its decision a mistake.

On the question of Rating, a building—no matter what its

(g.) external appearance may be—may have 'architectural features' which affect its rateable value, but as you no doubt know, this Council does not fix the rateable values of the properties in

(h.) the Urban District: that is done by the Surrey Mid-Eastern Assessment Committee."

To this Mr. Banks replied in detail as follows:—

(a.) The Council was most indiscreet (even in the exercise of its statutory 'duties') in telling a qualified architect they thought his work a 'disfigurement,' before they had it proved.

(b.) This suggests you are trying to use the calculation of Hitler's, that two

wrongs make one right.

(c.) I am happy the press revived the 'affairs' from their published reports of last year. It illustrated your Council's 'STOP — GO — BAD — GOOD' playfulness.

(d.) The Press made no mis-statement of fact, however, as shown by Disapproval Notice No. 1317 (that I hold) issued by the Council stating they 'may cause such works . . . to be pulled down.' Was this only an idle threat?

(e.) When the Council first condemn a design, and later praise it, would not the most thick-headed fool think there was a mistake somewhere?

(f.) Since the Council consulted a body of architectural advisers it indicates that they were not able to judge contemporary design themselves. The Panel agreed the Council were in error, so what on earth is an error if it is not a mistake?

(g.) You also appear to be ignorant of the fact that the Council specifically mentioned external appearance as being part of the 'appeal' of my house when dealing with its rateable value. How do you explain that? You are trying to split hairs by considering external appearance as being apart from architectural features.

(h.) Here again you should know that the Council propose a rateable value to the Surrey M.E. Assessment Committee (in this case they admitted it seemed high). The Committee's later rulings, followed by that of the Quarter Sessions, only proved further how wrong the Council was in its original condemnation."

Delegation of Duties

In October, 1940, soon after the above interchange of friendly correspondence, the unfriendly *Hum* attempted to do what the Council had previously threatened to do—to knock the house down. The damage reduced the value of the property but a request for a reduction of the assessment was met by the answer that "while it must be admitted that there is a depreciation in both the selling and letting value of properties, both prior to and since the outbreak of hostilities, this is a general cause which has affected substantially all hereditaments in the rating area."

A month later the architect's employers evacuated their offices and moved to the North—and so the unhappy architect, his wife and daughter, left empty the contemporary and comfortable home they had so carefully constructed with all the encouragements set out above. . . .

And when they endeavoured to let it on the basis of the rateable value there was not one offer.

This feature, developed from the previous Information Centre, which dealt only with questions and answers, provides a technical intelligence service in tabloid form. Its function is to record all developments in building technics throughout the world as reflected in technical publications, papers read before learned societies, official statements, reports of research institutions and building experiments. Lack of scientific data is a handicap both to the technician and to the planner. Even where there is no lack of information the organization for putting it over has remained so rudimentary as to negative most of the advantages of the original research. The **information centre** attempts to remedy this deficiency and to keep all busy men, whether fighting or working, abreast of current developments in building technique. Items are written by specialists of the highest authority who are not on the permanent staff of the Journal. The views expressed are disinterested and objective. The Editors of the Information Centre would be very glad to receive information on all technical developments from any source, including contractors and manufacturers.

Physical

PLANNING

1067

Book Lists

National Book Council : BOOK LISTS FOR PLANNERS. Obtainable for a few pence each from NBC, 3, Henrietta Street, W.C.2.

Too few people outside the book-selling profession know of these Book Lists. The following new or revised lists are well worth procuring:—

No. 9. *Housing; Town and Country Planning*, compiled by TCPA.

No. 58. *Agriculture and Rural Economy*, compiled by "recognised authorities."

No. 163. *Britain; Land and Life*, compiled by the Land Utilization Survey.

No. 167. *Geography*, compiled by the Royal Geographical Society.

No. 186. *Transport*, compiled by the Institute of Transport.

No. 194. *Architectural Heritage; Its Social and Cultural Setting*, compiled by APRR.

1068

Retail Shops

APRR : A SURVEY OF RETAIL SHOPS. Paper read at a meeting on January 26th. Data on total number of shops, their division

by type (independent, multiple, department store, co-operative, etc.), their division by categories of goods (food, clothing, etc.) or the number of persons employed in them.

It is estimated that in 1937/38 there were 24,000 co-operative shops employing some 180,000 people; 40,000 Multiples employing 350,000; 500 Department Stores employing 150,000; and 680,500 Independents employing 1,300,000; making a total of about 745,000 shops employing almost 2,000,000.

An analysis of various surveys and statistics resulted in the following groupings of shops by categories of goods: *Food* 50 per cent. (Co-operative 18,000; Multiple 23,000; Independent 331,000). *Clothing, Footwear, etc.*, 12.5 per cent. (Co-operative 4,000; Department Stores 500; Multiple 8,000; Independent 80,500). *Other Goods*, including general shops, 37.5 per cent. (Co-operative 2,000; Multiple 9,000; Independent 269,000).

The average turnover per specialist shop in various categories is calculated to be: *Food* £3,950; *Clothing* £4,640; *Household Goods* £5,520 and *Miscellaneous* £3,430. It is suggested that a minimum turnover of £4,000 is necessary for efficient trading.

More than half the total retail trade was done by less than 10 per cent. of the shops. The average turnover of 90 per cent. of the number of shops was extremely low and most could only remain in business for family reasons (pensions; the value of feeding a large family at wholesale prices; unpaid family labour, etc.).

1069 Roads & Water Supply

Institution of Municipal and County Engineers : REGIONS, ROADS AND WATER SUPPLIES. Post War Planning and Reconstruction (Pamphlet), January, 1942. Memorandum from Institution to Government, completed before publication of Scott and Uthwatt Reports.

Regional consideration is necessary to ensure in a given area a proper balance of space for habitation, industrial development, recreation, market gardening and agriculture and stock-rearing though these, together with certain schemes of water supply and sewerage, may have to be considered nationally rather than locally. They are strongly in favour of a system of new major motorways and publish a map of these prepared by the County Surveyors' Society. After a short section on the principles upon which satellite towns could be established, they consider that "as it is unlikely that the population will increase . . . it would be wise to adopt a policy of orderly extension of existing towns which have not become unwieldy as local government units." Water is a prime necessity of life and an essential of industry, but it is not inexhaustible and its use should therefore be controlled to the best advantage. The fact that administrative areas seldom coincide with natural drainage areas makes for considerable waste both in systems of water conservation and of sewerage. Regional control of catchment areas is advocated.

HEATING

and ventilation

1070 Some Forward Steps

H. L. Alt : SOME FORWARD STEPS IN HEATING, VENTILATION AND AIR CONDITIONING. The Industrial Heating Engineer. October, 1942. Directional control of air through ventilation grilles. Motorless air conditioning units. Gas steam boilers without chimneys. Automatic

control to prevent condensation on windows.

Considerable development in ventilating grilles has taken place in an endeavour to include among the properties of the grilles, directional control of air flow in one or two planes, control of air volume and combinations of these.

