

# THE ARCHITECTS' JOURNAL



## standard contents

every issue does not necessarily contain  
all these contents, but they are  
the regular features which  
continually recur.

## DIARY

## NEWS

from AN ARCHITECT'S  
Commonplace Book

## ASTRAGAL

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## SOCIETIES & INSTITUTIONS

## PRICES

Architectural Appointments  
Wanted and Vacant

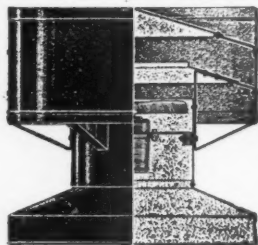
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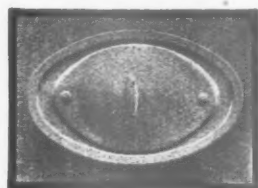
Registered as a Newspaper

★ 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. A glossary of abbreviations 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.

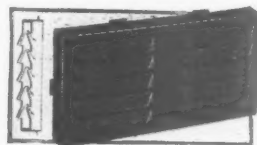
AA	Architectural Association. 34/6, Bedford Square, W.C.1.	Museum 0974.
ABT	Association of Building Technicians. 5, Ashley Place, S.W.1.	Victoria 0447-8.
APRR	Association for Planning and Regional Reconstruction. 32, Gordon Square, W.C.1.	Euston 2158-9.
ARCUK	Architects' Registration Council. 68, Portland Place, W.1.	Welbeck 9738.
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.
BDA	British Door Association, Shobnall Road, Burton-on-Trent.	Burton-on-Trent 3350.
BIAE	British Institute of Adult Education. 29, Tavistock Square, W.C.1.	Euston 5385.
BINC	Building Industries National Council. 110, Bickenhall Mansions, W.1.	Welbeck 3335.
BOE	Board of Education. Belgrave Square, S.W.1.	Sloane 4522.
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.
CEMA	Council for the Encouragement of Music and the Arts. 9, Belgrave Square, S.W. 1.	Sloane 0421.
CPRE	Council for the Preservation of Rural England. 4, Hobart Place, S.W. Sloane 4280.	
CSI	Chartered Surveyors' Institution. 12, Great George Street, S.W.1.	Whitehall 5322.
DIA	Design and Industries Association. Central Institute of Art and Design, National Gallery, W.C.2.	Whitehall 7618.
DOT	Department of Overseas Trade. Dolphin Square, S.W.1.	Victoria 4477.
EJMA	English Joinery Manufacturers Association (Incorporated), Sackville House, 40, Piccadilly, W.1.	Regent 4448.
FMB	Federation of 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.
ICE	Institution of Civil Engineers. Great George Street, S.W.1.	Whitehall 4577.
IEE	Institution of Electrical Engineers, Savoy Place, W.C.2.	Temple Bar 7676.
IOB	Institute of Builders. 48, Bedford Square, W.C.1.	Museum 7197.
IRA	Institute of Registered Architects. 47, Victoria Street, S.W.1.	Abbey 6172.
ISE	Institution of Structural Engineers. 11, Upper Belgrave Street, S.W.1.	Sloane 7128-29.
ISPH	Committee for the Industrial and Scientific Provision of Housing. 3, Albemarle Street, W.1.	Regent 4782-3.
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.
MOA	Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, 55, Whitehall, S.W.1.	Whitehall 3400.
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. 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.	Whitehall 8411.
MOW	Ministry of Works. Lambeth Bridge House, S.E.1.	Reliance 7611.
NBR	National Buildings Record. 66, Portland Place, W.1.	Welbeck 1881.
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.
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.



