THE ARCHITECTS' JOURNAL

No. 2516] [VOL. 97
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★ The war has both multiplied the number of Official Departments and encouraged Societies and Committees of all kinds to become more vocal. The result is a growing output of official and group propaganda. To report this with conciseness and economy THE JOURNAL has found it necessary to make greater use of abbreviations. Most of these are in common usage, but for the reader to whom they are unfamiliar a glossary is now provided below, together with the full address and telephone number of the organizations concerned. In all cases where the town is not mentioned the word LONDON is implicit in the address. This list incidentally gives a comprehensive picture of the building and planning set-up as it is to-day. To find room for it on the cover, the only place where it can be effectively useful, the cover itself has had to be slightly re-arranged.

AA	Architectural Association. 34/6, Bedford Square, W.C.1.	Museum 0974.
ABCA	Army Bureau of Current Affairs. Curzon House, Curzon Street, W.1.	Mayfair 9400 (Extension 461).
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.
ASB	Architectural Science Board of the Royal Institute of British Architects, 66, Portland Place, W.1.	Welbeck 6927.
BC	Building Centre. 23, Maddox Street, W.1.	Mayfair 2128.
BINC	Building Industries National Council. 110, Bickenhall Mansions, W.1.	Welbeck 3335.
BCGA	British Commercial Gas Assn. 1, Grosvenor Place, S.W.1.	Sloane 4554.
BEDA	British Electrical Development Association. 2, Savoy Hill, W.C.2.	Temple Bar 9434.
BIAE	British Institute of Adult Education. 29, Tavistock Square, W.C.1.	Euston 5385.
BOE	Board of Education. Alexandra House, Kingsway, W.C.2.	Temple Bar 8020.
BOT	Board of Trade. Millbank, S.W.1.	Whitehall 5140.
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.
CCA	Cement and Concrete Association. 52, Grosvenor Gardens, S.W.1.	Sloane 5255.
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 2664.
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.
IRA	Institute of Registered Architects. 47, Victoria Street, S.W.1.	Abbey 6172.
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. 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.
MOT	Ministry of Transport. Berkeley Square House, Berkeley Square, W.1.	Abbey 7711.
MOTCP	Ministry of Town and Country Planning. 32-33, St. James's Square, S.W.1.	
MOW	Ministry of Works. Lambeth Bridge House, S.E.1.	Reliance 7611.
NBR	National Buildings Record. 66, Portland Place, W.1. All Souls' College, Oxford.	Welbeck 1881. Oxford 48809.
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, Lambeth Bridge House, S.E.1.	Reliance 7611.
RC	Reconstruction Committee RIBA. 66, Portland Place, W.1.	Welbeck 6927.
RCA	Reinforced Concrete Association. 91, Petty France, S.W.1.	Whitehall 9936.
RIAI	Royal Institute of Architects of Ireland. 8, Merrion Square, N. Dublin.	
RIAS	Royal Incorporation of Architects in Scotland. 15, Rutland Square, Edinburgh.	
RIBA	Royal Institute of British Architects. 66, Portland Place, W.1.	Welbeck 5721.
RS	Royal Society. Burlington House, Piccadilly, W.1.	Regent 3335.
RSA	Royal Society of Arts. 6, John Adam Street, W.C.2.	Temple Bar 8274.
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.
TDA	Timber Development Association. 75, Cannon Street, E.C.4.	City 6147.
TPI	Town Planning Institute. 11, Arundel Street, Strand, W.C.2.	Temple Bar 4985.
ZDA	Zinc Development Association. 15, Turl Street, Oxford.	Oxford 47988.

Alphabetical Index to Advertisers

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

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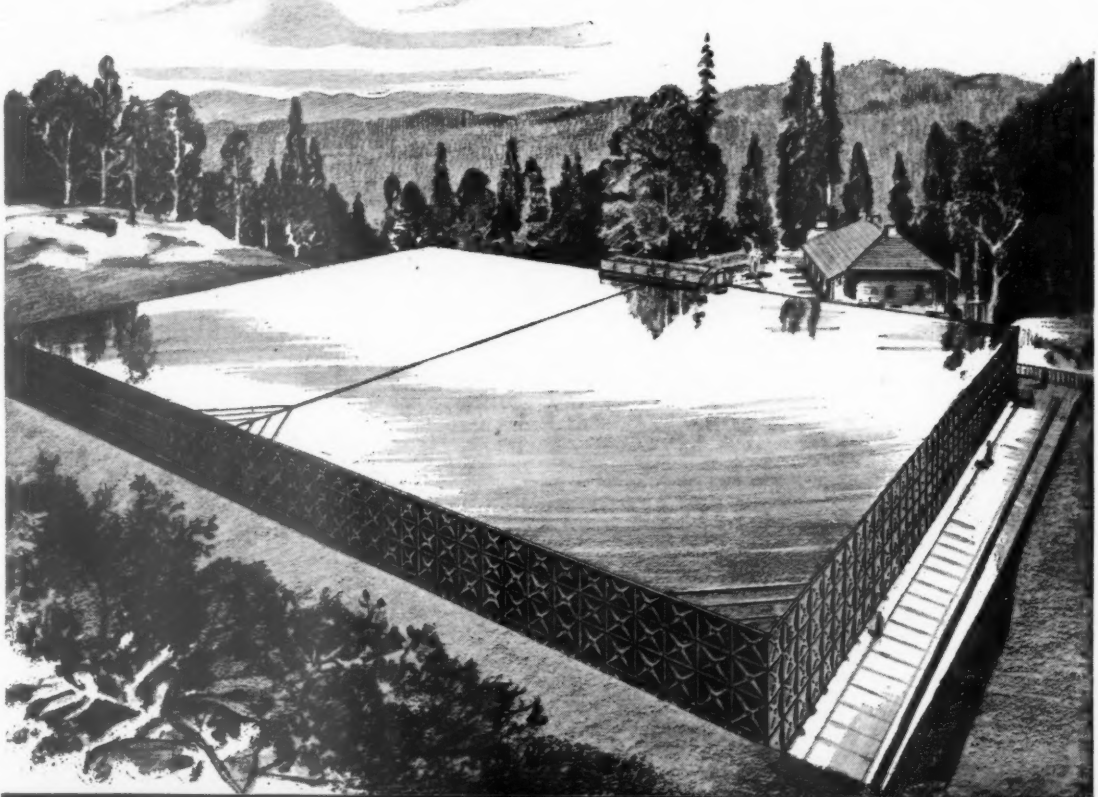

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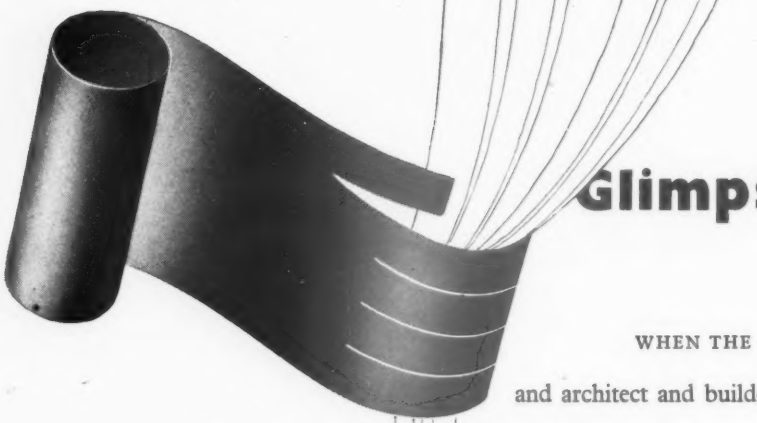

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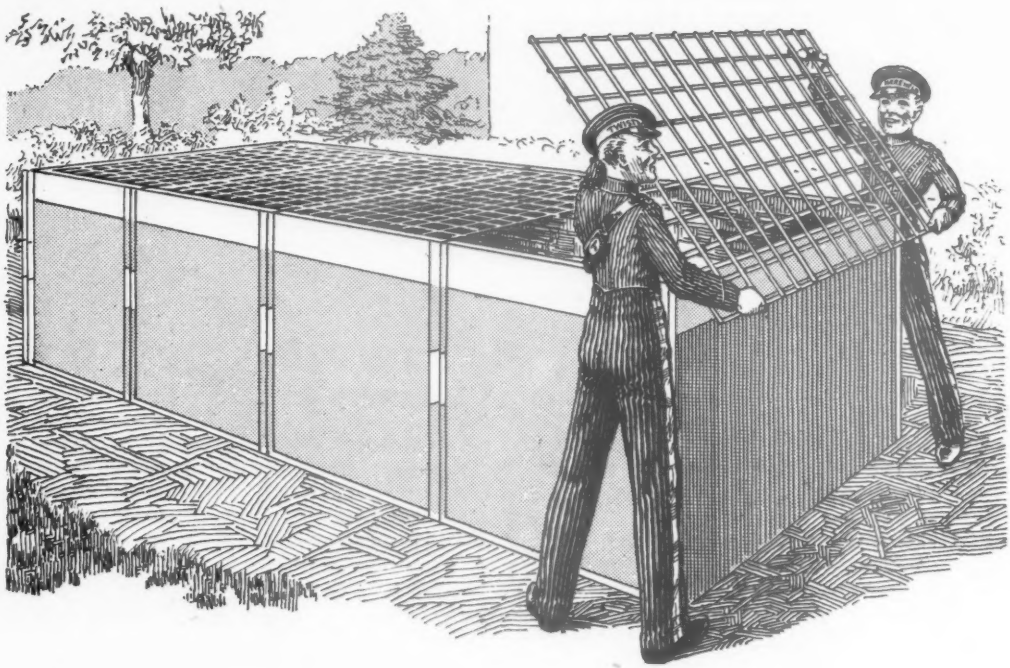

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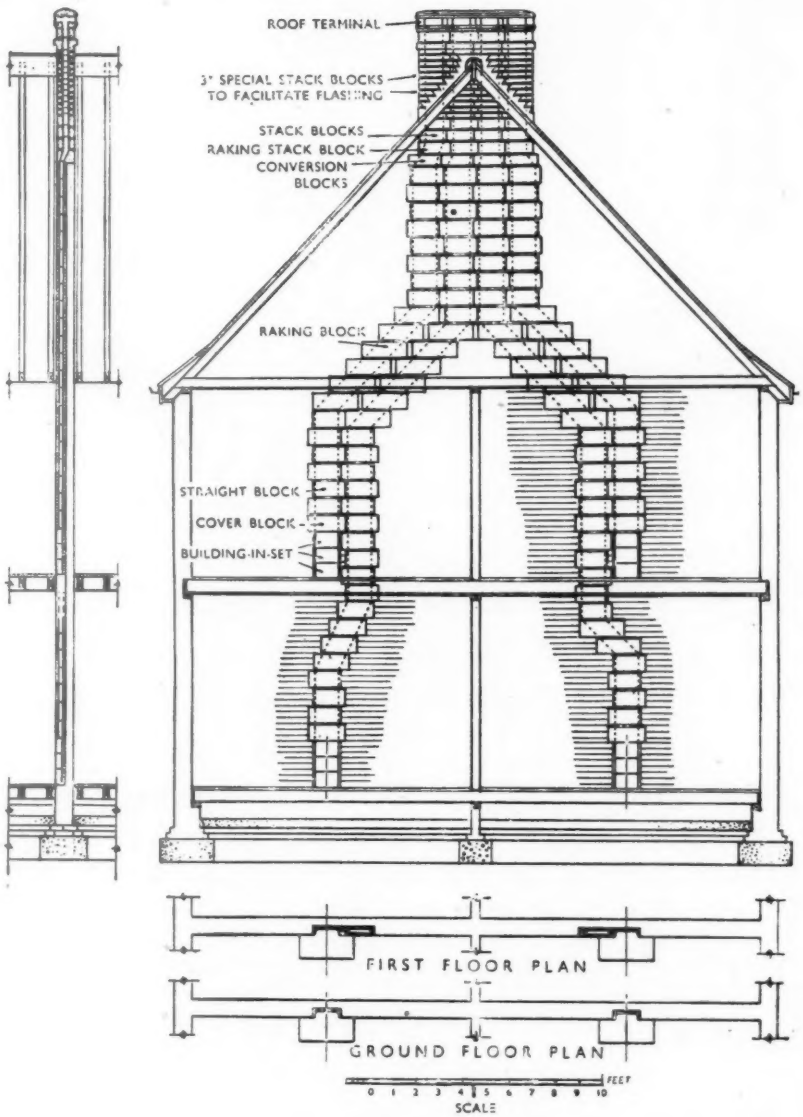

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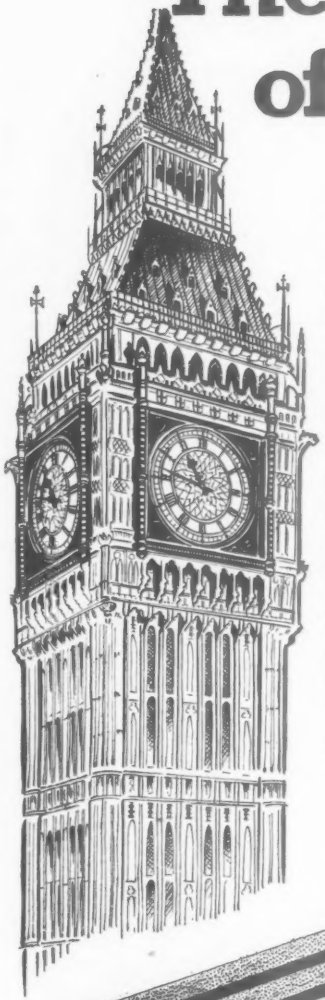

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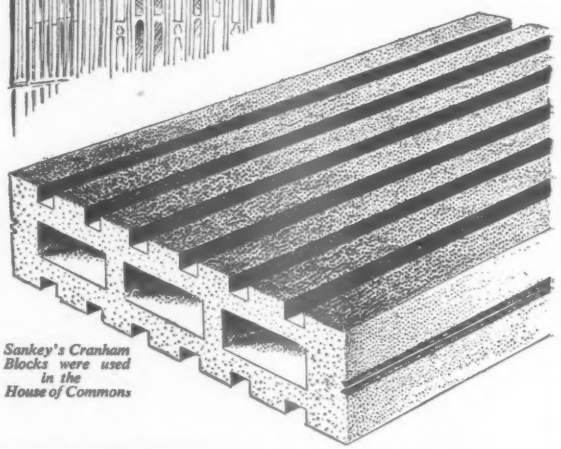