A second line of attack is the fixing of a device behind the grille to perform these functions. Two examples are given. In each case narrow dampers or wings are hinged in a frame which may be fixed in the short outlet duct supplying the grille. The dampers are so arranged that some of them control volume and the others, air direction. Each damper has friction pins so that it will remain set in any desired position. In a third type of grille, one set of dampers constitutes the grille face and is adjustable in one plane. A second set of dampers behind the first is controllable in a second plane, so that complete control of air stream direction is possible.

Illustrations of purpose-made duct insulation are given. It is a felt composition having good thermal and acoustic properties, but it is not fireproof.

An air conditioning unit has been produced which has no electric motor to drive its fan. The unit is of the type used for conditioning rooms and has the advantage that no electrical connection is needed. The fan shaft is extended and connected to a water turbine. During winter, hot water is circulated from the boiler, flows through the turbine, thus driving the fan, then on to the heater battery in the unit and so back to the boiler. In the summer, water chilled by refrigeration is used instead of hot water. (The pump circulating the hot or cold water will have to be more powerful in order to drive the turbines. Total energy consumption will be greater owing to losses in this pump. Electricity is usually needed also for thermostatic control).

Gas steam boilers are now being produced which have an efficiency of 100 per cent. if radiation from the boiler is neglected, and which need no chimney. The flue gases, which in the case of coal gas are very largely steam or water vapour, are led into the steam space of the boiler. Thence they circulate with the normal steam through the radiators. Here the steam condenses and flows back with the non-condensable gases to a separator. The condensate returns to the boiler while the gases are discharged by a fan through a small pipe to atmosphere. (Corrosion due to sulphur in the gas is a possible objection).

Cooling towers have frequently been employed in connection with refrigeration where water is expensive. They are, however, not usually found in small installations. (Although air

washers have been used for the same purpose in this country). Evaporative condensers which are illustrated combine the functions of cooling tower and refrigerant condenser, and are especially suitable for small air conditioning apparatus.

When outdoor temperatures are low, condensation occurs on window panes if the air in the rooms is too moist. Automatic controls in the rooms do not take account of how cold the window is, and may call for too high a humidity. An automatic device may now be obtained which may be placed in contact with a window pane, and which shuts off the humidifying apparatus when the temperature of the glass approaches the dewpoint of the air. This effectively prevents condensation.

MATERIALS

1071

Weathering

F. L. Brady (BRS): WEATHERING OF BUILDING MATERIALS. Lecture, RIBA Architectural Science Board, January 30, 1943. Fundamental factors in weathering of bricks, stones, cement products, etc.; solubility, density, absorption, porosity, texture. See A.J., February 4, 1943, p. 100, for report.

So much information is condensed into the lecture that it is almost impossible to attempt an abstract. Reference to the full text should be considered essential to all who teach Building Science and indeed to all who are interested in the behaviour of the facing materials on their buildings. Speakers in the discussion which followed the lecture repeatedly referred to the importance of this type of information and how it will help them to avoid repeating errors they have made in the past.

The lecturer emphasized the need for scientific study owing to the number of materials now available, many without a background of traditional treatment. He then went on to show the effects of solubility on the weathering pattern which all buildings acquire to some extent on exposure. Differences between highly soluble materials such as Gypsum, moderately soluble such as Limestones and the insoluble Silicas were discussed. Cement products were included as an intermediate category.

The effect of density on weathering was explained and it was strongly emphasized that in many cases density is actually harmful, as in the case of cast stones and of renderings.

The common confusion between absorption and porosity was discussed. Whereas absorption is no guide to any quality, except possibly heat insulation

value, the saturation coefficient usually gives a very clear indication of the frost resisting qualities of materials such as brick and stone.

The effect of texture on weathering was referred to, the value of a rough texture in breaking up the water streams on the face of a building being considered important.

LIGHTING

1072

White Cement Floors

Anon: WHITE CEMENT FLOORS FOR BETTER LIGHT. *Engineering News Record*, March 12, 1942, and June 25, 1942. Value of light coloured floors for improving factory lighting. Examples show they have proved practicable and economical proposition in aeroplane factories. White cement floors used. Methods of laying and maintenance described.

Early last year several American journals reported the use of white floors in aeroplane assembly sheds to improve the light for work on the shadowed undersides of the wings. Construction, briefly, was as follows:

The screed concrete was prepared to a mix of 1 : 2½, of white cement and white silica sand, great care being taken to ensure that the latter was free from any discolouring matter. A hardener was added. The screed was laid and levelled to a thickness of ¾ in., before the sub-floor had completed its set. Following the initial set of the screed, it was given a preliminary finish with power-driven rotating trowels, and a final finish by hand with celluloid trowels. The surface was then sprayed with two coats of 1 : 4 sodium silicate solution, and cured and protected during subsequent construction work. When construction had been completed, the protective covering for the floor was removed, the surface well washed, and polished. The cost is stated to have been the equivalent of about 3d. extra per sq. ft. The reflection factor, when new, was 44 per cent., as compared with 27 per cent. for normal grey concrete.

The effect on lighting has been assessed by measurements in the vertical plane, rather than the horizontal, since this is more representative of the conditions encountered under the wings of the aircraft. Compared with the illumination in sheds floored with grey concrete, there was an improvement of some 20 per cent., or, in other words, the lighting under the wings is equivalent to what would normally have been secured by 20 per cent. more lighting fixtures. This was interpreted as justifying the extra cost.

PATENT WELDED TUBULAR CONSTRUCTION

Data Sheet No. 11

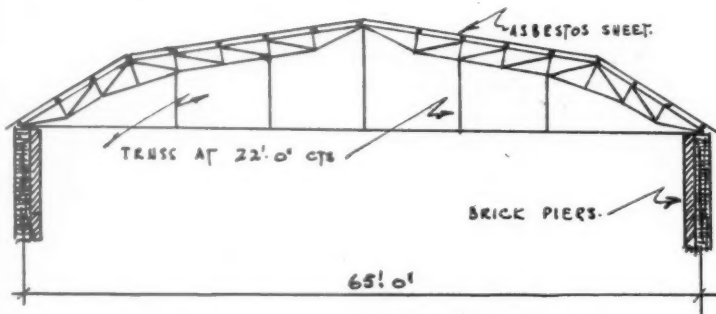


Fig. 22. Composite tubular roof truss used in conjunction with brick construction.

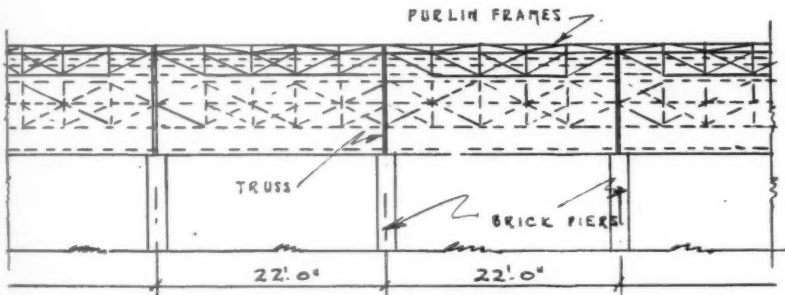


Fig. 23. Elevational detail.