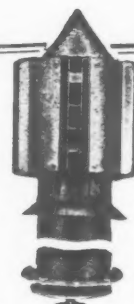
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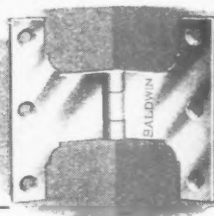
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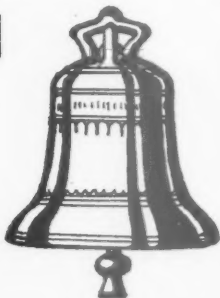
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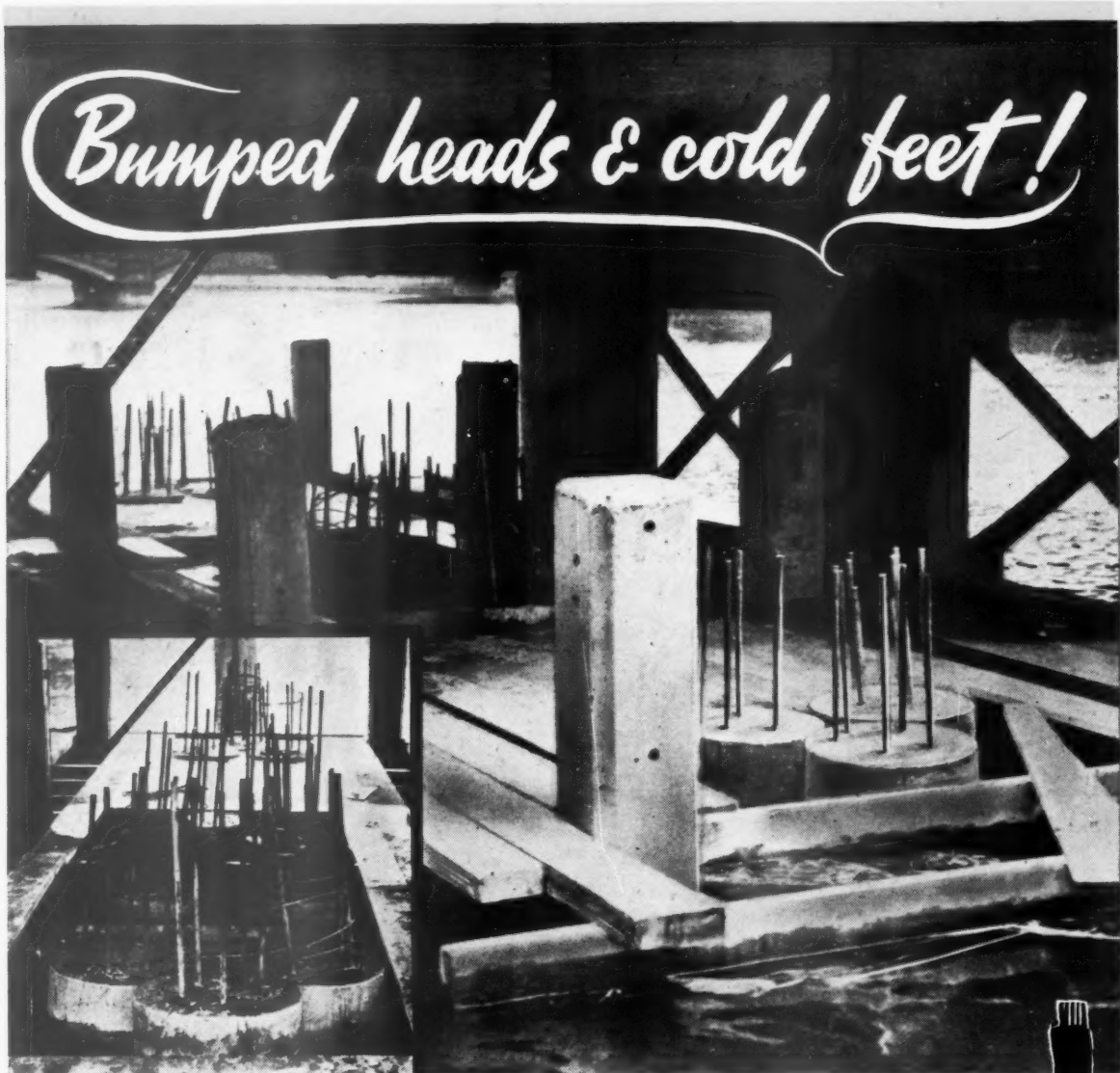
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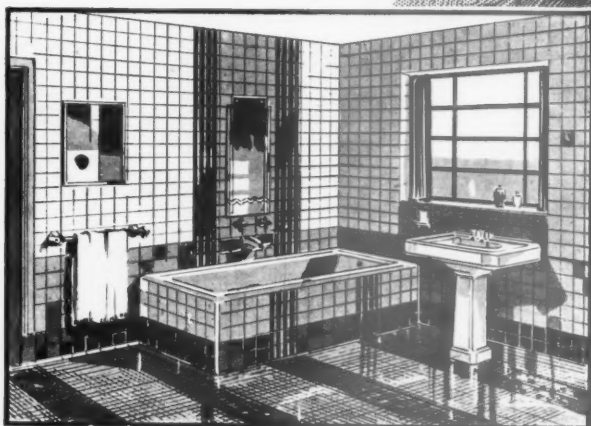
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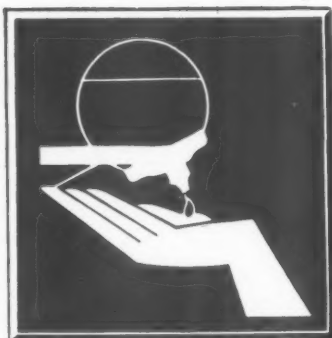
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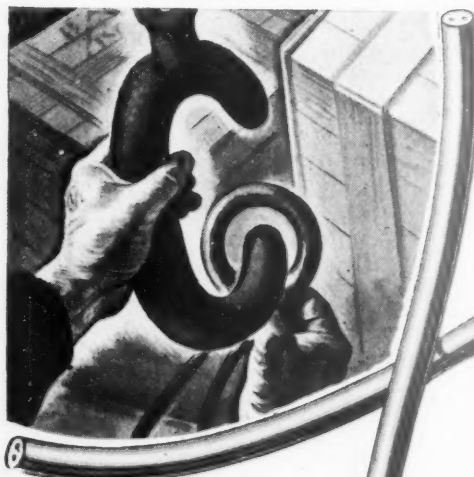
*Established 1911*