Sankey's Cranham Blocks were used in the House of Commons

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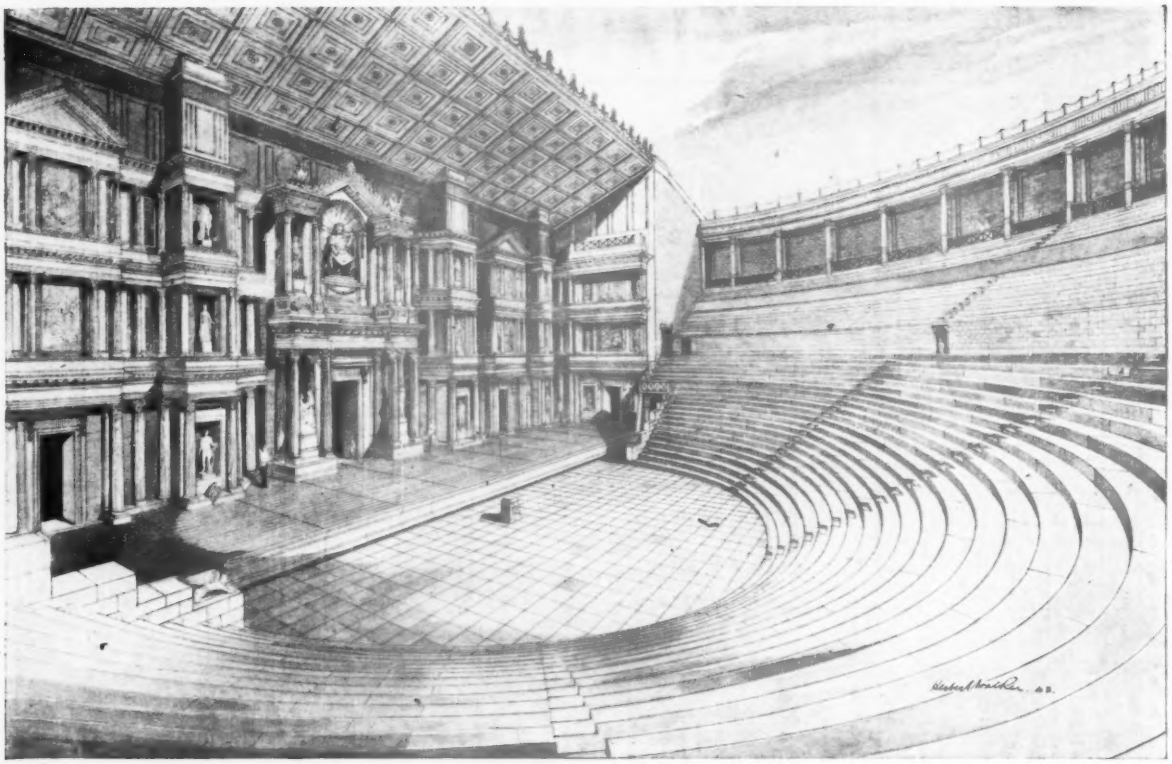


An impression of the Theatre, Orange, reconstructed by the artist

THE THEATRE, ORANGE

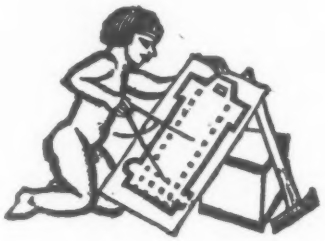
Drama gained rapidly in popularity as more and more scope was given to the players to enact the story. With the development of the stage, much less was left to the imagination; reality could be given to crowd scenes, there was room for action fitted to the words.

The Roman Theatre at Orange had a magnificent stage 203 feet wide by 42 feet deep. A great company of players could assemble to give the typical atmosphere for the most elaborate performances, and the superb architectural background was well suited to the style of the Roman drama and to the taste of the audiences.

The roof of the stage was a feature; it was constructed of beams rising from the back at an angle of 30 degrees and forming cantilevers tied in by rafters. From great wooden derricks behind, ropes would be stretched to pilasters along the top of the screen wall, and huge scolloped awnings could be drawn across the whole theatre.

The semicircle of the auditorium was 343 feet in diameter. Altogether some 7,300 people could be accommodated.

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.*



DIARY FOR APRIL-MAY

Titles of exhibitions, lectures and papers are printed in italics. In the case of papers and lectures the authors' names are put first. Sponsors are represented by their initials as given in the glossary of abbreviations on the front cover.

BOURNEMOUTH. *New Homes for Old Exhibition.* At Russell-Cotes Art Gallery and Museum. (Sponsor, HC.) APRIL 15 to 25

CAMBRIDGE. *Twenty Women at Home Exhibition.* (Sponsor, HC.) APRIL 29 to MAY 6

CHELTENHAM. *Englishman Builds Exhibition.* At the Museum and Art Gallery. (Sponsor, BIAE.) APRIL 17 to MAY 1

CHINGFORD. *Living In Cities Exhibition.* At the County High School. (Sponsor, BIAE.) APRIL 16 to 21

GIBRALTAR. *Homes to Live In Exhibition.* (Sponsor, BIAE.) Indefinite booking

HOLLAND. *Living in the Country Exhibition.* (Sponsor, HC.) APRIL 27

KETTERING. *Homes to Live In Exhibition.* At the Museum and Art Gallery. (Sponsor, BIAE.) APRIL 15 to 26

LONDON. *RIBA Rebuilding Britain Exhibition.* At National Gallery. APRIL 15 to MAY 1

Wartime Housing Exhibition. At HC. Photographs, plans and drawings of some of the housing built since the war, industrial hostels for single women workers built by the Ministry of Supply, family housing for workers in war industries and type plans and perspectives issued in connection with the Government programme of 3,000 agricultural houses. APRIL 15 to 22

Architectural Students' Association. Manchester University School of Architecture. Annual Congress. At King's and Birkbeck Colleges. APRIL 15 to 18

Arnold Marsh. *Smoke Abatement and Reconstruction.* At HC. 1.15 p.m. APRIL 20.

Richard L. Moon. *Planning Administration.* At RIBA. 6 p.m. APRIL 28

Councillor Miss E. E. Halton, Secretary Reconstruction Sub-Committee Red Cross. *Reconstruction and the Red Cross.* At HC. 12.45 p.m. MAY 4

Dr. T. Bedford, Investigator to the Industrial Health Research Board of the Medical Research Council. *Heating and Ventilating : Analysis.* At RIBA. 2.15 p.m. MAY 8

A. C. Pallot of MOW. *Heating and Ventilating : Application.* At RIBA. 2.15 p.m. MAY 8

Dr. Charles White, MOH City of London. *Hygiene and Sanitation : Analysis.* At RIBA. 2.15 p.m. MAY 8

F. Barrow, of BRS. *Hygiene and Sanitation : Application.* At RIBA. 2.15 p.m. MAY 8

Tom Harrison of Mass Observation. *Industrial Design and the Public.* Chairman : George Hicks, M.P. At RS, Burlington House, Piccadilly. 1.30 p.m. (12.45 p.m. buffet lunch, 2/6.) MAY 11

C. F. White, MOH, City of London. *Health Problems and Rebuilt London.* Chadwick Public Lecture. At Royal Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene. 26, Portland Place, W.1. 2.30 p.m. MAY 11.

H. C. Weston, Investigator to the Industrial Health Research Board of the Medical Research Council. *Lighting : Analysis.* At RIBA. 2.15 p.m. MAY 15

P. V. Burrett. *Lighting : Application Natural Light.* At RIBA. 2.15 p.m. MAY 15

R. Ackerley. *Lighting : Application Artificial Light.* At RIBA. 2.15 p.m. MAY 15

J. B. Priestley. *Urban Building After the War.* At AA. 6 p.m. MAY 25.

ROMSLEY. *Twenty Women at Home Exhibition.* (Sponsor, HC.) APRIL 21

SEATON. *Twenty Women at Home Exhibition.* At the Women's Institute. (Sponsor, HC.) APRIL 28

SOUTH PEVERTON. *Rural Housing Exhibition.* (Sponsor, HC.) APRIL 19

STOKE-ON-TRENT. *Your Inheritance Exhibition.* (Sponsor, HC.) APRIL 27 to MAY 4

SWINDON. *Twenty Women at Home Exhibition.* (Sponsor, HC.) APRIL 15 to 22

Your Inheritance Exhibition. (Sponsor, HC.) APRIL 15 to 22

TEDDINGTON. *Home from Home Exhibition.* (Sponsor, HC.) APRIL 8 to 12

WALTHAMSTOW. *Living in Cities Exhibition.* At the Educational Settlement. (Sponsor, BIAE.) APRIL 23 to 30

WELLINGTON. *Living in Cities Exhibition.* At the Girls' High School. (Sponsor, BIAE.) APRIL 19 to MAY 1

WIMBLEDON. *Englishman Builds Exhibition.* At School of Art, Merton Hall Road. (Sponsor, BIAE.) APRIL 15 to 17

WOOLWICH. *Englishman Builds Exhibition.* At the Town Hall. (Sponsor, BIAE.) APRIL 28 to MAY 12

WORCESTER. *Living in the Country Exhibition.* At the Victoria Institute. (Sponsor, HC.) APRIL 15 to MAY 3

NEWS

THURSDAY, APRIL 15, 1943
No. 2516. VOL. 97

Though no feature in The Journal *is without value for someone, there are often good reasons why certain news calls for special emphasis.* The Journal's *starring system is designed to give this emphasis, but without prejudice to the unstarred items which are often no less important.*

★ *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 feature marked with more than two stars is very big building news indeed.

MOW has combined the functions of the Directorates of EMERGENCY WORKS AND DEMOLITION and Recovery under the title of Directorate of Emergency Works and Recovery. The Minister has appointed Mr. G. M. Carter to be Director. Mr. J. M. Wilson, formerly Director of Emergency Works, is to be the Director of Works and Services in Scotland.

Sir A. Baillie asked the Minister of Agriculture, in the House of Commons, whether he is taking any steps to encourage the revival or REPLACEMENT OF VILLAGE LIGHT INDUSTRIES?

Mr. Hudson : Encouragement and assistance to the light industries normally carried on in the countryside are afforded by the rural industries bureau which, since 1921, has provided an intelligence and advisory service operating in association with the county rural community councils. The bureau is financed wholly from Government funds, and grants are also made in assistance of the work of the rural community councils.

from AN ARCHITECT'S *Commonplace Book*

KITCHENS LARGE AND SMALL. [*From* People's Homes, *a report conducted by Mass Observation.* John Murray.)] The large majority of London housewives cook on gas stoves and find them quite satisfactory. Yet there is a small but definite demand for electric cookers, particularly for post-war houses. Coal ranges, on the other hand, are strongly disliked if they are the only means of cooking. At the same time, people are attached to them in a sentimental way, and like them as a means of heating the room and for boiling a kettle now and then. People do not like to be cramped in their kitchen, but they do like having everything near at hand. On the other hand, kitchens must not be too small ; complaints that existing ones suffer from this defect come from one person in five. One person in three suggests that houses built after the war should have larger kitchens. The latter demand comes mainly from people who would like to eat as well as cook in their kitchen.

The Lord President of the Council has appointed Mr. A. Parker, D.Sc., TO BE DIRECTOR OF FUEL RESEARCH in the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research.

Dr. Parker joined the staff of the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research in 1928 as Assistant Director of Water Pollution Research. He had previously been engaged for some ten years on research for the Gas Industry, including full-scale experimental work, as Senior Research Chemist to the Joint Committee of the University of Leeds and the Institution of Gas Engineers. Since the outbreak of war he has been Acting Director of Water Pollution Research. He has served for many years on the Council of the Institution of Chemical Engineers and has been a Vice-President of the Institution.

Mr. Bossom asked the Parliamentary Secretary to MOW in the House of Commons whether he intends that existing building Acts, bye-laws and Regulations now in force shall apply to post-war construction, or to introduce substantial modifications to enable the NEW MATERIALS AND PROCESSES evolved in recent years to be adopted?

Mr. Hicks : My Noble Friend is aware of the desirability of taking all possible steps to make it possible throughout the country to adopt the best methods of construction and to make use of new materials and processes evolved in recent years. As soon as the present technical studies which my Ministry has in hand with the other Departments concerned are completed, consideration will be given to the need for action on the lines indicated by my hon. Friend. Mr. Bossom : May I ask him to be as speedy as possible in getting these Regulations issued to the public ? Mr. Hicks : Yes, Sir.

To obtain early and substantial expansion of kiln-drying capacity suitable for the treatment OF FRESH SAWN HOME-GROWN TIMBERS, particularly hardwoods, MOS Timber Control proposes to invite the participation of timber merchants and consumers.

Participation may be in the form of additional chambers to existing kilns, new kilns, the modernization of existing kilns, and greater output from existing facilities.

Preference will be given to the type of kiln recommended by Forest Products Research Laboratory, Princes Risborough, with overhead fans, steam heating and humidification. This will not, however, exclude consideration of other types employing fan-circulation and humidification, or of individual requirements relative to the extension or modernization of existing kilns. All proposals for new kilns or modernization of existing kilns should be submitted in the first place to Branch III/6, Clifton Down Hotel, Bristol, 8, for approval by Timber Control in respect of location, layout and other relevant factors. Envelopes to be addressed "Kilns." Having regard to the shortage of vital materials, preference will be given to those applications which comply more nearly with the following desiderata : (*a*) available surplus steam capacity of 100 lb. per hour or more at 30 lb. pressure or more. Alternatively a suitable and available secondhand boiler must at least have been located ; (*b*) sufficient wood or other waste fuel ; (*c*) sufficient suitable storage accommodation, covered and open ; (*d*) adequate road, rail or water access to premises ; (*e*) a nucleus of labour essential to operate the kilns. Assistance by Government Departments is available in connection with any proposals to increase kilning facilities MOS would be prepared in approved cases to consider the possibility of some form of financial assistance.

In the House of Commons Mr. De la Bere asked the Prime Minister whether, in view of the fact that at the present time FOUR OR MORE MINISTRIES ARE INTERESTED in, and dealing with, the proposals for the erection of farm cottages for agricultural workers, he will give an assurance that effective co-ordination is being maintained, in view of the urgent national necessity for the speedy erection of these cottages?

The Prime Minister : Yes, Sir. I am assured that proper arrangements have been made for exective co-ordination at the departmental, the regional, and the local government level and that preparations for the erection of these cottages are in fact proceeding as fast as possible. Mr. De la Bere : Is not the Government's target of 3,000 cottages too small, and should it not have been 30,000 to make it adequate to the needs of the case from the point of view of the country's food supply ? The Prime Minister : I have heard something about all those points, and I am well aware of the need for building cottages, but that need has to be fitted in with a great many other claims.

★

The second HOMASOTE FILM, A City Comes to Alexander's Corner was shown by TDA last Thursday at Film House.