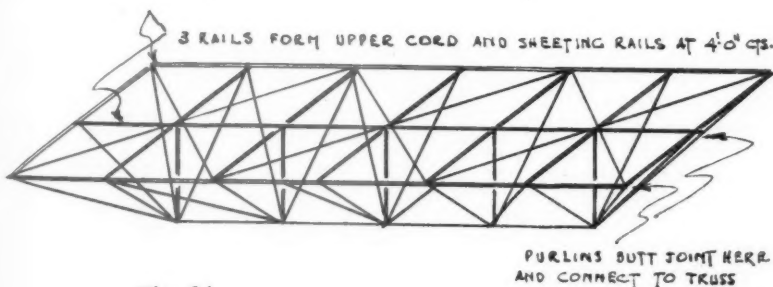
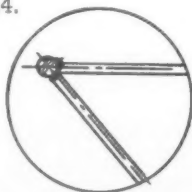


Fig. 24.



INSET CIRCLE SHOWS SIMPLE DIRECTIONAL JOINT WHICH IS ONLY COMMON TO TUBE SECTION

Triangular girder detail, a form of directional jointing only possible with the tubular section.

IN CONJUNCTION WITH BRICK CONSTRUCTION

This sheet demonstrates a satisfactory method of employing standard tubular roof principles in conjunction with brick construction, the tubular principles being placed at 22 ft. centres.

The tubular design and assembly only differs in minor details from the examples shewn in previous data sheets. The purlins are of the same fabricated beam construction but, instead of being used as single members, they are framed into triangular girders, the upper chord being three members at 4 ft. 6 in. centres (Fig. 24).

At first glance Fig. 24 would appear to indicate intricacy of design and fabrication, but the inset detail shews its real simplicity — this simple form of directional jointing can only be used with tubular steel members, the circular section allowing braces and diagonals to be used in any direction.

A structure of this type 80 ft. in length and with a roof span of 65 ft., has a total steel tonnage of 7.0, and cost details of roof construction and assembly (inclusive of delivery, erection and asbestos-cement covering) are available.

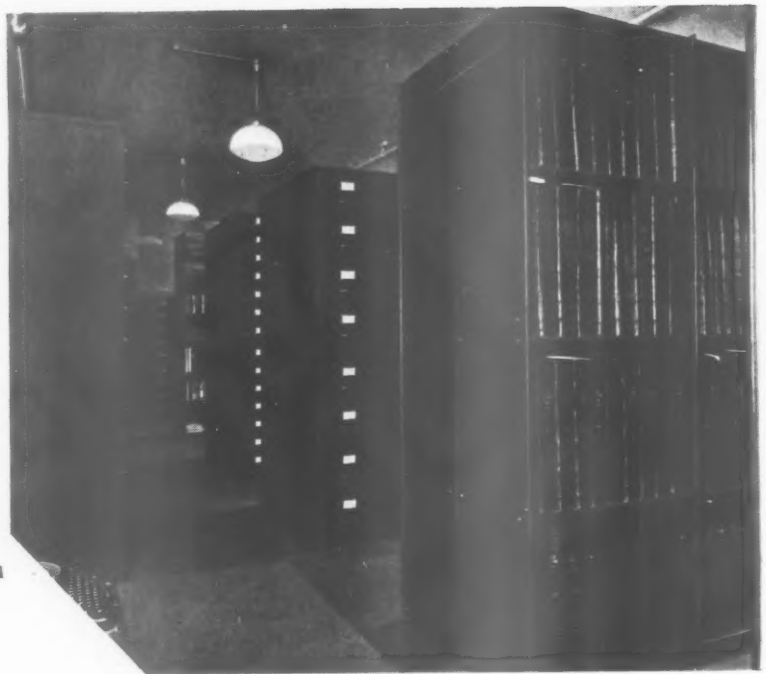
NOTE—These data sheets are appearing weekly in THE ARCHITECTS' JOURNAL—they are now available in complete Folder form and application for these Folders should be addressed to Scaffolding [Great Britain] Limited, 77, Easton Street, High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire.

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Recently, reports have been provided of the conditions of typical floors after six months of service. The floors are now stated to have become as dirty as they will normally get, and have dropped in reflection value to some 36 per cent., while the grey concrete floors have dropped to about 20 per cent. The floors are maintained by sweeping daily, damp mopping once each month, and scrubbing every two or three months.

Even assuming that aircraft assembly is a relatively clean trade, there appears to be no doubt that the floors give an unexpectedly good performance, and must provide greatly improved conditions for work beneath the wings of the plane. In more normal times when aircraft assembly is perhaps less widespread, the treatment might be found useful for other trades. It is not likely to contribute to eye comfort, and it may even be unpleasant unless the walls and ceilings are equally bright. Our eyes are more accustomed to having the upper part of the view brighter than the lower part.

QUESTIONS

and answers

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, 45, The Avenue, Cheam, Surrey

1073

Holidays with Pay

Q Could you give me some details of the "Holidays with Pay" scheme which I believe started on February 1?

A We suggest that you get in touch with the Building and Civil Engineering Holidays Scheme Management, Ltd., 82, New Cavendish Street, London, W.1, for full particulars.

1. Briefly, the scheme provides that each operative shall be credited with 1s. 6d. per week by the employer first employing him in the particular week (the week commencing on a Monday).

The first period is from February 1 to April 4, 1943, and subsequent period will be yearly periods commencing on the first Monday in April. The sums credited during the first period will be for holidays during 1943, the sums credited from April 5, 1943, up to (but not including) the first Monday in April, 1944, will be for holidays during 1944 and so on.

Operatives are only entitled to their weekly credit if they are working for

the whole or part of the week and will not receive credit if they are away a whole week, even when ill.

Operatives are entitled to an annual holiday of six consecutive working days at any time, agreed by the employer, between April 1 and October 31.

A sum equivalent to the total credits made during the appropriate period will be paid to the operative by the employer on the pay day prior to the holiday, less an administrative charge. The administrative charge for the first period has been fixed at 6d. per operative.

The operation of the scheme is by means of cards. The employer obtains the cards from the Management Company and distributes them to the men. The credit is made by affixing a stamp, purchased by the employer from the Management Company, to the card.

When a cash payment is made to the man, the operative receipts the card and hands it to his employer who submits it to the Management Company for reimbursement.

2. The scheme applies to all operatives whose wages and conditions are governed by the Working Rule Agreements of the National Joint Council and/or the Civil Engineering Conciliation Board. Foremen who are in receipt of a weekly wage may be included in the scheme by a voluntary decision of the employer.

3. Some enquirers have found it difficult to see that the employer is not required to pay twice over, so perhaps this should be clarified.

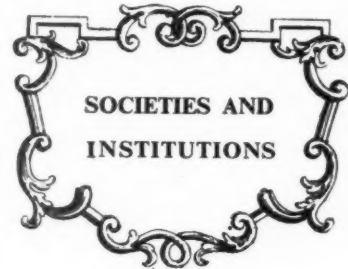
In the first place the employer is required to purchase stamps weekly. This is his contribution, which is not directly recoverable, and which is a fair one because it is based on the number of men he employs each week during the course of the year.