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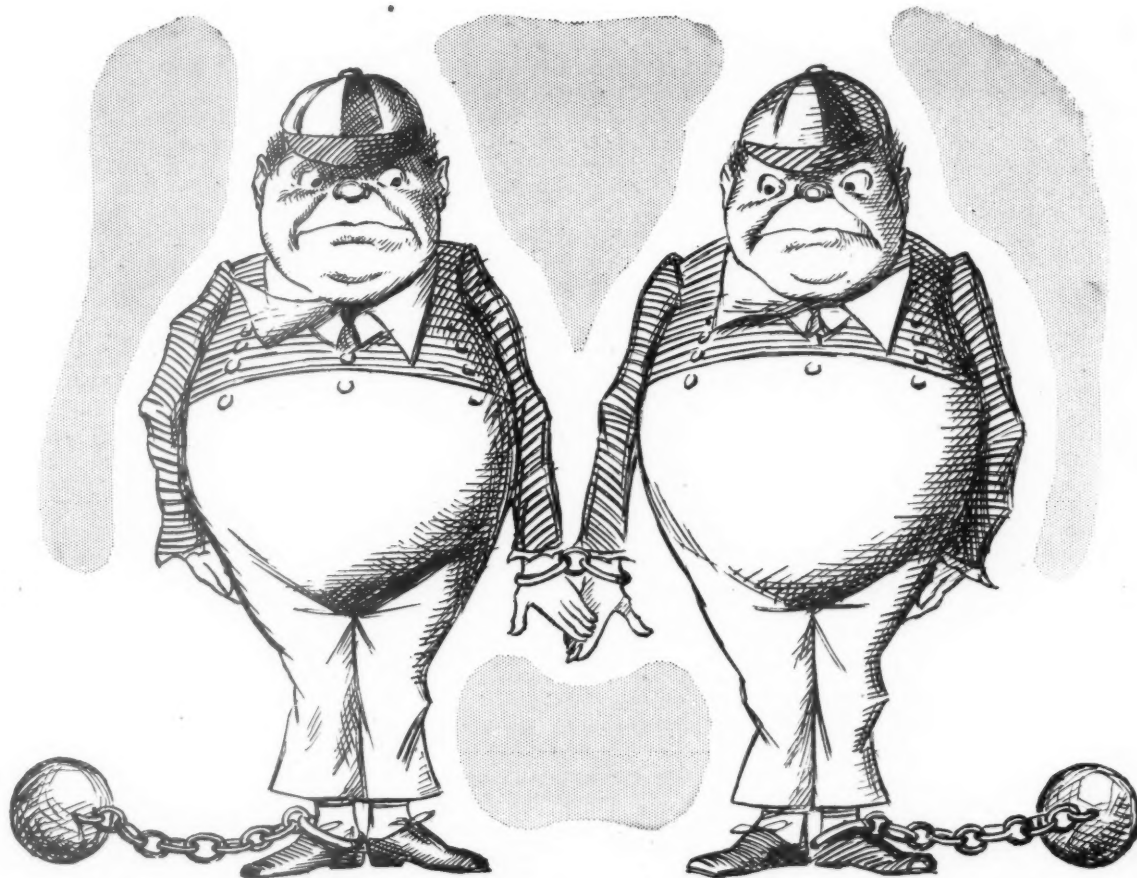
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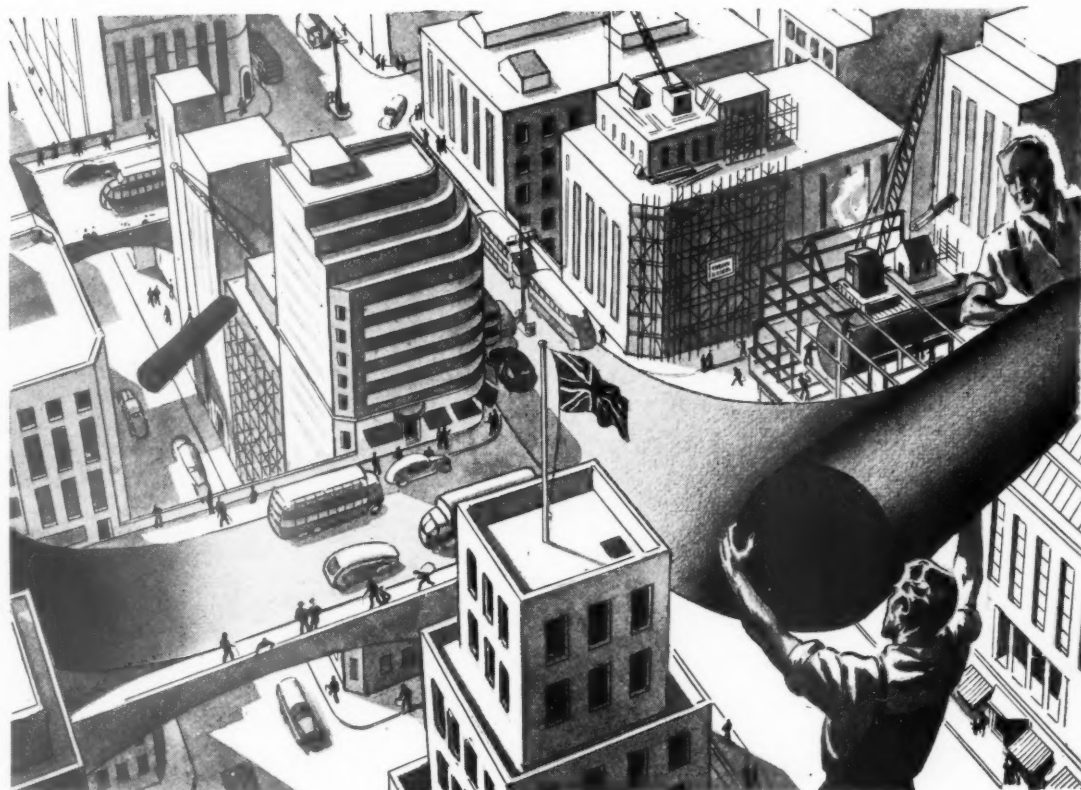
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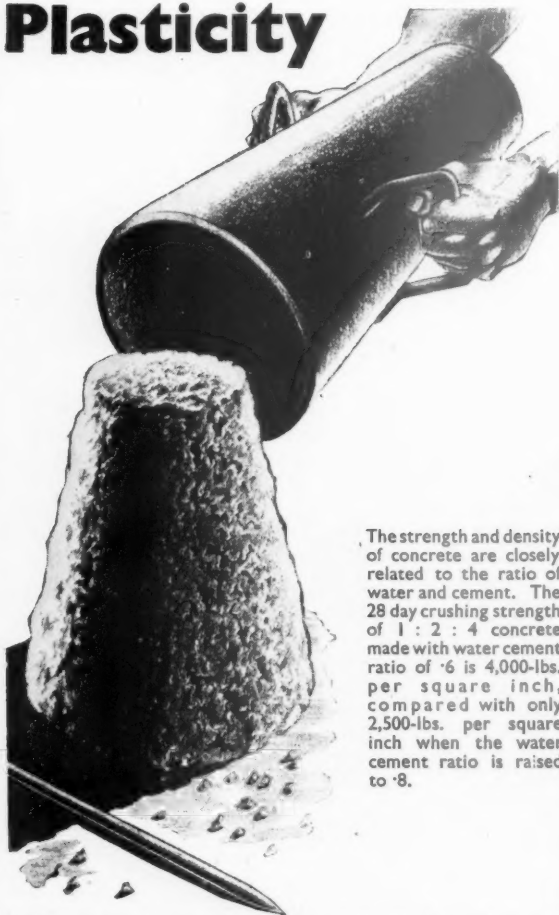
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It is not easy to control the amount of gauging water used on the site; it is so much easier to place wet concrete even though weaker and less dense concrete is bound to result. Something which increases the plasticity of a mix, and retains its workability with reduced gauging water, is a valuable asset.