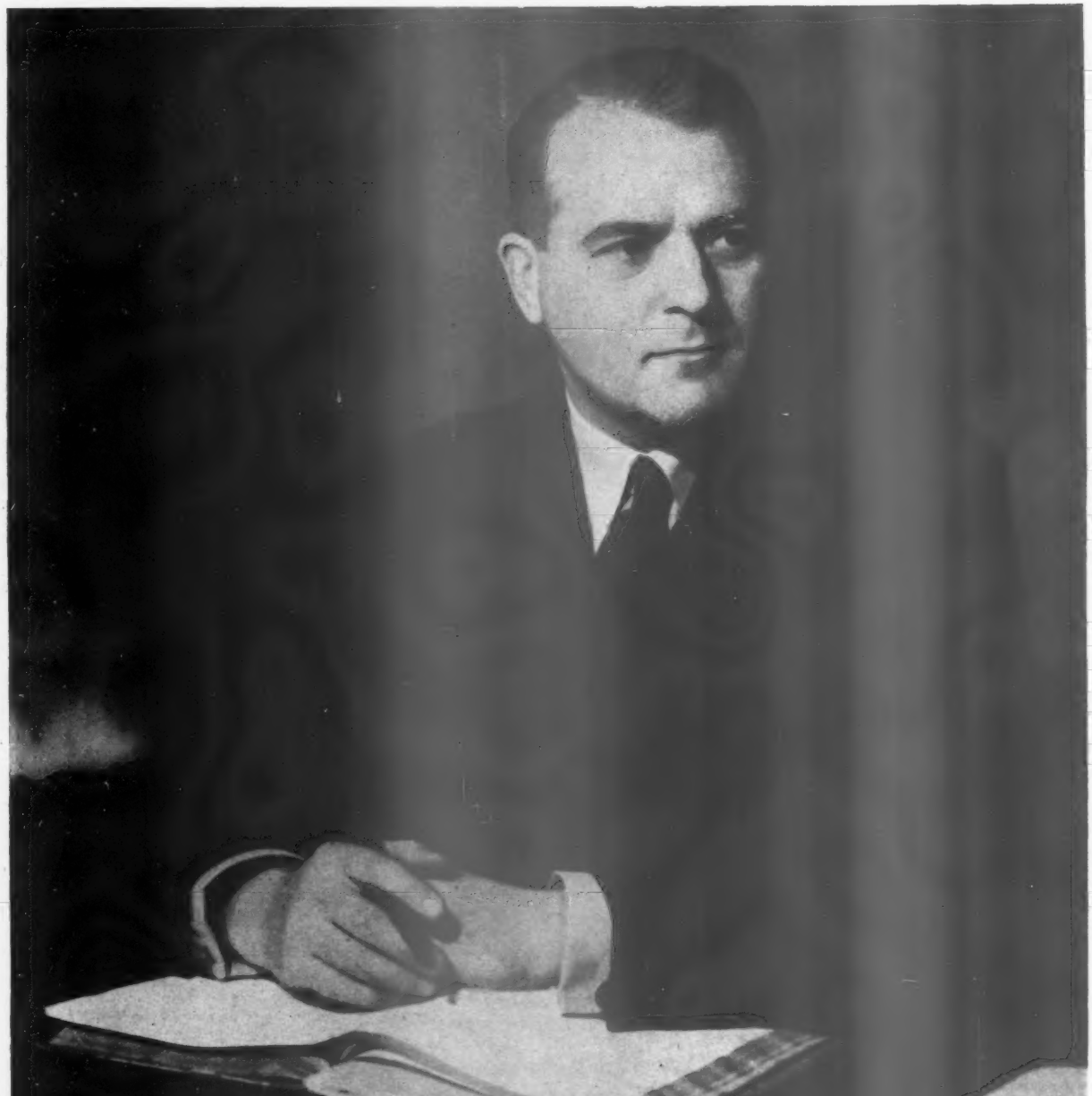
This film, similar to the first in many respects, shows the building process from the workshop to the fully-equipped house, with furniture designed by a well-known interior decorator. Timber is used more extensively at Alexander's Corner than formerly, as Homasote is in demand for many other essential war projects. Altogether a masterly piece of organization which in the field of domestic building has particular relevance for us now.

Sir Trustram Eve, Chairman of the War Damage Commission, states that MORE THAN £100,000,000 HAS BEEN PAID OUT for repairs to nearly 1,200,000 properties damaged by enemy action.

He added that claims are still reaching the Commission at the rate of about 9,000 a week, most of them for bombing in 1941. The Commission has at present 70,000 claims in hand, and is now receiving few complaints of delay in payment. Of the 3,000,000 properties that have been damaged or destroyed, the Commission has to decide, so far as the great majority is concerned, if they can be dealt with on a cost of works or value payment basis. Each case has to be classified, either as a total loss or not a total loss, and it has to be decided whether, in the latter case, there are circumstances which will prevent treatment on a cost of works basis. This, commented Sir Trustram, is a big task, but owners will want to know the answer almost as soon as hostilities end. The Commission are seeking to ensure that before the time when facilities will be available for repair or rebuilding every owner will know whether his property is regarded as a total loss or not.

At a luncheon in London of the English Joinery Manufacturers' Association Sir William Jowitt, Minister in charge of Reconstruction, warned his audience that they must not think of an after - the - war period in which there would be MARBLE HALLS, WITH GOLD FISH swimming about.

They were going to be faced by real difficulties. Winning the war, he said, was much more important than talking about what we should do afterwards.



King Penguin

In July, 1935, Allen Lane, in partnership with his two brothers, Richard (who is now in the Navy) and the late John Lane (killed in action last August) started printing the first ten Penguin Books in the crypt under Holy Trinity Church at the top of Great Portland Street, with editorial offices over a garage. They are the sons of Allen Lane, a retired architect (late of the City Surveyor's Office in Bristol), a fact which in the younger Allen Lane's opinion contributes largely to his particular interest in architecture. The first ten Penguins included biology, travel and fiction and were followed at the end of 1936 with the Pelican series, among which there have been important contributions on town planning, technics and design, from J. M. Richards' *Modern Architecture* to the recently published *Outline of European Architecture* by Nikolaus Pevsner.

The "specials" were started at the end of 1937, and together with the other two series have given to a wide public an opportunity for general education which otherwise might not have occurred for another 20 years. This achievement has gone far towards creating a vital and intelligent public opinion. In cutting the 20 years' time-lag between essential modern knowledge and the man-in-the-street, Allen Lane has done a job which makes him one of the really important men of the day.

★★

The next group of ASB lectures will be held at the RIBA on May 8 and 15 under the title of THE BASIC REQUIREMENTS FOR HEALTH and Comfort in Buildings. Heating and Ventilation will be dealt with by Dr. T. Bedford, Investigator to the Industrial Health Research Board of the Medical Research Council and Mr. A. C. Pallot, of MOW ; Hygiene and Sanitation by Dr. Charles White, MOH, City of London, and Mr. F. Barrow, of BRS ; and Lighting by Mr. H. C. Weston, Investigator to the Industrial Health Research Board of the Medical Research Council, Mr. P. V. Bennett and Mr. R. Ackerley, President of the IES. For further details see Diary on page xxi.

In the House of Commons Mr. Bossom asked the Parliamentary Secretary to MOW whether he will SUBSTITUTE HIS CODES OF PRACTICE, when complete, for existing building regulations and/or model by-laws of the Ministry of Health ; and whether they will be made to apply to all towns, cities and rural areas?

Mr. Hicks : Every step will be taken to secure the most effective use of codes of good building practice when these are completed. MOH is represented on the Codes of Practice Committee, and when the codes are established the question as to what action is desirable will be considered by the two Ministries. Meanwhile, I would emphasize that the first thing is to secure agreement on what is good practice, and to establish the codes. Mr. Bossom : Will the hon. Gentleman consider making it apply to all villages and towns throughout the country ? Mr. Hicks : That is the aim.

Sir R. Glyn asked the Minister of Labour in the House of Commons whether he is aware of the difficulties encountered by local authorities, and other property owners, in MAINTAINING COTTAGES IN REPAIR; and whether he will give instructions that no more building operatives are to be called up from rural districts, but that, if possible, the staff of local builders shall be augmented?

Mr. McCorquodale : The requirements of the Forces and the continuing needs of the Government building programme have inevitably made it necessary to draw on supplies of labour which might otherwise be available for maintenance work. Special regard is, however, paid to the difficulties of rural areas in considering applications for deferment of call up of men of military age, and men above that age are not withdrawn from essential agricultural maintenance work unless substitutes can be provided. In the present man-power situation it would be impossible for my right hon. Friend to undertake to increase the staffs of local builders for maintenance work.

RIDING OUT THE LULL

THE last three months have been a time of increasing depression for those who hope that physical reconstruction and redevelopment in Britain will be wisely guided.

The JOURNAL has listed the main reasons for this depression more than once and they are substantial. Whatever the location or detailed form of post-war redevelopment, its skilful guidance will need a competent machine ready to start work the day the war ends, and the new Ministry of Town and Country Planning shows no signs of being such a machine. It is merely one more added to many better-entrenched Ministries who are already concerned with planning. Its Minister has not a reputation for vigorous, progressive action. And MOTCP takes over a considerable nucleus of Civil Servants who have been steeped for many years in the negative tortuosities of inter-war town planning. Such men must be devoid of human frailty if they have not come to regard a complete absence of progress in planning as being normal rather than intolerable. Simultaneously, the Ministry seems unable to recruit the very small number of extra men and women which would enable the huge mass of necessary research to be tackled rather than nibbled.

There is therefore a real danger that in the next few months depression about post-war physical planning may increase until the few first-rate people who are still working on the problem give up hope and depart. For one must remember that in these days it is not easy for any man of ability under fifty to continue to work on problems of reconstruction.

It is therefore very necessary that those who hope for sound physical reconstruction should not make the mistake, during this depressing pause, of thinking of physical reconstruction and machinery needed for it as a self-contained problem. For if they do so, they may conclude that mysterious omnipotent Dark Forces block all preparations for physical planning, and thereafter abandon hope. But if physical reconstruction is looked on as but a small part of the great *After the War* problem, the real cause of the hold-up is, in the JOURNAL'S view, easy to spot.

It is that nearly every Briton feels by now in his bones that after the war we will have to change from an uncontrolled to a controlled economy. (Or, if you wish, we will have to continue to develop our war-time controlled economy to serve peace-time needs). It is this which is worrying nine out of ten politicians, Tory and Labour, until they feel quite ill. It is this which is holding up all preparations for reconstruction—economic, social, educational and physical. And no reasonable person can say that it is not enough to worry about. For the next six months it seems certain that this central problem will absorb all the attention which our rulers can spare from the battle fronts. Under many disguises we will have to watch Parliament trying to decide how much con-

trol, in what fields, of what kind, will pull us through. Do we plump for the Beveridge cart and then look for a horse to pull it?—or demand a special kind of horse and then look at the loading of the cart? While an answer to them is being sought, the problems of guiding physical redevelopment are bound to be given little attention.

It should not be so. We should have decided by this time that whatever happens after the war we must have effective physical planning and the machinery needed for it. But we have to admit that the design of this machinery compels decisions to be taken by our most eminent rulers and that, until the big questions are settled, they will not spare time and attention to do so.

It would therefore seem wise for all those interested in good planning to hang on at all costs. When decisions are taken about planning they are likely to be taken with a rush. Planning powers have changed hands several times in this war and can be changed again. If all now working on positive physical planning, whether in general terms or on particular schemes, stand fast and concentrate for the next six months on collection of information rather than preparation of definite schemes, on refusing to yield where they cannot make progress, we may yet have a worthwhile reconstruction. The order of the day is *Ride out the lull.*

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

NOTES & TOPICS

CODES OF PRACTICE

It is a long time since we first had the news that the Ministry of Works was endeavouring to form a Codes of Practice Committee, and this child of Mr. Hugh Beaver gave a good deal of pre-natal trouble. All the care and attention that he devoted to the infant has been justified, however, by the production of the Committee's First Report.* This is an admirably simple guide to the programme the Committee has set itself—and a most comprehensive and ambitious programme it is.

*

The Committee has already gone a long way towards the allocation of its work to its constituent bodies, while the order in which codes are produced depends greatly on the amount of knowledge that exists. As far as possible priority will be given to codes that concern houses and schools.

*

We can swallow, with good grace, the delicate hint that architects need educating in building practice. Remember the story of the architect who drew a detail of steelwork which in practice meant that three rivets could be fixed only if the riveter were suspended, head down, by one leg from a crane. This recalls the tragic tale of the welder who welded himself into a boiler. The Codes of Practice Committee was established in September, 1942. Now the foundations of the Codes have been laid it is to be hoped that another nine months will not be needed to prepare the Codes themselves.

*See page 259 for a resumé of this report.

LOCAL BOYS AND GIRLS MAKE GOOD

According to our Cheltenham correspondent—(Astragal's spies are everywhere)—Mr. W. S. Morrison, Minister of MOTCP, was among those who some days ago visited an unusual town-planning exhibition recently opened in the local art gallery. It consists partly of some magnificently informative maps of Gloucestershire provided by the county planning officer, but principally of the prize-winning material submitted by local school children—(of the girls' grammar school and the boys' college)—in the recent competition sponsored by the 1940 Council and the Housing Centre.

*

A year or so ago schools throughout the country were invited by these two bodies to compete in collecting local information and data, and in submitting ideas for the future development of their own towns and neighbourhood. Entries, not all of them complete, were received from about 250 schools, and Cheltenham—the lovely Regency town with Papworth's terraces and squares—shared first prize with Bolton—once referred to in a town-planning exhibition, I believe, as "a city in decay."

*

The Cheltenham entry consists of maps, charts, diagrams, reports and recommendations, models of Regency houses and a bold plan, described in drawings, models and photographs, for developing one of the town's famous squares with new blocks of flats. The children were assisted in the preparation of all this material by debates and visits and by lectures from such experts as Professor Eva Taylor, Mr. J. M. Richards and the Chairman of the Local War Agricultural Committee, but the conclusions they reached and the proposals they submit are entirely their own. Very lively some of these proposals are too.

*

Altogether an admirable show which, with any luck, may encourage reconsideration of the official post-war plans for Cheltenham—plans which, it is rumoured, envisage a huge garden suburb stepping daintily off to meet Gloucester some ten miles to the south.

Two of the fine doorways in Abingdon Street, Westminster, which is to be demolished. See Astragal's *note below and the feature on page* 251.

ABINGDON STREET

Nothing can now be done to save Abingdon Street, that charming eighteenth century terrace in Westminster, which runs from the Victoria Tower towards Lambeth Bridge. At least, so I am told (I am not saying I believe it.). The story goes that the blitz and the elements have condemned it irrevocably —a fortunate coincidence, you may think, for those who meant to pull it down before the war. Already the house next to that in which Telford lived has gone the way of all bricks and mortar.