Secondly, and solely to prevent the necessity for each man collecting his pay from the Management Company direct, the employer is made responsible for making the cash payments due to the men going on holiday, but these payments are recoverable from the Management Company which has already received equivalent payment (for stamps) from perhaps a number of employers during the course of the year.

It is clear that this complication was necessary as it would have been quite unfair if the employer's contribution had been based on the number of men who happened to be in his employ at the holiday period.

In the case of Prime Cost Contracts or Dayworks, the 1s. 6d. weekly payments will rank as wages payments and in the case of Contracts let before December 11, 1942, which contain a Cost Variation Clause, the payments will rank as "recoverable expenditure."

It is understood that Government Departments will expect contractors to include for the costs in their tenders, in the case of all Contracts let after December 11, 1942.



Speeches and lectures delivered before societies, as well as reports of their activities, are dealt with under this title, which includes trade associations, Government departments, Parliament and professional societies. To economise space the bodies concerned are represented by their initials, but the hazy or lazy reader can look up their meaning in the list of Journal abbreviations on the contents page. In cases where the abbreviations are not shown there the name of the association is given in brackets here. Except where inverted commas are used, the reports are summaries and not verbatim.

RSA

R. G. Glenday

February 10, 1943, at John Adam Street, W.C.2. A paper on "Location of Industry," read by R. G. Glenday, M.C., M.A., LL.B., Economic Adviser, Federation of British Industries. President: N. V. Kipping, J.P., M.I.E.E., M.I.P.E., Head of the Regional Organization, Ministry of Production.

R. G. Glenday: Fundamentally, the problem of locating a country's industries and urban centres is part of the larger problem of adjusting a population to its environment. The main reason why this adjustment has been extraordinarily difficult to achieve throughout human history is that alteration in the basic method of economic exploitation of a country's environment almost invariably has an effect on the rate of population growth; and this in its turn leads to a progressive modification of the siting, size and arrangements of its towns, industries and communications, which in their turn influence population growth. One reason why the distribution of populations and their industries is giving rise to so many acute problems in present-day economic systems, is that their rates of growth during the past hundred and fifty years or so have been unique in human history.

The ever-growing demands for iron and coal which accompanied the industrial revolution, coupled with the primitive character of the

transport facilities of the day, led manufacturers employing these materials to site their industries near the iron and coal fields to ensure regularity of supplies and avoid high transport charges. Moreover the other leading expanding industry of the times—textiles—required a humid climate which could only be found in the North. Therefore the trend of industry was towards Lancashire, South Yorkshire, South Wales and the Clyde. The two main factors which subsequently influenced the location of industries and industrial towns were, first, the development of the railway and steamship in the nineteenth century—coupled with the adoption of Free Trade—and second, the development of road transport and electrical transmission in the twentieth century. Like the Railway Age, the Motor Age brought changes which entirely altered the range of communications and the mobility of transport and power. Both groups of inventions started waves of new capital development in entirely new directions.

The development of so many of our modern towns throughout their history has been largely an adventure into the unknown. To build a new town to-day, with decades of experience of the effects on town planning of such things as railways, motorization and electrification to draw on, would, of course, be a relatively easy matter. But to transfer the personnel and industries of an existing old town of large size to a new area is a task which may well daunt any but the boldest, both from the personal and human aspect of the inhabitants, and on financial grounds.

In the future the two main questions we have to examine are: First, what is likely to be the probable size and quality of the population which has to be located?; and second, what is the probable direction likely to be taken by the forces of economic evolution so far as provision of occupation for that population is concerned? There is no immediate prospect of going back to the days of rapid increase in population of nineteenth century days.

Certain tendencies in regard to employment before the war are likely to be resumed after the war, and these may be summed up by saying that industry proper was no longer providing the main expanding channels of employment for new additions to the population, and for those displaced from existing occupations by increases in efficiency and similar reasons. Its place was being taken by "services." This decline in the relative importance of industry proper was associated with a change in the relative growths of different parts of the country and a decentralization of urban areas, which has been loosely described as "the drift to the South."

The circumstances of war have, for the time being, entirely reversed the pre-war trends. Many of the stagnant industries have not only been revived, but expanded to a degree beyond anything believed possible. On the other hand, a large number of peace-time industries and occupations have been scaled down, "concentrated," and even cut out altogether for the duration of the war. These changes have been accompanied by a migration of population and industrial location in a direction entirely contrary to that of the past two decades.

The primary reconstruction problem will not be so much one of choosing the regions in which new industries are to be established, as of selecting those in which over-expanded war industries are to be contracted. In the near future our main industrial pre-occupation is likely to be the development of alternatives and artificial substitutes for traditional raw materials and replacement and concentration in existing industries and production centres. Few seem to realise that the trend in world industry is towards "concentration," that is, less and less labour and investment to do more and more work.

More than likely such problems will be settled increasingly in consultation with the State or with a planning authority to suit the needs of a stationary or declining population; less and less by open competition and *laissez-faire* as heretofore.

CSI

Uthwatt Report

February 9, 1943, at Great George Street, S.W.1. Ordinary General Meeting. Agenda: Discussion on the Report of the Uthwatt Committee on Compensation and Betterment. Part 1 on "The Development Rights Scheme," opened by Mr. Sydney A. Smith (Fellow). Part 2 on "The Scheme for a Levy on Increases in Annual Site Value," opened by Mr. H. P. Nye (Fellow).

S. A. Smith: The Uthwatt Report starts with two assumptions and its recommendations are based thereon, namely:—(a) That national (as opposed to local) planning will be a reality and a permanent feature of our administration and that this will involve a subordination to the public good of the personal interests and wishes of landowners. (b) That the national Planning must be conducted with a high degree of initiation and control by the Central Planning Authority—with national as well as local interests in mind and the backing of national financial resources.

The logical consequence of the Committee's assumptions and propositions would seem to be complete nationalization of land. The Committee reject this solution on grounds of impracticability; the political controversy which would result; the delay and the magnitude of the financial operations involved and the complicated administrative machinery necessary.

The acquisition of Development Rights by the State is to apply to all the undeveloped land in the country outside built-up areas. It will exclude towns and villages, the undeveloped land within them, existing dwelling-houses outside developed areas, and the land held therewith up to one acre, premises used or adapted for trade, business or industry and properties temporarily derelict. All land is to be excluded, even if undeveloped land, which lies within the limits of a town in its popular sense.

The ownership of all development rights by the State will overcome, by elimination, the betterment-organization problem outside the towns. It should secure for the State betterment which is due to community influences. It will enable many of the recommendations of the Barlow Commission to be met. Boundary difficulties may be avoided and speculation in freehold land may be curtailed.

For the positive planning contemplated, control of the whole country is obviously desirable. Unification may secure to the State, parts at any rate of values which might perhaps, by planning, be shifted to other land.

The administration under the scheme will be important. It is to be by the same body as controls planning, and management will be directed to forwarding the interests of planning.

The one-sided method of settling compensation is disturbing. The report is not convincing as to its practicability and gives rise to the question whether the vast extension of bureaucratic control which it envisages is likely to achieve results that will make it worth while. If the scheme is wrong, it will not be simple to abandon, as were the Land Values Duties of 1910. If it is adopted surveyors will have a large share in carrying out its operation.