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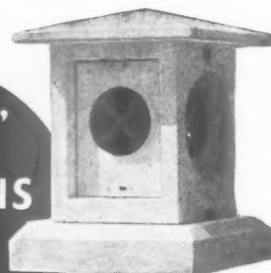
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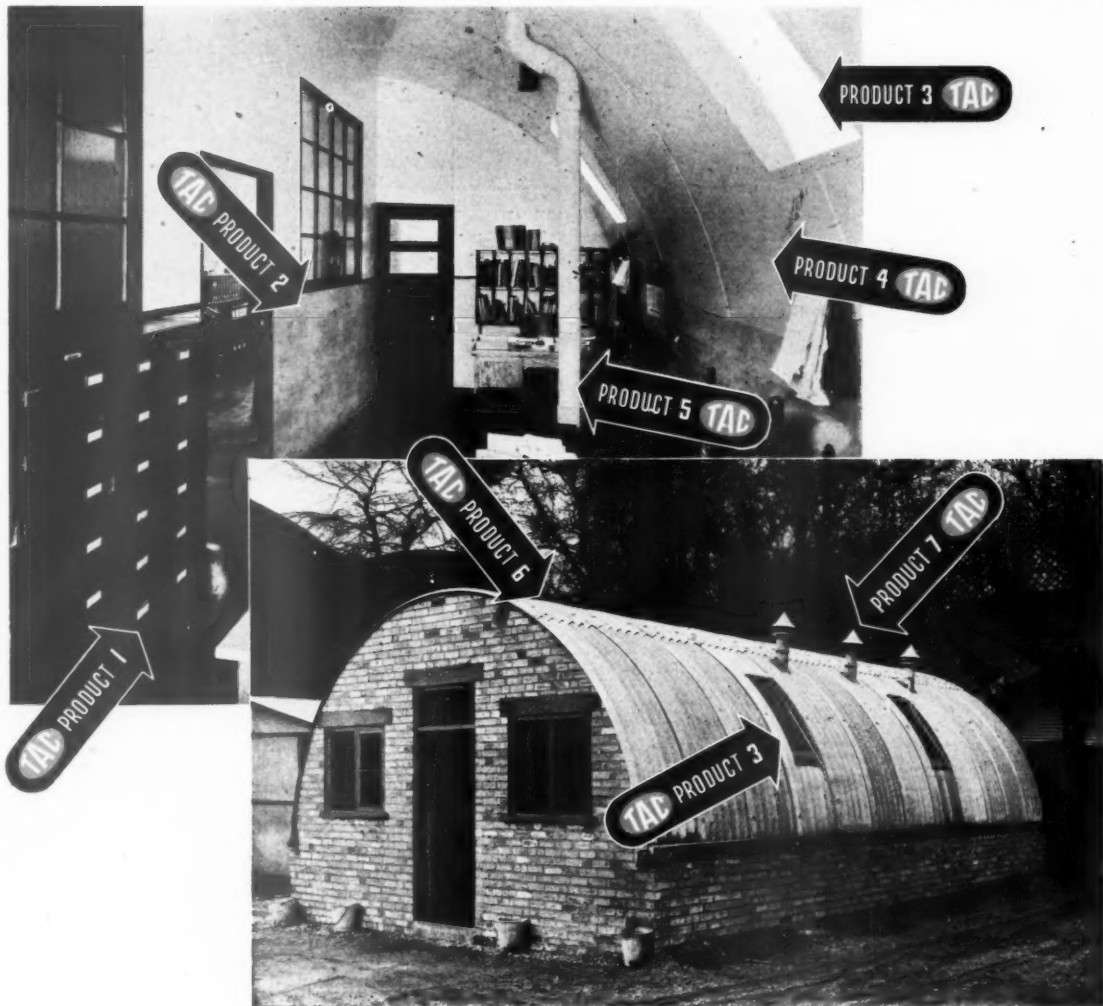
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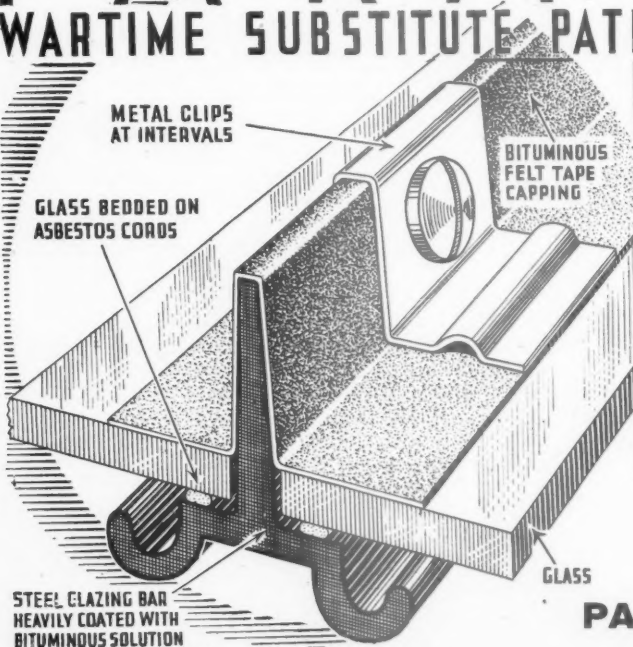
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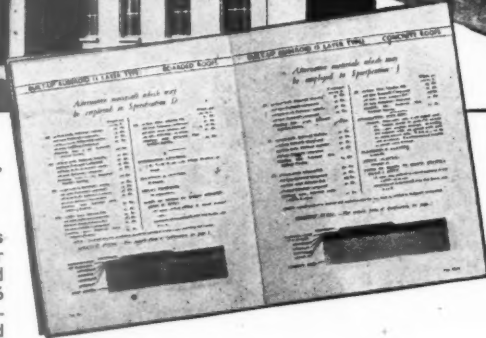
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Seventy years ago, when the above illustration first appeared, The Silicate Paint Company had just been founded. From its earliest days the Company was associated with the counter-movement towards simpler forms of decoration and a more mature appreciation of colour. These

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# "In what time . . . ?"

When insulation of a building is considered the question must be asked—and answered—*"In what time will the resulting economies repay the extra cost (if any) of the insulation?"* The answer will depend on construction, cost of insulation, cost of heating plant, price of fuel, temperature requirements and so on.

The following table is compiled from Table 1 and Chart 2 of Bulletin No. 12—"Thermal Insulation of Buildings," issued by the Ministry of Fuel and Power. It relates to the lining of typical wartime constructions with  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch Insulating Board, with air space. "Cost of insulation" figures are per 1,000 sq. ft.

Construction	Thermal Transmittance			Increase or decrease of cost of Insulation over Savings on Heating Plant	Number of years in which fuel saving pays for extra cost of insulation
	Uninsulated	Insulated	Reduction		
Corrugated iron roof . . . .	1.5	0.32	1.18	£24 Saving	—
Corrugated asbestos cement roof . . . . .	1.4	0.32	1.08	£17 10s. "	—
Corrugated iron wall . . . .	1.2	0.31	0.89	£6 "	—
Corrugated asbestos cement wall . . . . .	1.15	0.30	0.85	£4 "	—
$\frac{1}{2}$ in. Flat asbestos cement wall	0.89	0.28	0.61	£12 Extra	1½ years
4 in. Concrete roof . . . .	0.68	0.26	0.42	£24 "	4 "
4 in. Concrete wall . . . .	0.64	0.25	0.39	£25 "	5 "
4½ in. Brick wall . . . .	0.64	0.25	0.39	£25 "	5 "

In practically all heated "single-skin" buildings the savings in initial cost of central heating plant outweigh the cost of insulation, as the savings in labour in manufacturing and installing heating plant exceed the labour used in insulation. In all types of buildings in general use today the money saved on fuel repays the extra cost of insulation in a few years.