*

Here are the facts of the tragedy, gleaned with great difficulty after hours of dial spinning and innumerable words with officials of the passed-to-you-please school. The Surveyor's Department of the City of Westminster told me that the responsibility was not theirs and referred me to the L.C.C. who had ordered the demolition. The L.C.C. informed me that the Regional Commissioner was ultimately responsible, but that the L.C.C. would carry out the demolition. No protest had been raised from any quarter against destroying the houses. The ground landlords of the property, are, I understand, the Ecclesiastical Commissioners. I am told that no repairs were carried out after the bombs had damaged the terrace, with the result that its condition has become worse and worse, and several of the houses are now unsafe.

*

This kind of thing has happened too often in this war, especially to some of the partly-blitzed City Churches, which have suffered far more from neglect after air-raids, than from the bombs themselves. It is surely up to the Royal Commission for Historic Monuments to take action in such cases. Whatever work the Commission may or may not be doing in this respect, it continues to turn up its nose at anything built after 1700, and refuses to recognise the worth of such buildings as Abingdon Street (one of the main reasons, incidentally, why the Georgian Group was formed).

*

Abingdon Street had already been condemned before the war, and that is perhaps the chief reason why there has been no agitation for its protection and preservation at the present time. The Georgian Group did an excellent job in 1938, you may remember, in protesting against the proposed demolition of the houses at the return end of Abingdon Street in Palace Yard, which were built by John Vardy in 1738. The result of its protest was that the George Memorial Scheme was modified and the life of the houses was spared. It is good to hear that the Vardy houses are again to be saved, together with the fittings, doorways and so on of Abingdon Street itself. Moreover, when the street is re-built the Royal Fine Arts Commission is to have a say in its design. Nevertheless, all who know Abingdon Street will mourn its loss and will hope desperately that something can be done at this eleventh hour to save it.

ART FOR TART'S SAKE

The Rt. Hon. Vincent Massey opened another gaily-decorated British Restaurant last week—this time at Merton. The restaurant is in a neo-Gothic building, and the light-hearted, picturesque and romantic murals by John Piper are in character with the building itself,

for they incorporate Merton Priory, a few mediæval stones of which still stand.

★

Sir Kenneth Clark was at the opening, and made a speech. He pointed out how good modern art could be brought into the actual lives of the people by means such as this of decorating communal restaurants. Here is a very cunning approach via the stomach, to capture the soul of the British Public by the lure of a beautiful baked potato and a most æsthetic apple tart.

★

The Merton eating house is another addition to the growing list of well-decorated British Restaurants, among which I recall particularly the one at Acton where Kenneth Rowntree has done the murals. MOF is interested in this idea of restaurant decoration and the Institute of Adult Education is sponsoring a fund to pay for it. The moving spirit behind the scheme, however, is Lady Clark, and it is she who finds the right painter for each job. Her choice of John Piper for Merton could not have been better.

POETS' CORNER

A Pointed Reproach or Pugin in Trafalgar Square.

Only the pinnacle of fame is high
If upon pointed principle it stand;
Only the fundament of truth shall lie
Steadfast if trowelled by a Gothic hand:
This we believed and in this faith we sought
The iron century's conscience to repair
By building oriels in the Inns of Court
And flying-buttresses in Gordon Square.
What if the years have mocked us, made us clowns.
What if men smile to read our wordy quarrels.
This is our martyrdom and these our crowns
Who wear suburban privet-leaves for laurels.
And grant us this, whose foibles fire your raillery,
We ne'er indulged them at the National Gallery.

John Coolmore

ASTRAGAL

LETTERS

W. S. Cameron, (President TPI)
E. T. Allcock, F.R.I.B.A.
An A.R.I.B.A. also
C. H. Reilly, O.B.E., F.R.I.B.A.

The Planning Team

SIR,—I think that the contributor of the *Town Planning Notes*, who in your issue for March 18 refers to my talk to the TCPA (on March 4), cannot have been at the meeting. The suggestion that the Planner should be the leader of a team of many professions including the Sociologist *came from me*, as is clearly set out in your issue for March 11, where on p. 180 you report the meeting.

It was again referred to by me when I said: The role of the professional planner may be looked upon as analogous to that of a composer, not necessarily claiming to be an expert of one instrument, but knowing the place of each of the specialists in harmony, and when to call upon this exponent.

I also said that the TPI has recently given much thought to a more comprehensive training of the planner, to include a study of special subjects such as: agriculture, economics, sociology on the lines of the training available for some considerable time at the Harvard School of Landscape Architecture and recently introduced at the Massachusetts School of Technology in the four-year course in Regional and Civic Planning.

I should be glad if the wrong impression conveyed in your *TP Notes* for March 18 could be corrected.

London W. S. CAMERON

Farm Workers' Cottages

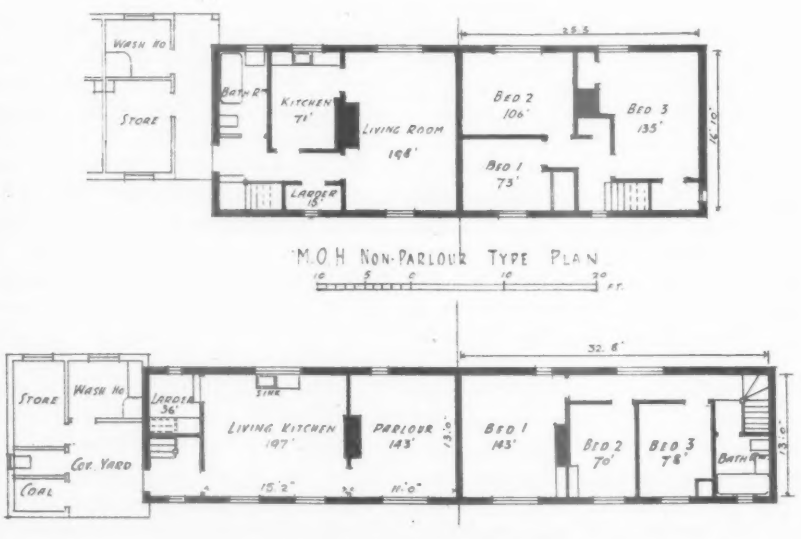
SIR,—Mr. Eberlin's plan in your issue for March 25 clearly shows that larger rooms can be conveniently provided within the limits of the official Parlour Type house and I think the question he has raised is worthy of further consideration.

The official plans are really good models for the small suburban villa but, applied to the limited space available in a cottage, result in division into too many compartments, so that living space is inconveniently restricted. Anyone who doubts this should mark out in his own room the space of the official parlour, 11 ft. by 10 ft., including chimney breast, fireplace and hearth, pull a few articles of furniture into it and imagine himself, within that compass, enjoying a social occasion with his wife, family and one or two friends.

On the other hand the total enclosed space seems sufficient for comfortable living if the plan were simplified.

In the country, where land frontage is cheap, why not return to the traditional cottage and manor-house type where the withdrawing room opens directly out of the living kitchen or hall, and passages are reduced to a minimum? The living kitchen, too, should be on the lines of the farmhouse kitchen, which is not in any way spoilt by the fact that it contains a washing-up sink and thereby, as a wash-house is provided, makes a scullery unnecessary.

The plans show for comparison a house embodying these ideas and one of the MOH Non-Parlour type both covering the same superficial area of 425 feet and indicate that the effect of dropping the little villa convention, together with the removal of the bathroom to its rightful place on the first floor, is that the Non-Parlour type area now includes a Parlour



MOH and Mr. E. T. Allcock's plans for Farm Workers' Cottages. See letter above.

of 143 feet area against 110 feet allowed in the MOH Parlour-Type plans, a larder of 36 feet against from 7 to 15 feet and a large living kitchen of 197 feet.

The omission of the scullery is, I think, all to the good. I have had occasion of late to enter a number of Non-Parlour type houses and have found that the tendency is for the very small kitchen to be used for meals with resulting squalor and disorder.

Loughborough E. T. ALLCOCK

The Parable of the Spec. Builder

SIR,—There is no very obvious moral attached to Mr. Manuel's parable, unless it be one which is popular at the moment, that all Local Authority be centralized or regionalized. If that is meant I think it a pity, it is a wrong way to help a democracy.

But there is another moral to be drawn from the story, it is that Mr. Manuel should serve on his local Council; he might be on the Building Committee as well as on the Joint Planning Committee where his experience as an Architect would be very valuable. Having been a member of a Rural District Council, and of the Committees I have mentioned for a great number of years, I am entitled to say this. Such public service takes up a good deal of time, of course, and involves a good deal of work too, but there is quite a lot of satisfaction to be got out of it.

AN A.R.I.B.A. ALSO

Professor Reilly and the Georgian Group

SIR,—I have just sent the enclosed letter to the Secretary of the Georgian Group. If you think it of any interest to quote it, you are at liberty to do so. I daresay you saw in the *Evening Standard* that Professor Richardson has signalized his succession to the Chairmanship by a statement of policy which seems to me to involve what I have said in my letter.

Twickenham C. H. REILLY

To the Secretary,
The Georgian Group

DEAR SIR,—Seeing in the Press that the Group is going to interest itself in the future in the erection of imitation Georgian buildings, I beg to send in my resignation. I joined the Group because I sympathized with its desire to preserve the best examples of eighteenth-century architecture which we possess. Now that it proposes to encourage reproductions or forgeries I have no desire any longer to be connected with it.

I am, yours truly,
C. H. REILLY

Here is the note from the Evening Standard *referred to by Professor Reilly:*

Advance Backwards

Amid the chorus of post-war planners, the Georgian Group raises a voice advocating a return to the architectural principles of the eighteenth century in the rebuilding of Britain.

Professor A. E. Richardson, the chairman, tells me that the Group, which was formed in 1937 to preserve historic buildings from peace-time threats, is busy now in a fight, to see that principles of English classical architecture are employed when the time for rebuilding comes.

"After the war this country must have a fine architecture," he said. "Architects can advance by returning to great principles. Nowadays we are trying, not only to preserve beautiful buildings, but to encourage public taste for fine things."

Professor Richardson is a traditionalist architect who yet contrives to be admired by moderns. He admires most things Georgian. At his house at Ampthill he wears knee-breeches, buckled shoes and a periwig.

Before the war Lord Derwent was chairman of the Group. Then for some time he acted as honorary attache at the Legation in Berne. He left Switzerland last year, and is now in the R.A.F., serving in the ranks. Lord Derwent is 43.

DEMOLITION OF ABINGDON ST.

Abingdon Street, the row of early 18th century houses in Westminster, is to be demolished. This is regrettable, not only because the terrace is a valuable period piece, but because it acts, both in scale and form, as a fine foil to the Houses of Parliament opposite. (*See* Astragal's *note on page* 249).

Mr. Herbert Read has been appointed Director of the new Design Research Unit which was launched last week by the Advertising Service Guild, whose purpose is to act as a clearing house between the designer and the industrialist. Herbert Read, poet, critic, philosopher, reformer, was for years on the staff of the Victoria and Albert Museum, where he made a study of design in relation to industry. Among his many books, Art and Industry *is recognized as a standard work on the principles of industrial design. In this article, specially written for the* JOURNAL, *he explains the aims and the significance of the Design Research Unit. Further information about the Unit appears on page 259.*

The Design Research UNIT

[*BY HERBERT READ*]

The Design Research Unit, which I have undertaken to organize and direct on behalf of the Advertising Service Guild, represents a new attempt to bring about that marriage of art and industry which has been talked about more than any other match in history. Why such a highly desirable union should never have been consummated is, of course, a very complicated story, involving such grotesque figures as Industry in the role of the bashful maiden and the Artist as the ardent suitor.

There is some reason for believing that in the near future those roles will be reversed. "The world crisis," writes Professor Mumford in a new pamphlet*, "that has now lasted for the lifetime of an entire generation, indicates that a radical shift in the direction of social movement has taken place: *an age of expansion is giving way to an age of stabilization.*" Professor Mumford shows that this change has many important sociological consequences, among them being a shift from quantitative to qualitative production. The stabilization of industry is inevitable, and though much remains to be done to increase efficiency from a purely technological point of view, there is no doubt that as a result of stabilization the design factor will gain in real importance, if only for competitive reasons.

It would be a mistake to assume that the crusade which began with Ruskin and Morris and was continued by Walter Gropius and Frank Pick has come to a successful conclusion: on the contrary, the forces which are now going to operate in our favour are entirely impersonal; they are, we might say, part of the price we shall have to pay if we are to avoid another war: they are the logical consequences of that balanced economy which is the only alternative to the breakdown of our whole social structure.

To prepare for such a situation is simple prescience, and that I take it is one of the functions of the advertising agent or publicity expert. This is a profession which I, in common with most idealists, have hitherto regarded with some suspicion: suspicion based on the belief that they were prepared to sell the public anything, from a slow poison to a quick funeral, so long as it made a profit for their clients. But this particular group—and for all I know they may be representative of a considerable change of heart in the profession as a whole—are prepared to introduce a qualitative standard into the products they are responsible for recommending to the public.

It is not to be assumed that these scouts of industry have become infected with our idealism: at least, it is simpler and more credible to assume that they had become aware of the "radical shift" that is taking place in society, and are preparing to accommodate their clients, and the consuming public, to the economics of an age of stabilization. In any case, design is in the air, and it would be altogether ridiculous for the artists and idealists who have been preaching in the wilderness all these years to stand aside because we had never anticipated that things would happen in this particular way.

The truth is that the advertising agent comes forward as the liaison officer, the interpreter who can talk the language of the industrialist; and he offers to effect that union between art and industry for which we have so long been waiting. And it is my experience that he comes forward with more than a promise in his hands: he comes with a substantial dowry of work to be done. The immediate difficulty will not be to find manufacturers ready to re-design their products, but designers willing and capable of undertaking the work. The designers exist, actual or potential: but so many of them have been diverted, by unemployment and now by war-employment, into other jobs that the first step will be to win some of them back. They will not be won back for a song, and therefore the manufacturer will have to revise his notions about the value and status of the designer. He may hesitate at first, but I do not think he will hesitate long. His rivals in America have already taken a lead.

The Design Research Unit has the following specific aims:

1. To provide a design service in direct contact with industry.
2. To carry out research into the needs of the consumer and the potentialities of industry, and to evolve from these researches types of design which in every case are functionally efficient and æsthetically pleasing.
3. To secure the co-operation of artists and designers in projects involving more than one material or more than one purpose: to bring such artists and designers into productive relation with scientists and technologists.
4. To collect and correlate information about industrial design from all sources.
5. To investigate, to advise, but, above all, to create a contemporary school of design.

The designers associated with the Unit will not be limited in numbers, except in so far as their selection is determined by its aims and ideals. The machine is accepted, as it was by the Bauhaus, as the essentially modern vehicle of form, and we shall try to establish a tradition of design consonant with modern materials and methods of production, and generally with the functional requirements of contemporary modes of life. It is this latter requirement which demands the *research* introduced into the Unit's title. The scope of such a unit should include, not merely the comparison and assessment of existing designs, not merely the solution of design problems in relation to specific functions, but the co-ordination of all design within a social pattern.