H. P. Nye: Unless both parts of the scheme are adopted, either part might by itself be workable, but if the development rights outside built-up areas are acquired, land in built-up areas will be in a preferential position unless the second part, or some alternative is adopted.

The Committee recommends that general powers be given to local authorities to buy land for recoupment purposes, subject to the

sanction of the Central Planning Authority, and that the present system of collecting betterment under the Town and Country Planning Act, 1932, should be abandoned in favour of a periodic levy on increases in annual site value. The Committee suggests 75 per cent. of the increase. Annual site value is not defined but it appears to mean the rent at the relevant date at which the site might reasonably be expected to let from year to year, as then actually and physically developed and as if it were permanently restricted against any other form of development than that then existing. The scheme does not include agricultural land.

The levy is to be borne by the person who is in enjoyment of the increase. If a property comes into public ownership through the operation of the Development Rights Scheme and is developed, it does not remain outside the levy scheme. Property which becomes unoccupied, including bare sites, continues to be liable to the levy.

Under the Development Rights scheme the whole of the increase between the date of acquisition of the rights and the grant of a lease for development would accrue to the State in the fixing of the ground rent. Any increase after the grant of the lease would come under the levy scheme and be liable to 75 per cent. duty on the increase. If the levy scheme is discriminatory, does not the same remark apply to the Developments Rights scheme? Both the schemes endeavour to recover betterment and the main reason for the difference in method is because it is not contemplated that the proceeds in the built-up areas would justify the great expense of acquisition and administration, and the levy scheme has been put forward as comparatively simple and inexpensive.

ICE

After the War

February 4, 1943. Concluding meeting of a series on "Civil Engineers and the Building Industry," dealing with post-war building. Speakers: Lord Reith, Sir Ernest Simon and Sir Charles Hindley. Lord Portal was present but did not speak. Chairman: Sir John Thornycroft, President of the Institution.

Lord Reith: The internal ordering of the construction industry, i.e. civil engineering and building, had better be done by the industry itself than by politicians and civil servants. Nevertheless, after the war there is bound to be some control of the production and distribution of building materials and plant. The word direction may be better than control, but the better the internal order of the industry the less direction will be needed. There should be a statutory board to give directions as regards materials, plant, equipment, areas of service and so forth; and there should be another statutory board to give necessary direction to civil engineers and builders in their actual operations. There might be a register of firms with some conditions of entry, some quantitative and qualitative criteria in the placing of contracts, and also perhaps some measure of regionalisation.

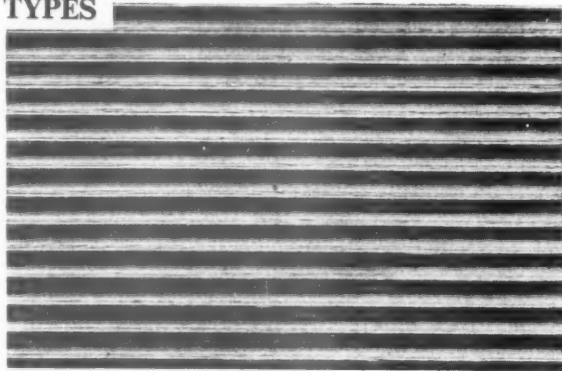
Sir Ernest Simon: In tackling our building programme after the war, we ought to begin with the man-power plan. After the last war we had a bitter experience. Housing contracts were placed in large numbers, and then it was found there were no bricks, bricklayers or skilled workers available. After the last war it took fifteen years before the industry reached the scale where we could build 100,000 houses a year, but this time it may be possible to reach that scale in five years. Then we should

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TYPES



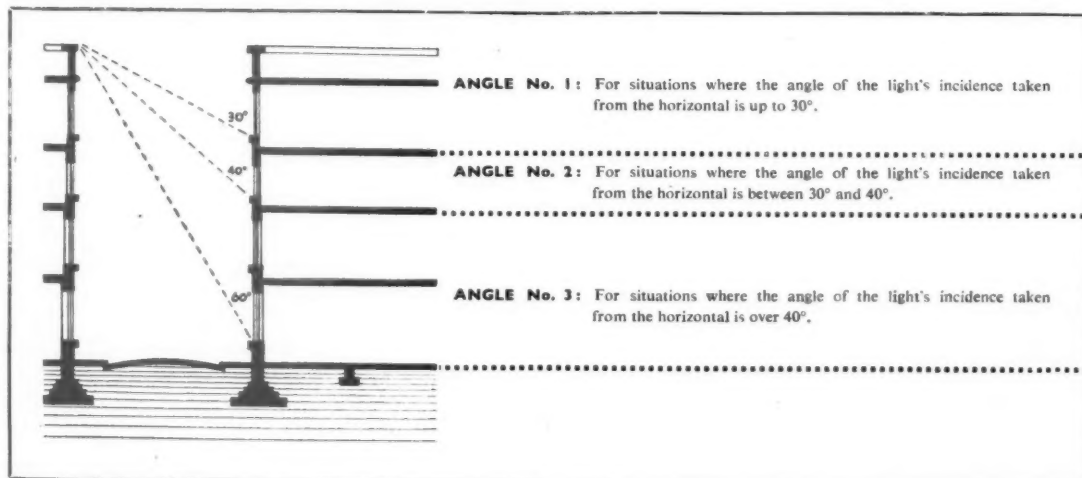
Angle
No. 1



Angle
No. 2



Angle
No. 3



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The glass to be fixed with the prisms running horizontally and on the inside of the window.

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slow down, and when the programme was finished, get back to normal scale. Once people are absorbed into the industry they must be guaranteed something approaching continuous employment, and that means the building plan will have to conform to the man-power plan. During the first years there should be a licensing system. After that there will be the danger of a slump, and there should be a shelf of public works. Plans and sites for these should be ready, so that orders can be placed and people kept employed. One of the things we have to do after the war is to start a campaign for rebuilding Britain in one generation. It can be done.

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DIARY

February 23.—Housing Centre, 12.45 p.m. lunch, 1.15 p.m. Lecture, "The Building Industry and Post-War Housing." By Robert G. Tarran. Admission, members 3d., non-members 6d.

February 25.—Rebuilding Britain Exhibition at National Gallery. To be opened by Sir William Beveridge, 2.30 p.m. Apply for card of admission to RIBA Reconstruction Committee, 66, Portland Place, W.1.

February 27.—Leeds School of Architecture, Leeds College of Art, "The English Countryside." By R. H. Mattocks, Dipl. C.D., P.P.T.P.I.