# "... and with what efficiency ?"

But there is another aspect of insulation—probably of greater National importance—its effect on the efficiency of workers. If, through inadequate or badly distributed warmth, or cold draughts precipitated by uninsulated surfaces, the output of workers in factory or workshop is reduced by 5% during the cold months of the year, the loss is equal to one week's output per annum. How many times would the value of one week's output exceed the cost of adequate insulation? . . . and can the country afford to lose the output?

*Supplies of  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch Insulating Board are available for insulating approved buildings of essential character. We welcome enquiries for lining new or existing buildings by our latest SPECIALISED CONSTRUCTION methods.*

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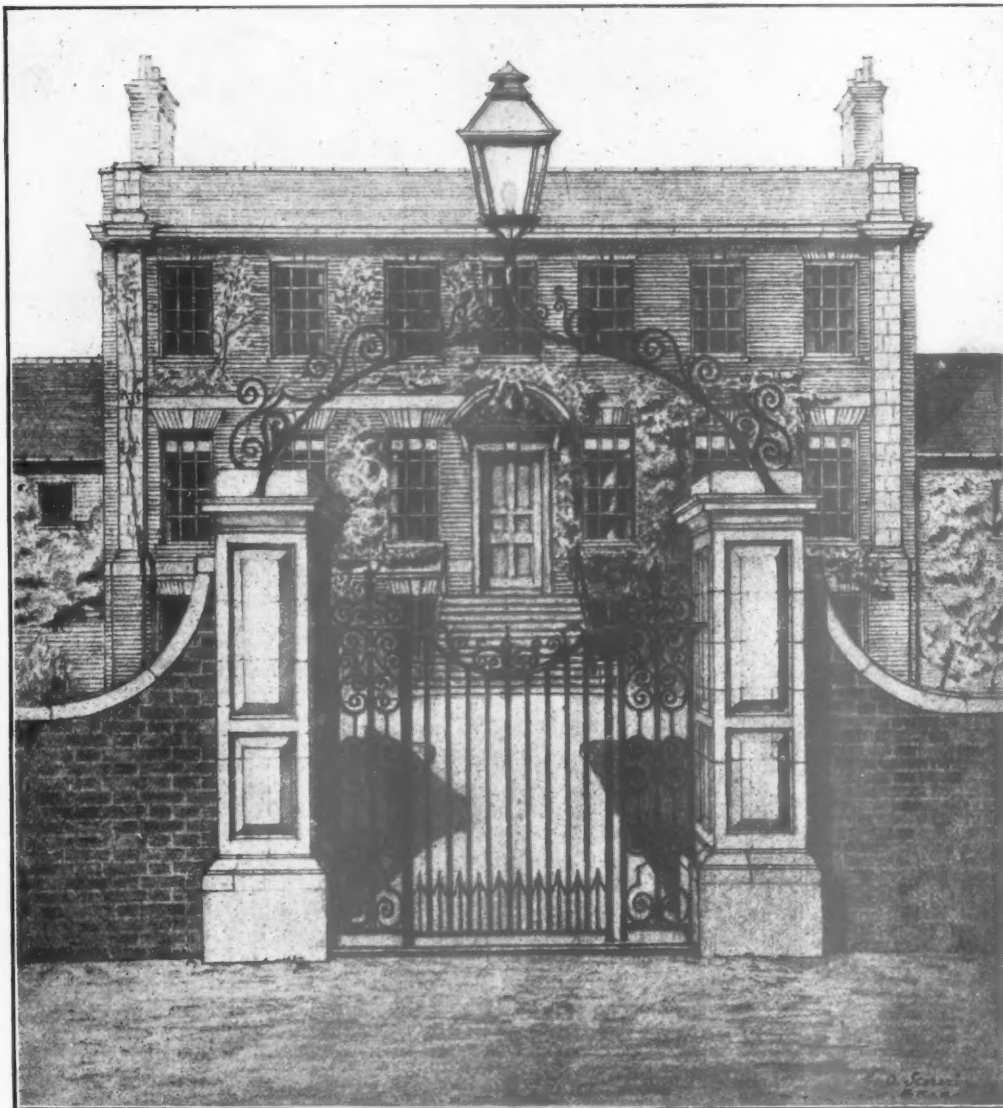
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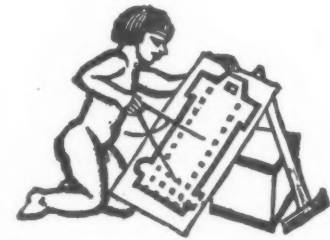
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In common with every other periodical this JOURNAL is rationed to a small part of its peace-time needs of paper. Thus a balance has to be struck between circulation and number of pages. We regret that unless a reader is a subscriber we cannot guarantee that he will get a copy of the JOURNAL. Newsagents now cannot supply the JOURNAL except to a "firm order."



## DIARY FOR OCTOBER NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER

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

**CARDIFF.** *Rebuilding Britain Exhibition.* (Sponsor, RIBA.) DEC. 20 to JAN. 17

**EXETER.** *Rebuilding Britain Exhibition.* (Sponsor, RIBA.) OCT. 21 to Nov. 8

**LONDON.** *AA Members' Sketches Exhibition* (including a section for photographs) completed since the outbreak of war. At 34-36, Bedford Square, W.C.1. OCT 21—Nov. 5.