Good design is efficient living: it has a biological function, and a good designer is as much a biologist as he is an artist. And living has reached such a stage of inefficiency, such a state of neurotic and suicidal breakdown, that to call in this particular kind of specialist is now the only chance of survival.

**The Social Foundations of Post-War Building.* Faber. 1s. 6d.

1037

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TABULATION OF FIBRE INSULATION BOARDS. MEDIUM-HARD AND HARDBOARDS

(A) INSULATION BOARDS.

TRADE NAME	Thickness ins.	STANDARD SIZES	Approx. weight per sq.ft. lbs.	Thermal conductivity B.Th.U. sq.ft./hr	Sound absorption 512 cycles	Boards per bundle.
INSULWOOD waterproofed	3/8"	8ft. and 9ft. x 4ft. only	0.56	0.36	0.26	20
	1/2"	6.8.9.12ft. x 3 and 6ft. & 6.8.9.10.11.12ft. x 4ft.	0.75	0.36	0.26	10
	1/2"	Roof insulation. 4ft. x 2ft.	0.75	0.36	0.26	20
	5/8"	6.8.9.12ft. x 4ft. only	1.0	0.36	0.26	8
FLAMEPROOF INSULWOOD	1/2"	8ft. and 9ft. x 4ft. only	0.84			10

(B) MEDIUM HARDBOARDS.

SUNDEALA A waterproofed	1/4"	6.8.9.12ft. x 3ft. and 6ft. & 6.8.9.10.12ft. x 4ft.	0.75	0.49 to 0.54	0.18	10
	5/16"	6.8.9.12ft. x 3ft. and 6ft. & 6.8.9.10.12ft. x 4ft.	0.93	0.49 to 0.54	0.18	8
	3/8"	6.8.9.12ft. x 3ft. and 6ft. & 6.8.9.10.12ft. x 4ft.	1.12	0.49 to 0.54	0.18	7
	1/2"	6.8.9.12ft. x 3ft. and 6ft. & 6.8.9.10.12ft. x 4ft.	1.50	0.49 to 0.54	0.18	5
SUNDEALA K waterproofed	1/4"	6.8.9.12ft. x 3ft. & 6ft. 6.8.9.10.11.12ft. x 4ft. 4 & 6ft. x 2ft.	0.68			10
	3/8"	6.8.9.12ft. x 3ft. & 6ft. 6.8.9.10.11.12ft. x 4ft. 4 & 6ft. x 2ft.	1.03			7
SUNDEALA K	3/16"	12ft. x 4ft. only	0.56			10
FLAMEPROOF SUNDEALA	1/4"	8ft. x 4ft. only	0.68			10
	3/8"	8ft. x 4ft. only	1.03			7

(C) HARDBOARDS.

SUNDEALA	1/8"	4 6 8 12ft. x 4ft.	0.69	0.84		10
	3/16"	4 6 8 12ft. x 4ft.	0.94	0.84		7
to special order	1/4"	6ft. and 12ft. x 4ft. only		0.84		5
	3/8"	6ft. and 12ft. x 4ft. only		0.84		5
SUNDEALA super hard	1/8"	4.6.8.12ft. x 4ft.	0.75	0.84		10
	3/16"	4.6.8.12ft. x 4ft.	1.0	0.84		7
to special order	1/4"	6ft. and 12ft. x 4ft. only		0.84		5
	3/8"	6ft. and 12ft. x 4ft. only		0.84		5

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INFORMATION SHEET

• 893 •

BUILDING BOARDS
No. I

Product : Insulwood and Sundeala Building Boards.

General :

The building boards classified on this Sheet are manufactured from wood cellulose fibre of different grades according to the type of board. The raw materials are blended together in such a manner that the finished products, particularly in the denser grades, resemble sheets of wood.

All grades undergo water-proofing during manufacture.

Applications, fixing and finishings :

See Sheet No. 2 of this series.

Grades :

(A). **Insulation Boards :** This category comprises the Insulwood low-density range of boards, specifically intended for heat and sound insulation, and acoustic correction. The material has two distinct surfaces, one textured or slightly rough cast, and the other smooth or sanded.

A fire-resisting variety is also available in the $\frac{1}{2}$-in. thickness, for use under conditions where precautions are needed against the rapid spread of fire. The boards are flame-proofed during manufacture.

Ant-proof quality is manufactured for use in countries where termites are experienced.

(B). **Medium Hardboards :** The Sundeala A and K qualities both belong to the hard variety with surfaces suitable for resisting wear. The A quality may be used for either internal or external work, and the K quality for internal linings only. Either may be left plain or receive further decorative treatment.

The $\frac{3}{16}$-in. K quality medium hard-board is intended for repair work and temporary construction generally. A fire-resisting quality is also manufactured, in $\frac{1}{4}$-in. and $\frac{3}{8}$-in. thickness.

(C). **Hardboards :** The Sundeala boards are of the hard and dense type, with surfaces suitable for any decorative treatment and hard wear and tear.

This type of board is always fixed with an open joint, and is used for semi-structural work as well as for the ordinary building board applications. It is homogeneous, grainless and of dark buff colour, with one face dent textured and one perfectly smooth.

Thermal and Acoustic Properties :

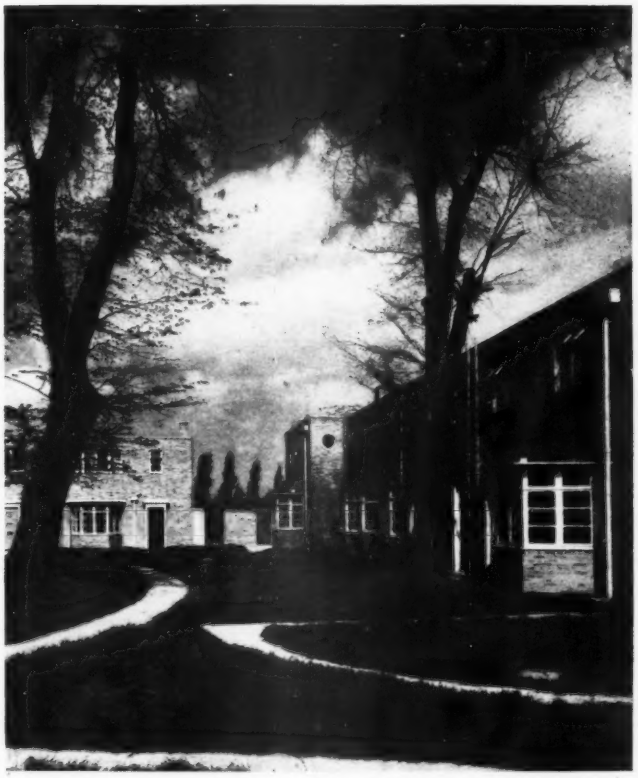
The thermal insulating values given in the table represent thermal conductivity in British Thermal Units per square foot, per inch of thickness per hour, for one degree Fahrenheit difference in temperature.

The acoustic values represent the absorption coefficients at a sound frequency of 512 cycles per second. The authority for both sets of figures is the National Physical Laboratory, Teddington.

Issued by : P.I.M. Board Co., Ltd.

Address : Sunbury on Thames.

Telephone : Sunbury-on-Thames 341.



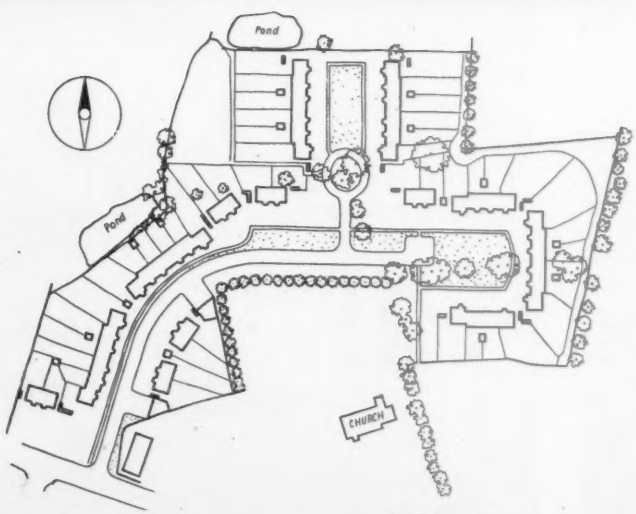
Situated close to a village, the scheme was planned to preserve the many existing old trees.

WAR HOUSING

ARTHUR W. KENYON

GENERAL—On March 18 we illustrated a scheme of two hundred houses, by Mr. Arthur W. Kenyon, for married munition workers. This week is shown a scheme, also by Mr. Kenyon, of fifty houses for the same type of worker. In both schemes the houses are built in blocks of four or six, some for the time being divided into flats, the others consisting of three bedrooms, living-room, parlour, con-

WAR HOUSING



SITE PLAN

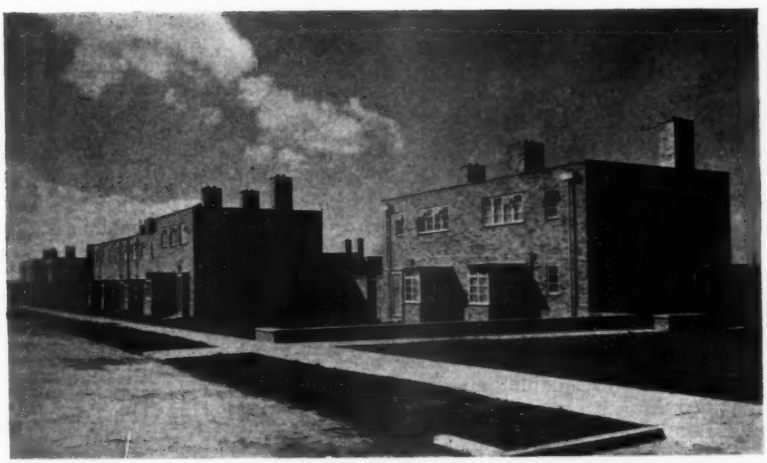
Left, below and facing page, top, views and site plan. There are fifty houses grouped round the village church. Facing page, bottom, two other similar war housing schemes built by Mr. Kenyon for the Ministry of Supply. Bay windows are a feature of all the schemes.

verted into an air-raid shelter by strengthening walls and ceiling and partly blocking up the window, kitchen, bathroom and w.c. Both schemes were built for the Ministry of Supply and are near a large city. The larger, illustrated on March 18, forms part of a village. The smaller, now shown, is situated in another village grouped round the church and near the shops and village hall. Bay-windows are a

BY ARTHUR

feature of both schemes, and each house has a large brick shed, large enough for a bicycle, wringer, garden tools and fuel.

CONSTRUCTION AND EQUIPMENT—Facings are local 2⅜ in. by 2⅝ in. bricks, carefully selected, the walls being of hollow brick 11 in. thick, finished in plaster on the inside. Floors are of pre-cast concrete covered with asphalt and there is an asphalt skirting to the walls. Staircases are concrete. There are asbestos cement roofs to the bay-windows, asbestos entrance door surrounds, down pipes, rain-water heads and draining boards. The front doors and the interior woodwork are finished in various colours, and there are coloured shutters to the shelters. Central boilers in the kitchens supply hot water. Cooking is done by gas or electricity. In the living-room and one bedroom are fireplaces. Electric plugs are fitted in all rooms, gas installation where possible.



W. KENYON

The function of this feature is to record all current developments in planning and building technique throughout the world as recorded in technical publications, and statements of every kind whether official, private or commercial. The ***Information Centre*** *attempts to supply an index and a digest of scientific data, the lack of which has for too long been a handicap both to the technician and the planner. Items are written by specialists of the highest authority who are not on the permanent staff of the Journal and views expressed are disinterested and objective. The Editors welcome information on all technical developments from any source, including manufacturers and contractors.*

Physical

PLANNING

1114 — *Rural Development*

RURAL DEVELOPMENT CENTRES IN MONMOUTHSHIRE. *M. E. Taylor* (*County Planning Officer's Report, March*, 1943). Application of recommendations of Scott Report to Rural District of Pontypool.

By the encouragement of the major portion of development into defined centres, the following advantages are gained :

(1) The amenities of the countryside are protected and preserved.
(2) The best agricultural land is protected and not wasted for building sites.
(3) An organized social life is possible with a reasonable number of people in each centre of population.
(4) Village craft and rural industries can be organized and encouraged.
(5) The necessary public services, electricity, water, sewerage, telephone and possibly gas, can be economically provided to serve a limited area and have not to be stretched and strained over many miles to outlying houses.
(6) Transport, medical services, etc., can all be more economically provided with a more efficient service.
(7) Cultural, educational and religious activities can be organized to the benefit of the inhabitants.
(8) Better shopping facilities can be made possible.
(9) Physical recreation can be organized and playing spaces set apart for the community's recreation.
(10) The return of personnel to the basic industry of the countryside will be encouraged by the provision of reasonable living and community conditions in the villages provided.

There is little doubt that the establishment of well-planned village settlements is vital to the efficient and economic working of agriculture, and to the prosperity of the Rural District.

The rural district of Pontypool covers 34,000 acres and has a population of under 6,000. Twenty-three villages and hamlets have been scrutinized and fourteen chosen as possible development centres. With two exceptions their existing populations are below 200 and they total just under half the population of the area. It was considered that half of these villages might develop as dormitories for nearby towns ; three for factory workers, assuming continued use of a factory site ; three as enlarged agricultural centres and the remaining one as a nucleated centre of some scattered hamlets.

The available facilities and plans for their development are outlined in some detail.

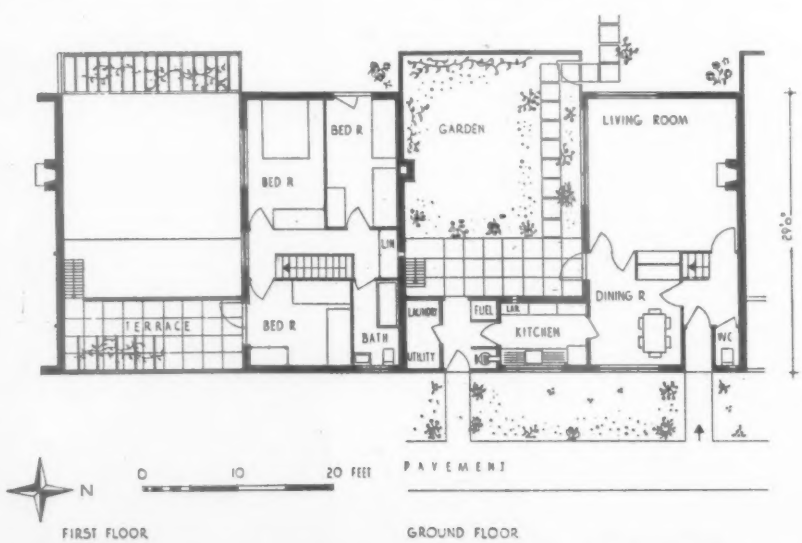
1115 — *RIBA Lecture*

TOWN AND CITY. *W. G. Holford* (*Lecture to RIBA, March* 3, 1943. *Reported in full* ARCHITECTS' JOURNAL, *March* 18, 1943). The importance of combining the long-term plan and the short-term programme ; community development, traffic systems, use-zoning and the regional pattern ; architectural amenity in towns.