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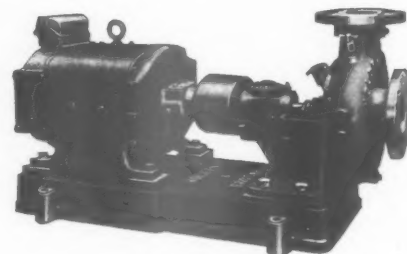
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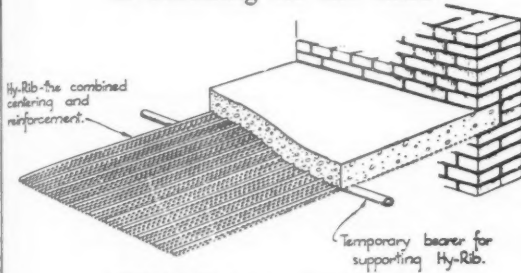
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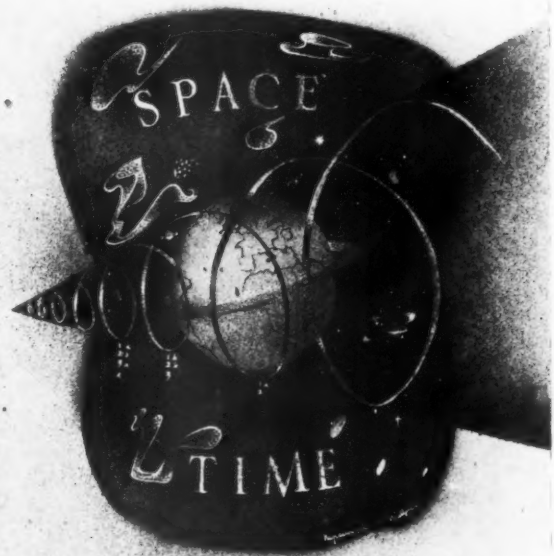
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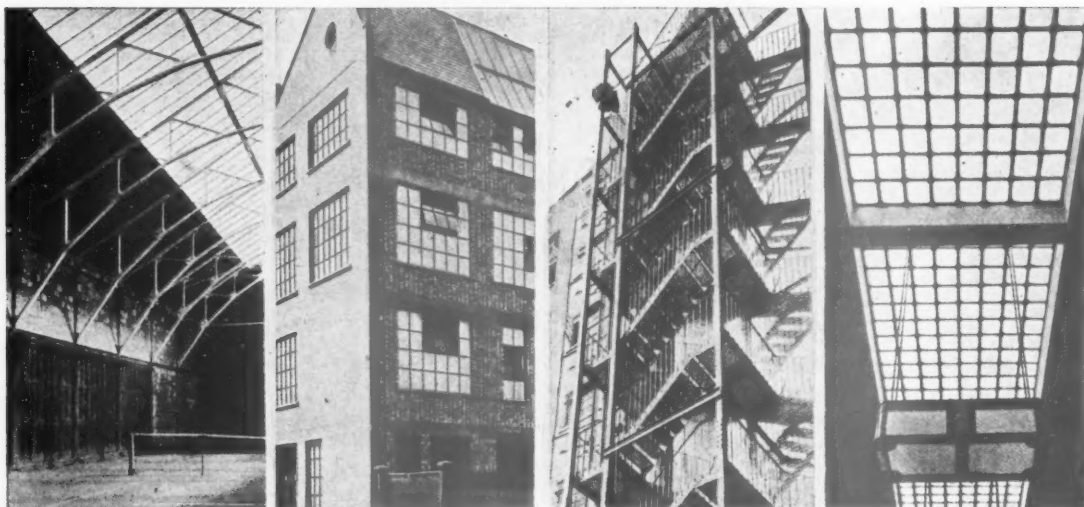
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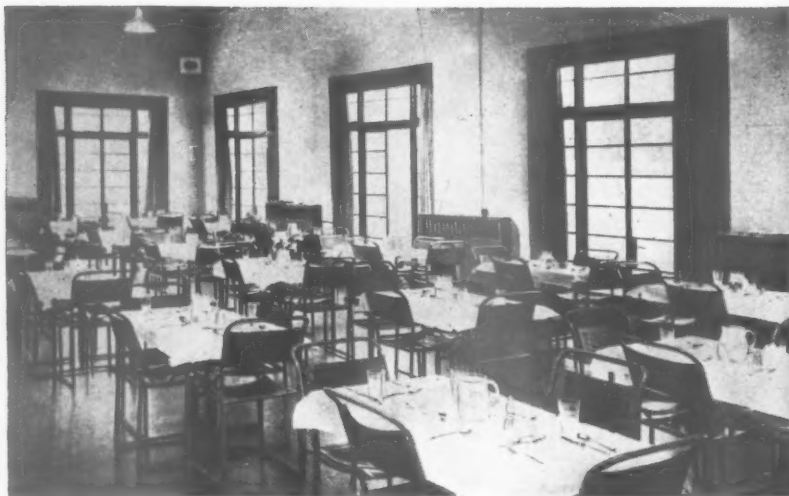
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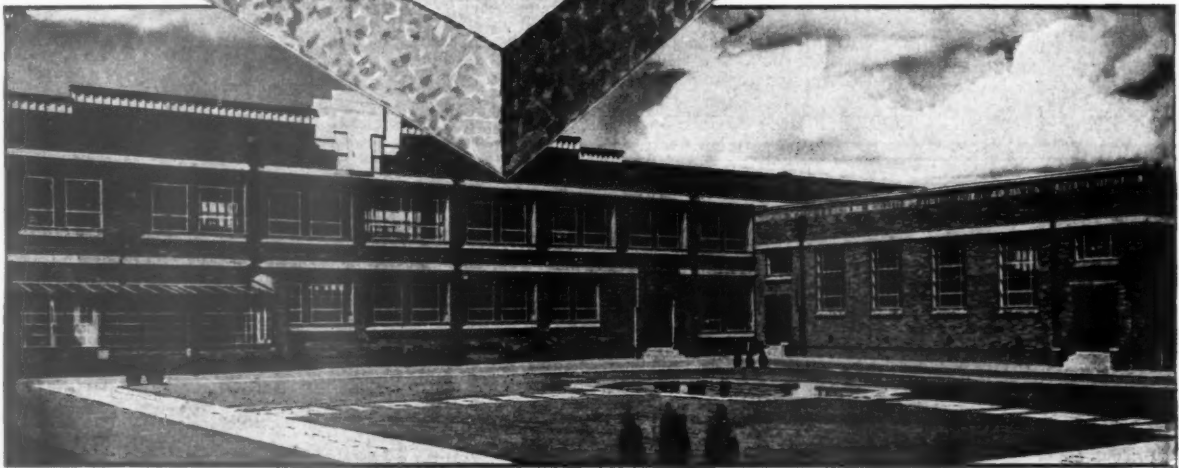
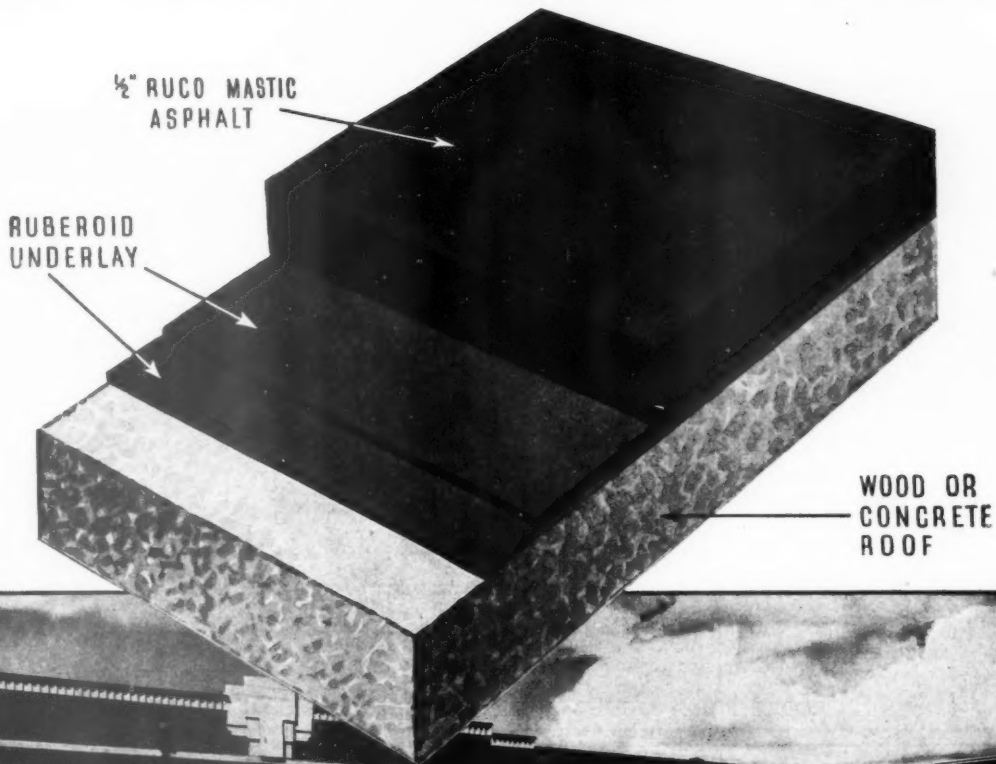
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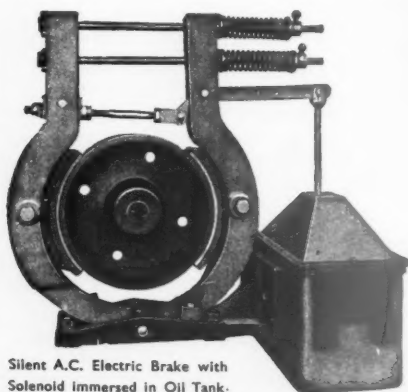
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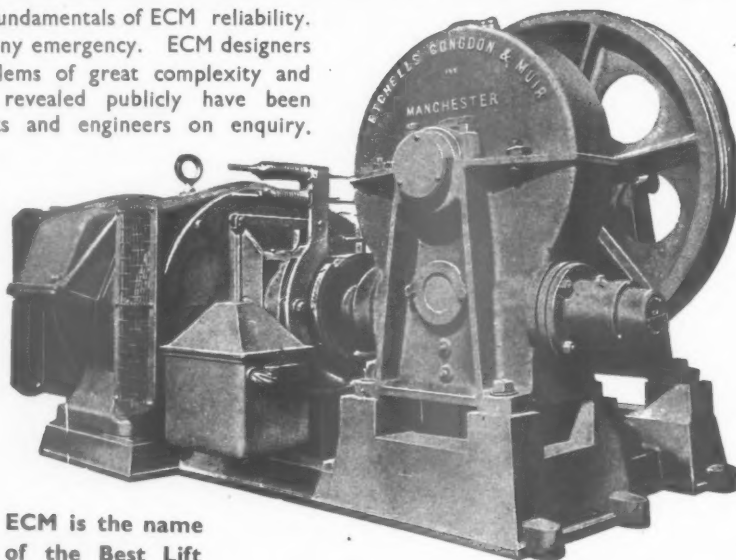