*Stepney. To-day and To-morrow Exhibition.* At the Whitechapel Art Gallery. 11 a.m. and 6 p.m. every day, including Saturday and Sunday. Exhibition is an attempt to illustrate the problems which have to be faced in building the new Stepney. (Sponsor, Stepney Reconstruction Group.) OCT. 21-31

*Practical Planning Exhibition and Conference.* At the Institution of Civil Engineers, Westminster. Exhibition includes graphic charts showing necessity for national and regional planning; models, photographs and plans illustrating development of existing towns and planning of new ones; examples of practical planning in twenty-six counties and cities; and a full-size model kitchen and a room with a second insulated floating floor. (Sponsor, Institution of Civil Engineers and Institution of Municipal and County Engineers.) 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Admission free. Lectures: October 27, *Alternative Materials and Methods of Construction in Buildings*, chief speaker, Lord Portal, Minister of Works. On October 21 there will be two conferences devoted specially to questions of interest to women: in the morning, *The Planning of a Town as affecting the Home*, chairman, Miss A. M. Lupton, M.B.E., vice-chairman Housing Centre; in the afternoon, *The Planning of a Home*, Chairman, Miss Caroline Haslett, C.B.E. OCT. 21-30

*East Suffolk Reconstruction Survey.* Exhibition. At 13, Suffolk Street, S.W.1. (Sponsor, HC.) OCT. 18 to Nov. 6

*Conference on Country Towns in a National Policy.* At the Assembly Rooms, Royal Empire Society, Northumberland Avenue, W.C.2. Speakers: Professor A. W. Ashby, George R. Bull, W. R. Davidge, Lord Harmsworth, Dr. Julian Huxley, Miss Mary Glasgow, F. J. Osborn, R. L. Reiss, G. N. C. Swift and representatives of country towns. (Sponsors, TCPA.) OCTOBER 22-23

Arthur Ling. *The County of London Plan.* At the Westminster Hospital Medical School, Horseferry Road, S.W.1. 6.30 p.m. Mr. Ling was unable to give this lecture last month owing to ill health. (Sponsor, ABT.) OCTOBER 22

DIA. Annual Meeting and Conference at the Royal Society, Burlington House, W.1.

Annual Meeting, noon. Discussions: *National Designs*, 2.15 p.m.; *Training and Status of Industrial Designers*, 5 p.m. (Sponsor, DIA.) OCTOBER 22

Percy J. Waldram. *Daylight Illumination in Factories and Workshops.* At 39, Victoria Street, S.W.1. 6.30 p.m. OCT. 24

T. B. Oxenbury. *East Suffolk Reconstruction Survey.* At 13, Suffolk Street, S.W.1. 1.15 p.m. (Sponsor, HC) OCT. 26

Professor C. H. Reilly. *Citizen or Peasant.* At 1, Grosvenor Place, S.W.1. (Sponsor, TCPA.) OCTOBER 28

Luncheon to meet The Lord Mayor of London. At the Savoy Hotel, W.C. 1 p.m. (Sponsor, LMBA.) OCTOBER 29

H. H. Lusty. *Plastics and their Place in Post-War Building.* At 75, Eaton Place, S.W.1. 2.15 p.m. (Sponsor, London Branch IAAS.) OCTOBER 30

W. P. Watkins. *Co-operative Home Building.* At 13, Suffolk Street, S.W.1. 1.15 p.m. (Sponsor, HC.) NOV. 2

F. R. Yerbury. *Commercial Design To-day in Sweden.* At Royal Society, Burlington House, Piccadilly, W. In the Chair: Lord Sempill. Buffet lunch 2/6 from 12.45 to 1.30 p.m. Talk and discussion 1.30 to 2.30 p.m. (Sponsor DIA) NOVEMBER 3

Marc Peter, Jr. *Developments in American Small House Construction.* At 36, Bedford Square, W.C.1. 6 p.m. (Sponsor, AA) NOV. 9

J. H. Forshaw, Architect to the London County Council. *Town Planning and Health.* At Royal Sanitary Institute, 90, Buckingham Palace Road, S.W.1. (Sponsor, Chadwick Trust), 2.30 p.m. NOVEMBER 11

Charles Gandy. *Town Planning and Clean Air.* At 1, Grosvenor Place, S.W.1. (Sponsor, TCPA.) NOVEMBER 25

*Film Evening.* Films selected by Paul Rotha, who will give an informal talk. At 34-36, Bedford Square, W.C.1. 6 p.m. (Sponsor AA.) DECEMBER 14

**STOKE-ON-TRENT.** *When We Build Again Exhibition.* (Sponsor, TCPA, in conjunction with Cadbury Bros.) OCTOBER 21-23

*TCPA Conference.* Speakers: Dobson Chapman, Max Lock and Paul Cadbury. OCTOBER 23

**WOLSTANTON, Stoke-on-Trent.** *Housing in Gt. Britain Exhibition.* (Sponsor, HC.) OCT. 21 to 30

**WINCHESTER.** *Your Inheritance Exhibition.* (Sponsor, HC.) OCT. 31 to Nov. 7

## N E W S

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 21, 1943  
No. 2543. Vol. 98

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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.

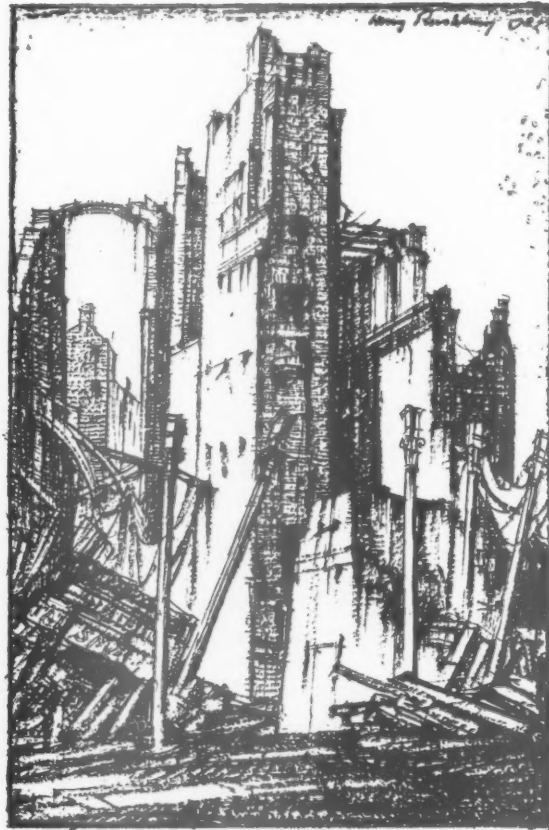
Any feature marked with more than two stars is very big building news indeed.