1116 — *Patio Houses*

PATIO HOUSES. *Walter Segal* (*Architect and Building News, February* 19, 1943). Article illustrated with plans and elevations on the layout of terraced L-shaped houses with Patio gardens. The Outdoor Room.

Ingenious and highly attractive plans and layouts for a town development at about 17 to the acre, based on an L-shaped plan, whereby house joins house in such a way as to leave space for an enclosed garden protected from sight, similar to the courtyards of Southern or Far Eastern houses. Each house has light and ventilation on three sides, the party wall being blank. They would form rows which could be arranged in terraces, squares, etc. More than a dozen type plans show the flexibility of the scheme.



Type plan of Patio Houses (*from* Architect and Building News). *See* Information Centre, *Item No. 1116.*

ACOUSTICS
& Sound Insulation

1117 Cantor Lecture

SOUND INSULATION. *W. Allen: (Journal of RSA, February 5,* 1943). Cantor Lecture on town planning aspects of sound insulation. Density of development. Effect of open space. Structural techniques.

After dealing with units of measurement the lecturer discussed the possibility of improving conditions by planning. The value of space as an insulation was illustrated with graphs. The effect of angle of incidence of sound to open windows and the value of baffles in form of buildings and trees were discussed, and the effects of these on site planning were illustrated. Latter part of lecture dealt with structural defence against sound. Considerable attention was paid to domestic buildings.

MATERIALS

1118 German Use of Timber

THE ECONOMICAL USE OF TIMBER IN BUILDING CONSTRUCTION. *(Zeitschrift des Vereins Deutscher Ingenieure, Nos.* 7-8 *and* 21-22, 1942). Special German Committee for timber and some of its activities.

Germany, like this country, suffers from a shortage of building materials. Characteristically, they are dealing with it in a thoroughly systematic fashion. They have established a central organization, to bring the results of research and experience in everything connected with building to the notice of all concerned. Reports, specifications and detailed instructions for dealing with specific problems are published. Lectures and different courses of additional training for architects, engineers, builders, foremen, etc., are arranged.

A special committee for timber has already issued many reports, some of which have sold in 20,000 copies—this may show the wide influence thus given to the most recent research. The German timber shortage is not as serious as the British, but nevertheless acute.

The following measures are used to economize in timber:

(1) Classification of timber in 3 groups, according to quality.
(2) Determination of permissible stresses for different qualities.
(3) Limitation of permissible tolerance in sizes.
(4) Development of methods to preserve and improve the quality of timber.
(5) Development of suitable means of connecting members, specially with glue.
(6) Investigation, improvement and further development of the members and constructions now commonly used.

To save timber it is essential to use the utmost care during storing and drying, and in the workshop. Timber must be used dry and be kept dry in the building. It is most efficiently utilized if connections are made on the surface of members, *i.e.*, with glue. So far this method has not been much developed. There are certain limitations to the application of glued timber though these will perhaps be overcome. During the last 30 years great progress has been made with other methods of connections such as dowels, nails, bolts, etc. For some time weather-proof glues of artificial resin have been available in large quantities. These make the use of glue to connect structural members possible. All known glues shrink to a great extent while hardening. This must be taken into account when the connection is made. A timber beam composed of members connected with glue possesses its full moment of inertia, the nailed beam is naturally more flexible.

The committee has investigated more than 50 different types of roof construction (including the beams of the top floor) to ascertain which of the conventional types require least timber, and to compare timber consumption in modern types with conventional types. For each type the steel and timber consumption, time of erection and cost have been determined. A report on the final results will be published.

Materials related to timber are also dealt with. Standard methods of testing have been developed for slabs or wood fibre which are extensively used in Germany. (Thickness, density, moisture content, shrinkage and swelling, thermal insulation, modulus of elasticity, strength in tension, compression, bending and shear, hardness and resistance to wear have to be investigated).

A new invention is "homogeneous" timber. This is a composition of organic fibres embedded in a rigid skeleton of a kind of resin. It can be cast, moulded and standardised, and is available in slabs for joinery and hard slabs, each in a normal and in a water resisting variety. It is proof against rot and fungi. The slab has the same properties in all directions in its plane. The raw materials of "homogeneous" timber are timber shavings, straw and certain kinds of grass—that is: waste materials.

These are some of the committee's activities. Of course, timber is also used very extensively for military purposes, such as bridges.

The advantages of such a centralized organization are obvious. It ensures research where it is needed and as much as is needed. Experience is properly compared and pooled, and the knowledge gained in this way is easily available to anyone requiring it. People know where to go for information, and that they will find all of it in one place. Finally, some knowledge is forced upon the notice even of those who are less willing to learn.

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*

1119 Old Buildings

Q *What are the main points to be looked at, when examining an old building for stability, and what is the normal procedure adopted?*

A Normally reports are largely concerned with any defects that may be apparent and the conclusions which can be drawn from them. This does not mean that the form of construction can be totally ignored; it should be noted and particular attention must be given to this aspect of the matter if it is the intention to use the building for a purpose for which it was not originally constructed.

As regards defects, you should examine the main structural walls, etc., for cracks and with a plumb-line, and note any cracks between the floors and walls (indicating that the walls are bulging outwards); in the case of war areas, you should particularly see whether walls have been shifted bodily by blast; the latter frequently occurs at damp-proof course level.

If the walls are either perfect or very imperfect the conclusion is obvious, but it may well be that defects occur in certain portions only, when you must try to deduce the reason, such as a settlement in the foundations at a certain point.

Encased stanchions should also be looked at for cracks and tested by plumbing, and in the case of exposed steelwork, the junctions of beams and stanchions should be examined to ascertain whether the beams are seated

properly or whether rivets or bolts have been strained.

As regards floors, it is not normally possible to do a great deal; solid floors can only be tested for cracks and for evidence of shifting next walls and beams. You can test the stability of wood floors very roughly by walking and jumping on them, and would not normally open them up unless there are signs which indicate that the joists might be cracked or subjected to rot.

The investigation of roofs is usually easier than floors as timbers are more exposed and can be examined for cracks or rot. Particular attention should be paid in war areas, as roofs are frequently shifted bodily by blast.

Even if asked to confine your report to the structure, you would be well advised to note ordinary dilapidations which might have escaped your client's attention, such as lack of pointing, leaking roofs, cracked rainwater pipes, defective electrical installation and the like.

It is just as important when drawing up a report to mention the items that have not been investigated as to mention the items which have been investigated. If you mention that you have not exposed foundations or taken up floor boards, etc., you have cleared yourself of responsibility, and if your client wishes you to pursue the matter further he can ask you to do so.

Briefly, we consider you should state clearly :—

1. What you have investigated, the defects that are apparent and the conclusions you draw from them.
2. What you have not investigated or tested (e.g., foundations, drains, heating installations, etc.).
3. Any opinions you may have about (2) based on your general opinion of the building as a whole and a note of any further tests you would advocate.

1120 Planning in USSR

Q *I am interested in the planning schemes that have been carried out in the USSR and the legal powers under which they have been effected, and I would be glad if you could advise me of any books available that deal with these subjects.*

A All planning schemes in the USSR are carried out under a general scheme of planned economy. With regard to Housing and Town Planning we recommend the following books in particular :—

Moscow in the Making, by Sir E. D. Simond.

Soviet Housing Law, by J. N. Hazard.

We can, if required, supply you with a further list of books and periodicals in which articles and illustrations have appeared, but these are not likely to be of much use to you unless you have access to a special library.

We should advise you to get in touch with the Librarian of your local architectural society and with the Secretary of the Society for Cultural Relations with the Soviet Union, 98, Gower Street, London.

SOCIETIES AND INSTITUTIONS

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 a glossary of abbreviations will be found on the front cover. Except where inverted commas are used, the reports are summaries and not verbatim.

CHADWICK TRUST

Thomas Sharp

April 6, at the Royal Sanitary Institute, 90, Buckingham Palace Road, S.W.1. Lecture under the Bossom Gift by the Chadwick Trustees by Thomas Sharp, M.A., M.T.P.I., on TOWN PLANNING AND PUBLIC HEALTH. Chairman: Alfred C. Bossom, F.R.I.B.A., M.P.

T. Sharp : In the broadest sense all town and country planning is, or should be, directed towards the establishment of a high standard of public health. In its turn the proper conception of public health is of both physical and social health. These two are closely related. It has been a grave fault of town planning, so far, that they have been considered as separate matters. This has mainly come about as a result of the separation of housing from the broader planning. In the first English legislation conferring powers of town planning these powers were tacked on to Acts principally concerned with housing (Housing and Town Planning Act, 1909, etc.). So, for a long time, planning was regarded as a subsidiary of housing. This proved too restrictive, and on the swing over we went to the other extreme, and separated the two too rigidly. As a result of the separation of public physical health from public social health and of housing from town and country planning we have been creating seriously unsatisfactory conditions of living. In " solving " the housing problem by the development of housing estates in places which involve their inhabitants in excessive daily travel to and from work we have not achieved any real solution at all : and as Dr. Mac Gonigle's survey of Stockton-on-Tees showed, though the new houses may be far healthier than the slums they were built to replace, the actual standards of health of the people living in them has very often declined. Similarly the " solution " of the housing problem merely by building masses of houses without proper thought, or without any thought at all, for the satisfaction of the social needs of the people living in them is again no real solution. I do not know whether " suburban neurosis " is a disease that is recognized by the medical profession, but many people maintain that it is not infrequently met with on our recent housing estates.

In this wider sense of public health, town planning can do much by securing a proper relationship of the various parts of the town or village organism to each other, particularly on the matter of distances. Especially is it necessary that workplaces, schools, shops, the various kinds of social, cultural and entertainment centres, open spaces, and the countryside itself where possible, should all be easily accessible from the homes of the people.

In the narrower sense, town planning for public health will be principally concerned with the provision of sufficient space about buildings to secure desirable standards of ventilation and lighting.

In the past thirty years or so town planning has expressed the measure of space about houses in terms of so many houses per acre. This in some ways has proved to be unsound. The common densities of 12 houses per acre and so on, were never arrived at scientifically : they were measures of garden cultivation space rather than ventilation and natural lighting space. From the point of view of public health in this narrow sense the proper measure is one of space between facing buildings rather than of space about them.

It is difficult to establish accurate standards of space for ventilation. But the space required for this will generally be less than the space required for natural lighting, so it is that which is the determining factor.

Even in providing for natural lighting there are conflicts to be resolved—especially with regard to sunlight penetration into rooms.

Actually mere daylight, or skyshine, is the fundamental requirement, since it is impossible to get more than a fraction of the total available sunshine into a room unless it has windows in all the quarters from which the sun shines at any hour of the day at any season of the year, a condition which is really only obtainable in a box of glass on a hilltop, and which, if insisted on, would mean the end of towns and villages altogether and so would bring about the denial of man's social instincts. But a pretty full measure of daylight can be assured. I am not a sufficient authority to be able to go into this matter in any detail, but I believe that it is now generally agreed that such rooms as the living-room of a house should have a view of at least part of the sky opposite the windows at an angle of 18-20 degrees.

In planning for sunlight something of a conflict arises because the maximum curative effectiveness of sunshine and its maximum germicidal effectiveness occur at slightly different times of the day. Further we have to consider in planning the conflicting demands of various members of a household : and we have to consider sunlight as an amenity as well as a curative agent. So we have to plan for sunlight penetration into living-rooms according to the time when they are most likely to be used—which generally will be the evenings when those members of the family who work outside are most likely to be at home. This means that these rooms should be orientated somewhere towards the west. The kitchen on the other hand is most likely to be the most used in the morning, and so should have a touch of the east in its orientation.

While some thought has been given to the public health aspect of residential areas, the planning of office quarters has been seriously neglected, particularly in large cities where the general standards of natural lighting are deplorable. This is caused by the great height of the buildings in relation to ground space.

YOU DIDN'T HEAR THIS

THE QUESTION MASTER, opening the first session of a new technical series, said : We are proposing to deal with various knotty problems. Our home team is all set, and consists of Professor Noad-Hall, Dr. Treat M. Roughly and Captain Campstool. We also have as a guest an expert who prefers to remain anonymous, though I hope he won't—er—remain silent. Now the first question comes from an American officer, stationed in this country. What, he asks, is frosted glass ? Is it ever found in England, where they don't use ice, and anyway, just what is it ? Well—there's the question : what is frosted glass ? Campstool ?

Captain Campstool : Well, when I was in the Arctic in '96, we never found we needed any ice for our glasses. Frosted glass—? Isn't that the effect of frost on the window pane in cold weather ?

Dr. Roughly : Obviously. Frosted glass is glass with a deposit of frozen water, or thin ice, coating its external surface.

Question Master : That seems to answer—yes ? Oh ! Our expert has a view.

The Expert : Frosted glass is a misnomer for glass that is obscured by acid or sandblasting. This form of surface obscuration is sometimes called frosting, but the term, which is non-technical and misleading, is sometimes applied to cathedral glass, which is translucent but not transparent.

Question Master : Thank you, sir. I think that—

Professor Noad-Hall : Surely there is a distinct element of confusion in this explanation. Cathedral glass has been mentioned. Now, how can the stained glass which we associate with the windows of sacred edifices possibly resemble or be confused with, even in the minds of the uninstructed, the obscuration that follows the action of acid or—what was the other term ?

The Expert : Sandblasting.

Captain Campstool : Sandblasting ? I remember when I was crossing the Gobi Desert in 1903 or was it 1906—anyway, the sand got into everything, even into the sealed tins of bully and the concentrated alcohol tablets that—

Question Master : One moment, Campstool. Noad-Hall has the floor.

Professor Noad-Hall : How can the misdescription, frosted, possibly be confused with stained glass windows ?

Question Master : I think we'll ask the expert to get us out of this one.

The Expert : Cathedral glass is a generic name for white or coloured glasses impressed with irregular patterns.

Captain Campstool : Lets in the dim, religious light, and all that, what ?

Question Master : Satisfied, Noad-Hall ?

Professor Noad-Hall : No.

Question Master : Very well, we must pass on—

Dr. Roughly : I am perfectly satisfied.

Question Master : The next question is also about glass. It comes from a corporal in the A.T.S., stationed in Little Dripping. Will houses be built of glass bricks after the war ? That's her question. Will houses be built of glass bricks. She goes on to say, that she doesn't think it would be quite nice to have the neighbours looking at everything you were doing. Roughly ?