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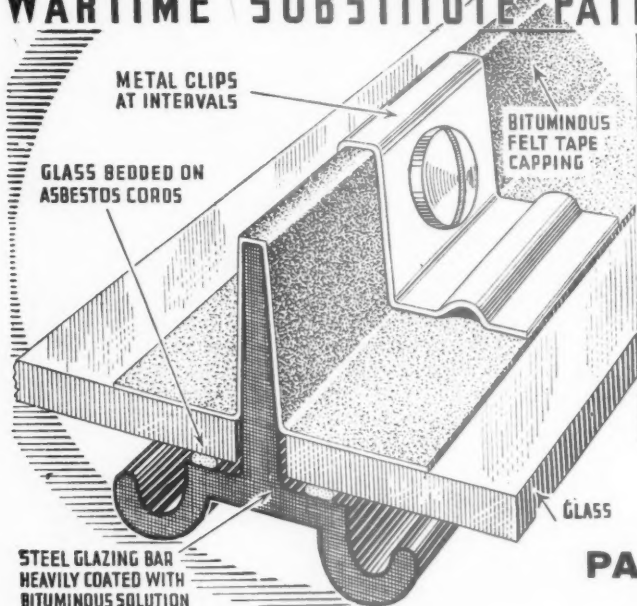
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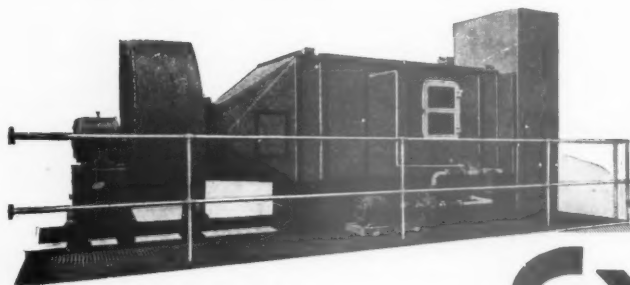
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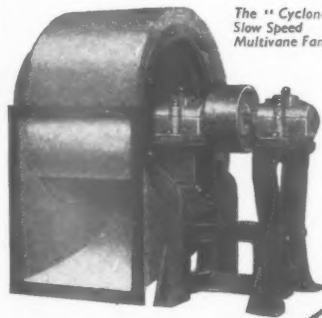
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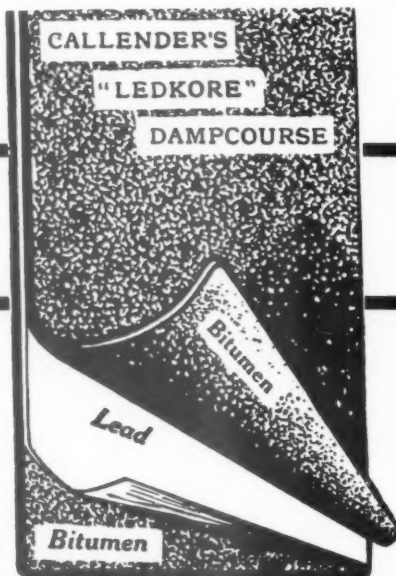
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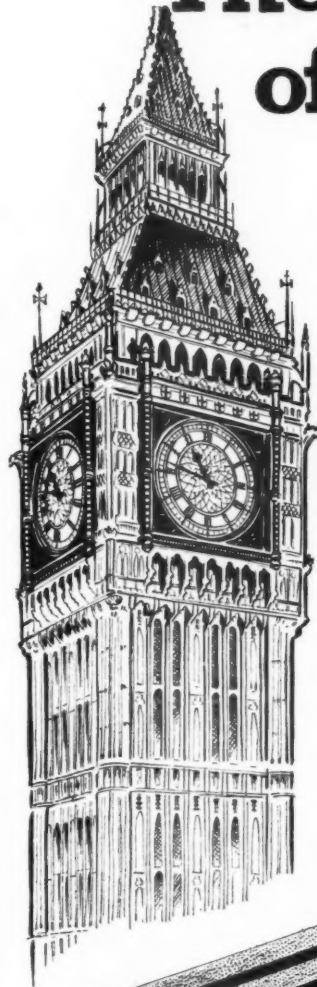
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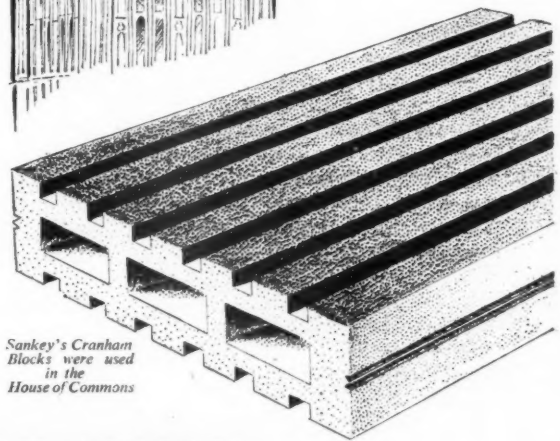
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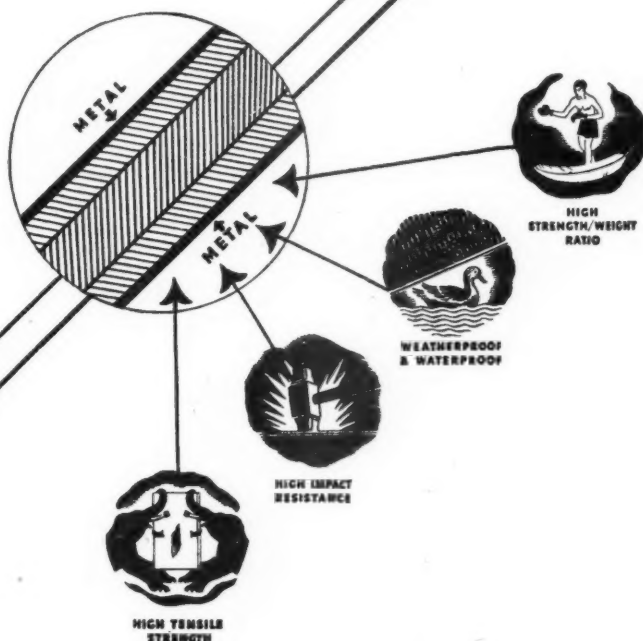
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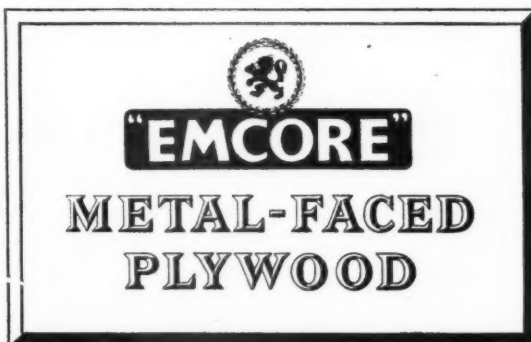