**Professor Patrick Abercrombie has been appointed, on the recommendation of the Clyde Valley Regional Planning Advisory Committee, to act as consultant in the preparation of the PLAN FOR POST - WAR DEVELOPMENT in this region.**

**In the House of Commons Mr. Keeling asked the Secretary of State for War the arrangements made to PROTECT ANCIENT SITES, historic parts of buildings and works of art in Italy, occupied from time to time by the Allies.**

Sir James Grigg replied: British and American experts are engaged in occupied territory for the protection and supervision of ancient monuments, museums and works of art. British officers sent or provisionally selected are drawn from the British Museum and from the Inspectorate of Ancient Monuments (Ministry of Works), the National Gallery and the Royal Institute of British Architects. Lists of the aesthetic and ancient monuments, prepared by experts in this country, have been supplied to these officers. Detailed instructions have been issued regarding the closing and guarding of museums and buildings containing works of art, which troops have been forbidden to enter. Italian curators and their staffs where suitable have been retained in their previous appointments. Damage caused by operational activities is, of

# CRITTALL WINDOWS



WHEN YOU  
REBUILD

THE CRITTALL MANUFACTURING CO. LTD., 210 HIGH HOLBORN, W.C.1.

from AN ARCHITECT'S *Commonplace Book*

A WHIMSICAL FABRICK. [From An Essay Towards a Description of Bath, Volume II, by John Wood, Architect]. Saint Michael's Church was nevertheless rebuilt, partly at the Charge of the Inhabitants, by a voluntary Subscription in some, and by a Rate, etc., upon the whole, and partly at the Charge of the late General Wade, who, in the Year 1734, gave the Corporation of Bath five hundred Guineas to be applied in the Re-edifying of this Church, or in making the Pump House more convenient for the Company, as above; for both which Works the General had such Draughts, Estimates and other Information from me, by one of the Corporation, as was necessary for his Government in fixing his noble Benefaction: But notwithstanding this, the Work was carried on by the Direction of the above mentioned John Harvey, and in a Taste so peculiar to himself, that the very Journeyman Workmen, to mortify him, declared that a Horse, accustomed to the Sight of good Buildings, was so frightened at the odd Appearance of the Church, that he would not go by it till he was hoodwinked. The inside of the Body of this whimsical Fabrick is near sixty three Feet in Length, almost thirty seven Feet in Breadth, and has only a Timber Floor to separate the Living from the Dead! The Roof too is a Piece of Work of a very uncommon Kind; for the Building is span'd at twice to throw the Weight of the whole Covering towards the Center of its Beams; and to make a Lodgment for Dirt and Snow directly over the very Middle of the Church! Thus one Absurdity, or rather Iniquity accompanies another; for a Timber Floor, and an M Roof, for the Body of a Church, are artful Contrivances, for the Benefit of Trade, as the knavish Sort of Workmen term it; and Time will demonstrate it in this Structure.

course, unavoidable but where historic buildings and those containing works of art have been damaged, immediate steps are being taken to effect such temporary repairs as may be necessary to prevent further damage to the building or theft or damage to its contents. At home an adviser on archaeological questions is being appointed. He will direct and supervise measures for the protection and conservation of ancient monuments and works of art in territories where British troops are operating.

★

The second report of the CODES OF PRACTICE COMMITTEE has just been issued by MOW; it is reviewed on p. 298.

We regret to record the DEATH OF MR. H. CHALTON BRADSHAW, C.B.E., F.R.I.B.A., Secretary of the Royal Fine Art Commission, who collapsed and died at his office in Burlington Gardens last Friday.

Harold Chalton Bradshaw was born in 1893 and educated at Liverpool University, where he was Holt Scholar in 1913; he became in the same year the first Rome Scholar in Architecture at the British School at Rome. During the last war he served in Belgium, France and Italy as a captain in the Royal Engineers and was awarded the Croix de Guerra. Elected an Associate of the RIBA in 1918, he became a Fellow in 1929. His executed work included the Guards' Memorial in London (with Gilbert Ledward, R.A.) and the war memorials for the Imperial War Graves Commission at Cambrai and Ploegsteert Wood. His career as a practising architect was cut short by his appointment as the first secretary of the Royal Fine Art Commission. His other appointments included honorary secretary of the faculty of architecture in the British School at Rome, lecturer in architecture at the Royal Academy Schools, member of the council of the RIBA in 1921-22, and again from 1923-29. For several years he was a member of the council of the AA, an examiner of the RIBA, and a member of the Architects' Registration Council.

There appears to be considerable SCOPE FOR SAVING ENERGY by planning the location of factories and industrial establishments in such a way that their requirements of steam, hot water and power can be derived from the surplus plant or waste heat of the factories, said Dr. E. S. Grumell, at a luncheon held in London by the Institute of Fuel.

He said: How long can we get the available coal at a reasonable cost? The answer is that in the opinion of a number of people the best seams will be worked out in 30 to 50 years, and coal will be very costly unless greatly improved methods of mining are invented. The study of improved methods of using