Dr. Roughly : We have an exaggerated respect for privacy, which must inevitably preclude us from enjoying the social cohesion that can alone produce a properly integrated society. If everybody's life was open, if their day-to-day actions could bear public scrutiny—

Professor Noad-Hall : Nonsense ! People aren't fish.

Dr. Roughly : In common with fish, men are vertebrates. We have a common ancestry.

Captain Campstool : Well, I don't know about common ancestry, I'm not sure what it means, though, of course, I believe in democracy : but let's have some common sense : you try living in a glass house in England in November, or in Scotland at any time of the year. I remember, once, off the Hebrides, we were trawling for giant squids—

Dr. Roughly : There are no giant squids in those latitudes.

Captain Campstool : That's what we found out, but—

Question Master : Can we get back to the question : Will post-war houses be built of glass bricks ?

Professor Noad-Hall : Certainly not.

Question Master : What does the expert say ?

The Expert : Glass bricks cannot replace real bricks. They are non-load-bearing units, which will carry their own weight with a wide safety factor up to any practical height, and they can be laid like ordinary bricks. They are not transparent, but they are translucent and admit and diffuse light, and can be used in those places where daylight is needed, and an open window is not, and where you don't want to see outside. To build an entire house of them would be unpractical, though it would be no colder than a house built with ordinary bricks. Incidentally the inhabitants would not be visible, except as shadows, from the exterior.

Question Master : I think that answers the question very adequately—I was afraid—er—that the questioner had dropped a glass brick, but—

Dr. Roughly : I am not satisfied. What authority has this anonymous guest for making these highly technical statements ?

Question Master : As a matter of fact—and this is very fortunate for us, as we seem to have hundreds of questions about glass to face in the next few sessions—as a matter of fact, he's from Pilkington Brothers, Limited, of St. Helens in Lancashire : and they happen to know rather a lot about glass. They've been making it since 1826.

There is little doubt that the hollow-square method of building is very unsatisfactory. A proper attention to working conditions in offices would transform the central parts of our cities altogether.

Under present conditions of land ownership it is extremely difficult, indeed almost impossible, to plan properly for the full requirements of public health.

MOW

Codes of Practice

The Codes of Practice Committee for Civil Engineering, Public Works, Building and Constructional Work, which was set up under the ægis of the Ministry of Works, has presented its first Report to its constituent bodies, consisting of the principal technical institutions. The Report is published by H.M. Stationery Office, price 4d.

The Report is divided into two chapters. In the first the Committee has reviewed the present position of Codes of Building Practice and decided the form and functions of the Codes of Practice it intends to produce. These Codes will be codes of good practice and will define the methods by which materials can best be used to perform the required functions of a building operation. They will embody the results of practical experience and scientific knowledge, with the object of obtaining increased efficiency in building work and economy in labour and materials.

The Committee explains how Codes of Practice will be differentiated from statements of permissible minimum requirements, such as are embodied in building regulations. The Committee intends that Codes of Practice should be of assistance in :—

(i) conferring on the designer a wide measure of freedom in selecting his materials and prescribing their treatment and use ;
(ii) enabling constructors to arrange their work knowing that they are carrying out the intentions of the designer and that the various operations can be properly and efficiently co-ordinated ;
(iii) simplifying the supply of materials in the proper sequence for the operations required ;
(iv) ensuring the most effective use of the work of craftsmen and operatives ;
(v) safeguarding the interests of both owner and occupier of the building.

In the second chapter of the Report the Committee has drawn up a comprehensive scheme of Codes of Building Practice which is the basis of its programme for drafting Codes. The Scheme covers every operation required in building in natural sequence. For instance, it deals first with Foundations and Sub-structure, next with Load-bearing Superstructure, External Walls, Internal Walls, Finishings and Installations.

The contents of the Codes will be governed primarily by the functional requirements of the building as a whole, which will be laid down in a Classification Code comprising requirements in relation to building occupancy and site conditions. The Classification Code will be divided into sections as follows :—

(i) Natural light and air.
(ii) Space and circulation.
(iii) Precaution against noise.
(iv) Precaution against fire.
(v) Strength—stability and loadings.
(vi) Weather protection.
(vii) Services—heating, lighting, water supply, etc.
(viii) Heat insulation.
(ix) Corrosion.
(x) Dirt and vermin.

The Committee has settled the procedure for drafting and issuing Codes and the arrangements made to this end will be included in a further report. Examination of the position as regards Codes for Civil Engineering and Public Works is continuing.

TPI

P. Abercrombie

March 18, at Caxton Hall, Westminster, General Meeting of the Town Planning Institute. Paper read by Professor Patrick Abercrombie, M.A., F.R.I.B.A., P.P.T.P.I., on PLANNING FOR RECONSTRUCTION—THE DATA REQUIRED

Prof. Abercrombie: How many towns did or do know themselves ? The first object of a survey must be to jolt people out of their complacency.

Surveys made so far have been merely *ad hoc*, prepared for certain limited purposes. A survey should be universal, but tempered by local requirements. It should not be standardized. Existing *ad hoc* surveys can form a useful basis for universal surveys. The most universal type of map for surveys is the *Surface Utilisation Map*.

The value of a survey is that it affords a temporal view—a record of town or country at a certain moment. It should therefore be continually revised to form a series of historical records, in the case for instance of population census.

The lack of surveys is at present a great handicap. There is a large amount of stored material, waiting to be used. For instance the Metropolitan Police hold a lot of information on London's traffic. Full use must be made of such material.

Certain positive things have been done since the war : (1) The most valuable work is that by Dr. Dudley Stamp for agricultural purposes —the *Land Utilisation Survey*, showing the different qualities of agricultural land suitable for different types of cultivation, ranged in ten categories. This survey shows what a large proportion of first class agricultural land lies in and round London.

(2) MOW has set in motion a *Landscape Survey* of the whole country, especially of the coast. This will ensure that fine pieces of landscape will not be ruined or built over but preserved. For want of a survey of this sort, industrial enterprise has in the past often unnecessarily damaged a locality.

(3) The whole of the country has been surveyed by aerial photography in an *Aerial Survey*. I would like to see these photos arranged as a whole.

We need the following surveys :—

(1) *Occupational* or *Industrial Survey*, which will be needed in the locating of industry. This would help us to find out why certain industries are where they are. The Barlow Report and PEP have provided some facts about this.

Decentralization of population must be related to work places. Surveys are needed of where people work and where they live. In East Suffolk a real attempt has been made. In London the problem of carrying out such surveys has been too difficult to overcome so far. Homes should be near work places, and one of the chief objects of planning must be to reduce travel to and from work.

(2) *Residential Survey*. The object of this must be to discover (*a*) the results of bombing and (*b*) the Blight. (*b*) is far worse than (*a*). A survey should be made of bad site planning, smoke zones, existing roads, internal planning of existing houses, the age of houses, the density of houses and persons, rates, rents and so on.

At present we cannot obtain facts about health, delinquency, overcrowding, etc., owing to the dislocation brought by the war. The sampling method, useful before the war, is no use now.

Standard Notation is needed in some degree throughout surveys. MOW has already encouraged both surveys to be made, and a standard notation to be used for instance in colouring. This helps comparison between surveys.

The value of surveys lies not only in their practical use to planners but also as a means of rousing the public, which, though vaguely interested in planning, is unaware of the existing state of affairs. We must get surveys over to the public by publications such as the book, *When We Build Again*.

We must find out what people want, not only what planners want, though individual wants must, of course, be tempered to the requirements of the whole community.

DESIGN RESEARCH UNIT

Herbert Read

April 9, at Brown's Hotel, Dover Street, W.1. Luncheon given by the Advertising Service Guild to launch its DESIGN RESEARCH UNIT under the Directorship of Herbert Read, D.S.O., M.C., D.LITT., M.A. Chairman : J. R. M. Bramwell.

H. Read : William Morris and the Bauhaus of Walter Gropius had some effect in linking the æsthetic sensibility of the artist with production, but they only scratched the surface. Industry as a whole still will not employ good designers. Many say that we must begin by educating the public. We might ask in return who educated the public to accept the present low standard of design. There is nothing inevitable about bad design. Bad design is the counterpart of that bad living which has produced the slums. The manufacturer says that he has to produce what the public wants. But if we apply this argument to the slums and to suburban houses (which I call the pink slums as opposed to the black) we see that this argument does not hold, for people do not really want them but being dogged by poverty have been forced to accept them. There is no evidence that the public would not accept well designed articles if they were reasonably priced.

State supported educational effort to raise public taste has failed and it is therefore not surprising that smaller private efforts have also failed. All was in vain, I thought, and I despaired of anything short of social revolution to solve this problem.

I regarded the first approach of the Advertising Service Guild with suspicion, but I found that though its members call themselves realists they are indeed idealists. At present there exist two distinct and mutually distrustful camps. The object of the one, the manufacturers, is to make money and of the other, the idealists, designers and artists to create beauty. The two parties cannot even talk the same language. Now an interpreter has come along who can talk both languages. It may be that many manufacturers will remain obtuse and much work may have to be done by advertising agents. Nevertheless a link has now been formed in this Design Research Unit.

I believe that the generation of continual crisis is passing and will be followed by a far more stable society. The inevitable trend of world development will bring qualitative as opposed to quantitative achievement. The ice is breaking at last and we, together with other units with the same ideas, are moving into warmer latitudes. There is nothing at all secret about our organization and we welcome questions.

During the discussion which followed, Dr. Nikolaus Pevsner asked if the Unit was considering setting up a training organization and actual workshops for designers, similar to the Bauhaus, so that it would act not only as a clearing house between manufac-

turer and designer but would actually train a new generation of designers for a new generation of manufacturers. Mr. J. Bramwell replied that it was the intention of the Unit to do so. Mr. Read said that he thought the State would probably not take over education of this kind and they would therefore be forced to train designers. Mr. John Gloag said that the Unit would not only do good work itself but would stimulate wide and valuable imitation. Under Mr. Read's direction there would be nothing phoney about the new Unit.

The Unit has issued two leaflets, describing its aims, organization and scope, one to be issued to manufacturers and the other to designers and the public. These are summarized below:—

Aims: 1. To provide a design service in direct contact with industry. 2. To carry out research into the needs of the consumer and the potentialities of industry, and to evolve from these researches types of design which in every case are functionally efficient and æsthetically pleasing. 3. To secure the co-operation of artists and designers in projects involving more than one material or more than one purpose: to bring such artists and designers into productive relation with scientists and technologists. 4. To collect and correlate information about industrial design from all sources. 5. To find out by comparative research where British products lag behind the products of other countries and to provide British manufacturers with the means of reversing the positions. 6. To investigate, to advise, but, above all, to create a contemporary school of design.

Organization: The Unit will consist of a Director, Mr. Herbert Read, with the necessary secretarial staff, assisted by an advisory panel of technical experts. It will work in direct association with the Advertising Service Guild, through whom normally all contacts with industry will be established.

The machine is accepted as the essentially modern vehicle of form. The designs will therefore be essentially designs for mass production. It is impossible to accept the view that any essential antagonism exists between art and industry, between beauty and the machine. But it is necessary to re-integrate the worlds of art and industry, for only on that basis can we progress towards a new and vital civilization.

Procedure: Artists and designers who sympathize with these aims are invited to communicate with Mr. Herbert Read. It is strongly desired to build up the Unit on a co-operative basis. It is not intended as merely a register of designers, indifferent to the quality of the work executed through its agency. We shall carry on, if necessary, with the handful of people we know to be in sympathy with our aims rather than lose our definition and identity. Nor are we a business enterprise established solely for financial gain. We shall not be satisfied until we have not only an office and a coherent group of designers, but also a laboratory workshop where designs of an experimental nature can be evolved. We wish to lead industry in the field of design, and not merely follow where a demand has already been created.

The obvious function of the Unit is to give "style" to the specifications which the technical expert supplies to the manufacturer, but this does not mean that our designers should be expected to apply superficial ornament to ready-made articles. *Design is essentially an expression of function*, and in most cases the designer will be an artist who fully comprehends the technical process of manufacture and the functional and economic aspects of the materials he works with.

Preliminary enquiries should be directed to the Secretary, Design Research Unit, 10, Hertford Street, London, W.1.

An example of a well-designed industrial product—the current HMV electric iron. See the items herewith on the new Design Research Unit *and Mr. John Gloag's paper on* Design for To-morrow.

NRIAD

John Gloag

March 23, at the Royal Society of Arts, Adelphi, W.C.2. Paper by John Gloag on DESIGN FOR TO-MORROW, sponsored by the National Register of Industrial Art Designers. Chairman: Geoffrey Sankey.

John Gloag: In discussing design for to-morrow, I am attempting to deal only with design as a basic operation of industrial production. I am not attempting to discuss æsthetic problems; nor am I venturing to suggest what trends of taste or fashion may be followed in the future. But I do predict that good design will be a potent selling factor for British goods after the war.

Good design is not something modish that I happen to like personally because of its shape, texture, and colour. I mean something that is produced by the joint operation of trained imagination and practical skill, which together can create an article that does whatever job it is intended to do with the maximum of convenience, and is attractive in appearance. Trained imagination gives the article character: practical skill gives it reliability.

But at what stage in industrial production does trained imagination come in? It should come in when the industrial designer is consulted, for *he* is the man whose imagination has been trained. But when is he consulted? Is he consulted at all, and if so, by whom? I suggest that all too often there is a missing operation in British industry, though it is one that should properly be as ordinary and as generally accepted an operation as the preparation of drawings for jigs, the lay-out of a production sequence, the testing of materials, and the rest of the normal procedure for putting some object or series of objects through production. This missing operation in industrial production is the initial consultation with the industrial designer.

The industrial designer is *not* a "styliser"; he is *not* a "putter-on" of shapes or patterns. He should be a man with an inventive and a receptive mind, with the sort of training which will enable him to apply his imaginative powers to the study of materials and mechanical processes for fabricating materials. His work begins when the production of any article is being planned. He is the Missing Technician, and the time to call him in is when the production engineers and the sales executives and the factory directors are making their initial plans. Leave him out of the picture, and you have left out a vital operation, and maybe you have lost the touch of distinction that would have won a new market and led to big sales.

Let me give a specific example of the results of collaboration with a trained and capable industrial designer. Some years ago the H.M.V. organisation decided to put on the market an improved form of electric iron. When they made that decision the electric iron was rather a clumsy copy of the old-fashioned flat iron. In fact, it suffered from the same form of ancestor-worship in design that still characterises most motor-cars and motor-buses, which are still made with the engine in front, pulling them, as carriages and coaches were once pulled by horses. The electric iron hardly differed from its antique prototype. It was an assembly of metal parts rather conspicuously fastened together. Now the H.M.V. organisation presented the problem of producing a convenient electric iron to an industrial designer—Mr. Christian Barman—who, after consultation with production engineers, departed from the conventional methods which had hitherto been used. He designed what is now the famous H.M.V. Electric Iron, of which the visible part consists only of a completely streamlined iron without any joints, made of a material that had never been used before for such an appliance, namely, hard-glazed fireclay. The only other visible parts were the control-switch and metal sole-plate. There were no lumps, bumps, screws, or projections, or any untidy external interruptions to the surface of the H.M.V. Iron; and everybody wanted one. That is an example of the productive use of an industrial designer. It is an example, too, of the selling power of good design.