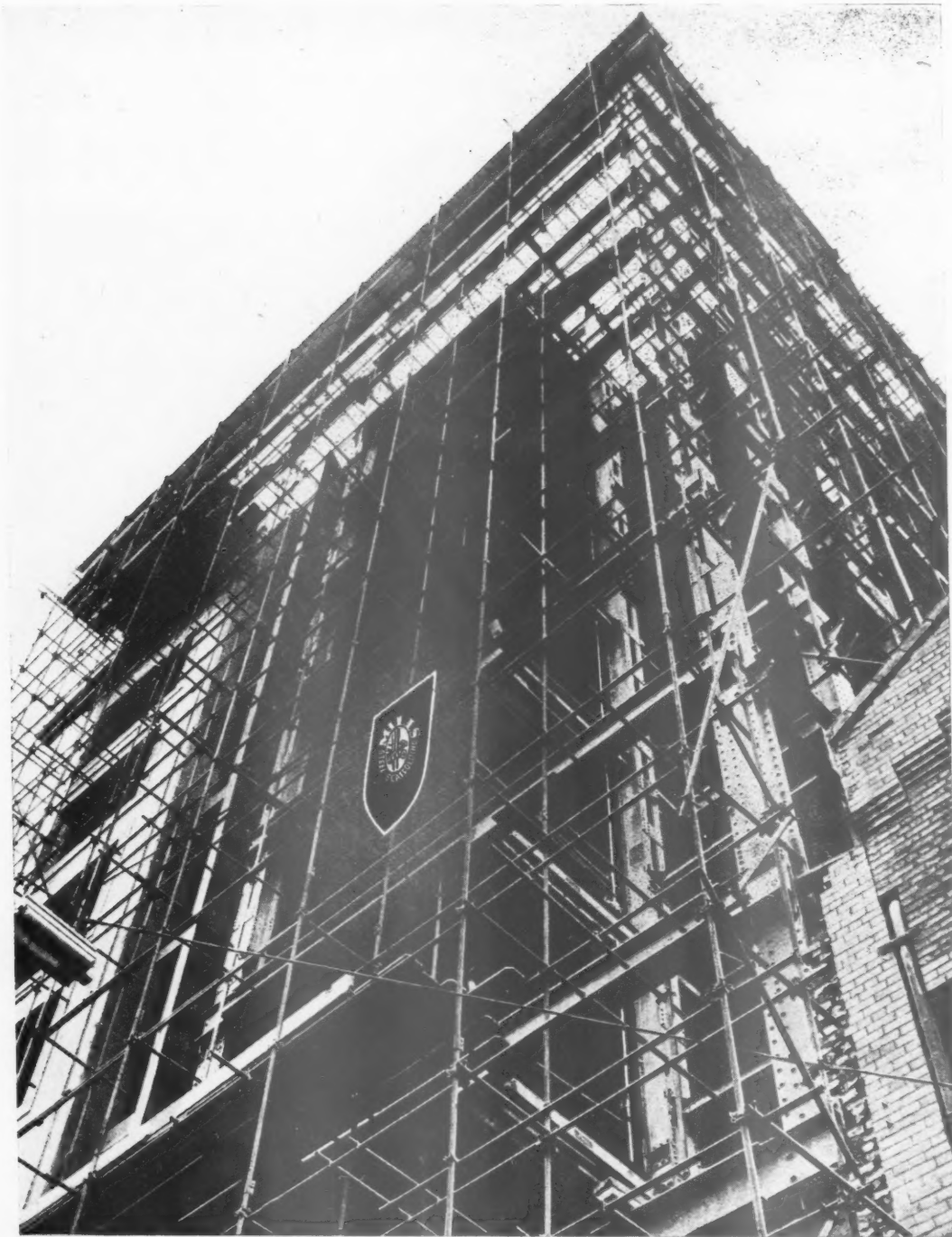
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