Most progressive advertising agencies are deeply concerned with the form and nature of the goods made by their clients. Their work includes market research, consumer research, and design research. Not only do they make suggestions about the way goods are presented to the consumer, in terms of packaging; but they assume another responsibility, and give advice about the actual design of goods produced by manufacturers. The manufacturing policy of a firm often concerns the advertising agent as deeply as the sales policy; and this

Advertiser's Announcement.

COMPANY MEETING.

LONDON BRICK COMPANY

NEED FOR COMMON EFFORT

The forty-third annual general meeting of the London Brick Company, Limited, was held on March 29 in London.

Sir P. Malcolm Stewart, Bt., O.B.E., HON.LL.D., D.L., J.P., the chairman, said that the profit on trading at £233,522 was down by £132,043, but interest and income from investments at £29,009 were up by £8,574. The total revenue at £262,710 was less than that of the previous year by £123,500, a decline of close on 32 per cent. The board recommended a dividend of 10 per cent. That recommendation could not have been made, but for the fact that no provision had been made for depreciation from the profits of the year. Once again hard times reigned, but they had provided the means of mitigating their effect without unwisely impairing the sound financial structure of the company. The conservation of their strength in periods of prosperity enabled them favourably to consider the stockholders when adversity threatened. The policy persistently practised in the past makes possible the present proposals. It had been a simple policy based on prudence, common sense and experience.

INCREASED EFFICIENCY.

The benefits of their policy had been secured through enterprise, the taking of considerable risks and a ceaseless endeavour to increase efficiency. Whatever changes they were going to witness in the industrial post-war world, progress and prosperity and efficient production could not be secured if individual initiative, enterprise and direct executive responsibility were cramped or damped down. Let them foster co-operation in every department of industrial life. The conception that the workers and their trade unions were in one camp and industrialists in another must be broken down. Only by the realisation of a common interest and the making of common effort could true prosperity be achieved.

Effective defence of their liberties, improved social services, freedom from want, and security for the future, all those could but be fully achieved through national prosperity. Prosperity was dependent on plentiful production and to secure this with true efficiency the close co-operation of all parties to industry was essential. Let them willingly accept the bonds of unity in both the industrial and political spheres, for through a united effort alone could they surmount the grave post-war difficulties which surely awaited them, but let them again become free individually to develop such gifts and qualities as nature had bestowed, and bountiful nature begot a vast variety of pattern.

As to the trading conditions of the past year, they had been, and were, carrying on under the ever-tightening grip of control. To-day deliveries were severely restricted. What that meant to this company, which had established itself as a national distributor, influencing fair prices to the consumer over a wide area, would be readily realised. He would only add that through the Pressed Brick Makers' Association they had consistently opposed measures likely unduly to enhance selling prices or interfere with established contractual relations. He was not going into details of the difficulties encountered under control ; that they would be overcome after the war he had no doubt.

COMPANY'S UNIQUE FACILITIES.

Their unique facilities for large-scale operations would again be just as much needed and appreciated when post-war building swung into its stride as they had been 18 months ago, when no restriction was allowed to hinder their fulfilling urgent requirements for the Government's programme of construction. With reference to the production side of the business, their efficiency had been much diminished through the reduction of output. Higher costs had inevitably followed.

The bright side of the picture, however, was the substantial amount of work being done at Peterborough and Stewartby. It was gratifying that their well-equipped foundry, engineering and welding shops were all making a substantial contribution to the war effort.

As to the prospects for the current year they were poor. It was impossible to anticipate other than a further shrinkage in the demand. The situation could only be changed for the better were the Government to embark on some substantial constructional programme. At present there was no evidence of that, not did he think it was likely shortly to take place. Consequently, stockholders should expect a further reduction of the profits for the current year. Meanwhile, they could look forward to the future with confidence, since the Government was fully conscious of the necessity for getting the building industry into its stride at the earliest moment after the war, not merely to overtake arrears of building but particularly on account of the high percentage of labour, direct and indirect, which thus would be absorbed. The building and civil engineering industries could provide a massive agency for the mitigation of unemployment.

CONTROLLED PLANNING.

To-day the good intention was to establish controlled planning on broad lines to embrace the many interests previously neglected, but above all to avoid ill-ordered construction. An admirable ten-year building programme had been issued jointly by the Ministers of Labour and Works, which was a valuable piece of work. Meanwhile in other directions sectional plans had been, and were being, worked out, but no effective progress could be made until the Government laid down a few primary principles, the foremost of which was the urgent need to define what form the control of land was to take. Without that, planning remained ineffective ; indeed the farther it went the greater the risk of producing plans to be scrapped.

To revert to their immediate prospects, he could only confirm that they were not encouraging. However, subject always to giving the first place to such contribution as they could make towards winning the war, the directors would, to the best of their ability, fulfil their responsibilities to all parties connected with the company. Present difficulties did not depress them, because they were preparing for the future, which was full of promise and offered increased opportunity for service.

In conclusion he thanked the staff and employees for their support and co-operation.

The report and accounts were unanimously adopted.

constructive and responsible interest in manufacturing policy is not complete without a corresponding study of industrial design. In fact, the progressive advertising agent makes advisory work on industrial design one of his activities.

Now a Design Research Committee is simply a team of creative men and executives. A technique successfully used in an advertising agency has been successfully applied to the problems of industrial design and production, only instead of having copy-writers, visualisers, artists, and executives, we have industrial designers working in collaboration with sales executives and production engineers. Some time before the war, in carrying out advisory work on industrial design for a firm that was manufacturing bathroom equipment and small articles of furniture, we organised our first Design Committee. I dislike this word "Committee" but I like a Committee that works. It is an old saying that the best kind is a committee of one with full powers; but this Design Committee really worked effectively because it had a Chairman, who also happened to be Chairman of the firm concerned, and he drove things along. We were concerned with three materials: timber, plastics, and glass. Plastics in those days were rather an unknown quantity but the job of the industrial designers was to evolve the most convenient form for a variety of articles such as bath trays, coat hooks, and tooth-brush racks. The first drawings were made by the design members and discussed at the Committee table with the plastics engineers and the sales executives. The question of the practical production of the shape suggested was thrashed out, calculations were made regarding economic runs and finishes, and the designers in consultation with the plastics technicians could, after being briefed in this practical way, modify a design and recast it to secure the best results from process and materials. At that preliminary stage, all questions arising from the initial cost of moulds, the type of plastic to be used, and the possible market, could be discussed. The drawings were then revised, and plaster or wood models were made, so that, in this third-dimensional stage, final adjustments and refinements could be made. In this way, the best design for expression in terms of new and rather strange materials was secured. Before this committee was formed, it had been usual to select some familiar article made in wood or metal, and to hand it over to the plastics experts, to copy in their material.

There is no need for us to seek our industrial designers abroad. We have some of the finest industrial designers in the world in Britain. I have mentioned Christian Barman, and we have men like Brian O'Rorke, Squadron-Leader Wells Coates, Flight-Lieut. A. B. Read, Sub-Lieut. R. D. Russell, Rodney Thomas. I have named only a few: there are many others: men like these, many of them qualified architects, can give, from a proper use of their talents, such distinction and such variety to British goods of every description, that although Britain in the years to come could not hope again to be called the Workshop of the World, she may well hope to maintain her undiminished reputation for magnificent workmanship and to add to it a new creative leadership in industrial design.

TCPA

Vice Presidents

Sir William Beveridge has accepted the invitation of the Town and Country Planning Association to become Vice-President. Other Vice-Presidents include Professor Patrick Abercrombie, F.R.I.B.A., P.P.T.P.I.; Rt. Hon. Viscount Cranborne; Rt. Hon. Walter Elliot, M.P.; Lord Horder, G.C.V.O.; G. L. Pepler, F.S.I., P.P.T.P.I.; Rt. Hon. Lord Reith, G.C.V.O.; Rt. Hon. Lord Justice Scott; His Grace the Archbishop of York.

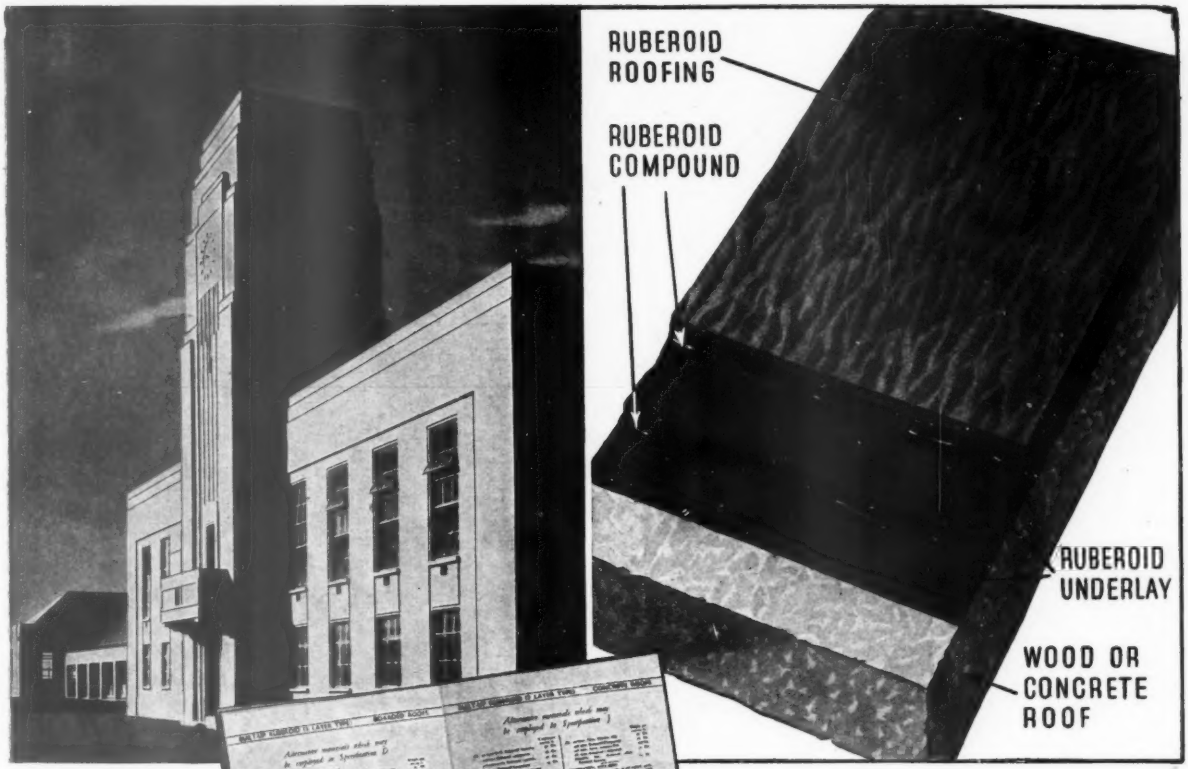
RIBA

New Members

FELLOWS (4). — Birks, Theodor Herzl (London), Ellerton, Edmund Mouat Keith (London), Harman, George Thomas (London), Walker, Stansfeld Thomas (Birmingham).

ASSOCIATES (9).—Baird, John (Edinburgh College of Art) (Burntisland, Fife), Gealy, Howard (The Technical College, Cardiff) (Cardiff), Kane, Michael Andrew, B.ARCH. (University College, Dublin) (Dalkey, Co. Dublin), Meagher, Niall Patrick, B.ARCH. (University College, Dublin) (Dublin), Rowe, Geoffrey Arthur, DIP.ARCH. (Leeds) (Leeds School of Architecture) (Huddersfield), Scott, Miss Anne Katharine Sibella (Architectural Association) (Windermere, Westmorland), Stevens, Ronald Arthur (University of London) (Sevenoaks, Kent). *Overseas.*—Plunkett, Norman Waldo (Melbourne, Australia), Ross, Herbert Kenneth (Sydney, Australia).

LICENTIATES (19).—Ball, John Westcott (Cowes, Isle of Wight), Carter, William Cyril (Shrewsbury), Gates, William Henry (Watford, Herts), Hughes, Patrick Lawrence, A.M.T.P.I. (Burnley), Ind, Robert (Shotley Gate, Nr. Ipswich), Mealings, Richard Frederick (Birmingham), Naylor, Francis Eric (Thelwall, Nr. Warrington), Parry, John Owen, F.S.I. (Ammanford, Carm.), Porte, William Church (Ipswich), Richardson, Maurice Stuart (Rickmansworth, Herts.), Stewart, Stanley (Romford), Stienlet, Vincente Gustave (Newcastle-upon-Tyne), Thomas, John Leslie (Llanelly), Thomson, Ernest Ogilvie (London), Towner, Henry Bingham (Uckfield, Sussex), Wilkinson, Colin James (Birmingham), Williams, Vivian Sidney Wade (London), Williamson, Frank (Basingstoke, Hants.), Yarwood, George (Cannock Staffs.).



County School,
Weston-Super-Mare.
Architect : A. J. Toomer, Esq., F.R.I.B.A. Taunton.

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

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REGISTERED ARCHITECT requires part-time work (evenings). Preparation of working drawing, perspectives, etc. Box 868.

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A.R.I.B.A., prize winner in R.I.B.A. Industrial Housing Competition, having fourteen years' experience with Local Authorities, and specializing in housing, is immediately available for a temporary appointment to assist with post-war housing and site planning proposals. Box No. 74.

ARCHITECTS, A.R.I.B.A., A.M.P.T.I., with wide experience in up-to-date housing, commercial and industrial buildings, hospital, etc. offer assistance for any work which can be dealt with in own office Box 75.

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Classified Advertisements continued on page xxxiv.

ARCHITECTURAL ASSISTANT, three years' university training, 19 years old, seeks progressive position in architect's or similar office—if possible on work of national importance. Box 84.

REGISTERED ARCHITECT (42), seeks employment as senior assistant to large firm; first-class man; wide experience large buildings of all types, schools, factories, hospitals, railway stations, etc., etc. Public Authority work. Would accept appointment as works architect for important firms. Box 85.

PART-TIME WORK wanted by qualified architect, A.R.I.B.A. Age 29. Wishing to work at home. 1½ hours train journey from London, but would travel to take instructions week-ends. Box 86.

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35/- offered for second-hand copy of *A History of Architecture on the comparative method* by Sir Banister Fletcher. Good condition, 10th edition if possible. Apply box 879.

HAS ANYONE A COPY of "Sound Transmission in Building," by R. Fitzmaurice, B.Sc., and William Allen, B.Arch., that they could spare? Stoneham & Kirk, 24, John Street, W.C.1. 88

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