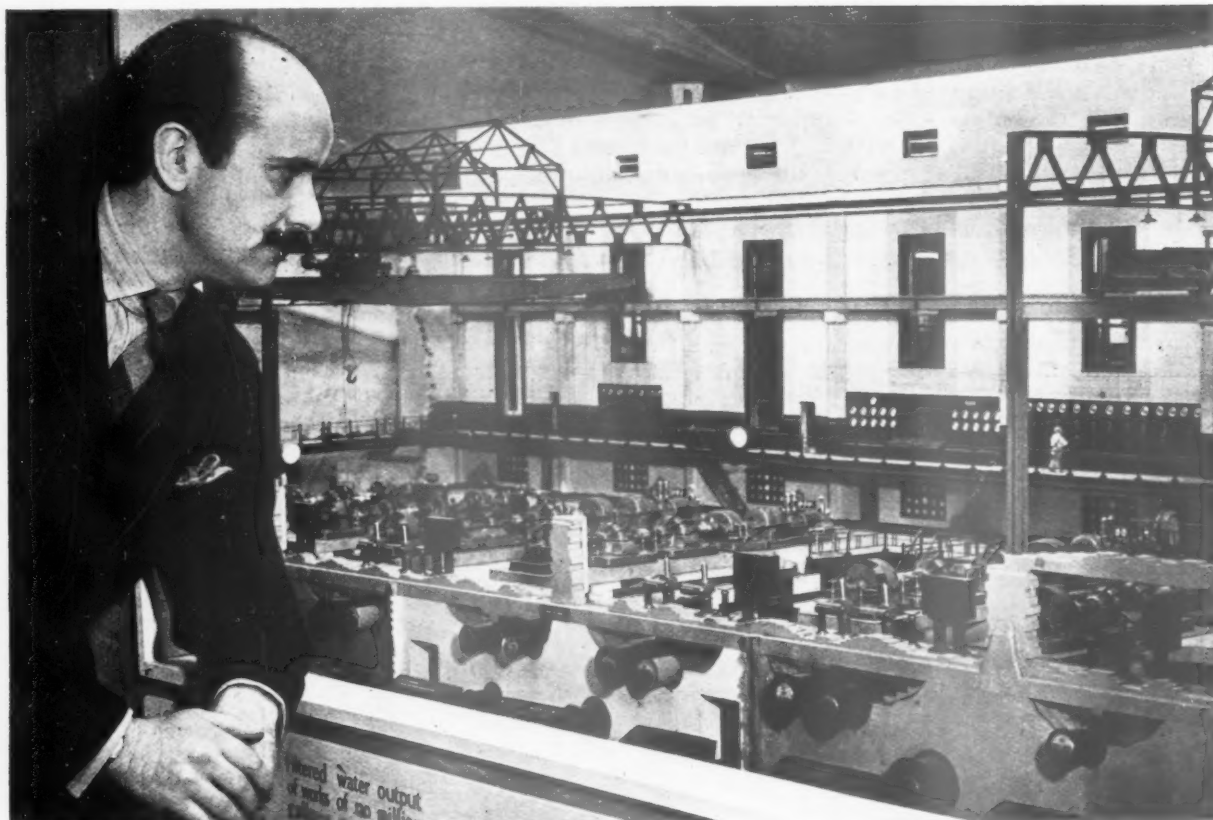
fuel and power of all kinds with the object of conserving coal is of first importance. Research should be increased and co-ordinated and the lessons of research already reported should be more fully applied. It is hoped that those who are planning post-war buildings will emphasize the importance of new buildings being properly insulated.

Nr. A. C. H. Stillman, F.R.I.B.A., has been appointed ARCHITECT AND SURVEYOR, STAFFORDSHIRE EDUCATION COMMITTEE, filling the vacancy caused by the death of Colonel G. L. Lowther, M.C., L.R.I.B.A.



Mr. F. R. Yerbury has just returned from a visit to Sweden, which he made at the invitation of the Swedish Government. During the visit he gave several lectures and also met distinguished personalities connected with architecture and the allied arts. The photograph, taken in Stockholm, shows (from left to right): Dr. Erik Wettergren, Director of the National Gallery in Stockholm; Herr K. Dessau, who has taken a prominent part in the industrial design movement in Denmark and has now escaped to Sweden; Dr. Ake Stavenow, Director of the Svenska Slöjdföreningen; and Mr. F. R. Yerbury.





## Designer of the ICE Exhibition

L. Hulme Chadwick, who is an Associate of the Royal College of Art and a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts, has been responsible for the general design and lay-out of the *Practical Planning* exhibition of the Institutions of Civil Engineers and Municipal and County Engineers, now on view at Great George Street, Westminster. Mr. Chadwick studied industrial design at Manchester School of Art, where he was an Industrial Art Exhibitioner. In 1930 he won the National Scholarship at the Royal College of Art, being the first National Scholar from the Manchester School for twenty years. At the RCA he continued to study industrial art, but changed to architecture, winning the Architectural Travelling Scholarship of the College which

took him to Italy, Germany and Sweden. He has won in his time some six scholarships. After leaving the Royal College he worked in various architectural offices including those of Berry Webber and J. Sheppard & Partners, specialising on schools. The Munich Crisis in 1938 saw him working as a camouflage design expert at the Air Ministry, where he is now the head of the camouflage design department. He is an associate of the Design Group. In the photograph above Mr. Chadwick is looking at a model at the ICE exhibition, of a great regional pumping plant, which filters 120 million gallons and pumps 50 million gallons of raw water a day. The exhibition remains open until October 30. See also page 288.

*The LCC, at its meeting on Tuesday last, had before it two matters which have an important bearing on the question of post-war rebuilding and redevelopment. The first is a scheme for TRAINING MEN FOR THE BUILDING INDUSTRY; the second is a scheme for recruiting and training junior technical staff.*

The object of the schemes is to secure that the necessary trained labour and staff will be available, when required, for post-war housing and other projects, and the Council is particularly concerned in view of its own needs in this respect. Both schemes provide for trainees being recruited from the Council's own service. An outline of the schemes is given below.

(i) *Training for the Building Industry.*—The Council will be asked to approve in principle the establishment of a scheme of training in the building industry for employees in the Council's service, including Civil Defence

workers. The proposed scheme follows on the issue last February of a Government publication on training for the building industry, which indicates the need for the labour force in the building industry to be built up over a period to about 1,250,000 men, including a large proportion of skilled men, of whom a serious shortage in the early post-war period is anticipated. Proposals for meeting the immediate need include a scheme for the special training of adults on a large scale in Government training centres and in technical or similar institutes. The scheme which the Council is now to consider provides in the first instance for the training of skilled men on the Council's staff to act as instructors, and for refresher courses for skilled men. The training courses will be organized in conjunction with the Council's school of building. The Council's service provides a very good field for recruitment to these courses as there is a large pool of building trade operatives and building maintenance staffs in the Chief Engineer's, the Architect's and the Valuation, Estates and Housing Departments, a good proportion of whom are craftsmen. Moreover, the Civil Defence Heavy Rescue Service in London, which is administered by the Council, was largely

recruited from the building industry and has a good proportion of skilled men. The question of the type of men to whom training is subsequently given by the instructors, and the method of their selection, will await the Government scheme now being formulated in consultation with representatives of the employers and men in the building trade. Training courses to meet these needs could be organized by the Council when the detailed requirements are known.

(ii) *Recruitment and Training of Junior Technical Staff.*—With the object of meeting any shortage of trained junior technical staff in the Council's service for the heavy programme of constructional and surveying work which will need to be undertaken by the Council after the war, it has inaugurated a scheme for recruiting and training suitable candidates from its own staff. Men and women not more than 25 years old with satisfactory educational qualifications are eligible and those selected are to be given a course of training, arranged by the Council, with a view to their filling vacancies for junior technical staff in the Architect's, Valuation, Estates and Housing, and Parks Departments. The training will aim at fitting candidates, after a period of instruction, for employment



in the first instance on elementary technical work. The ultimate object is the attainment of recognized academic or professional qualifications which will permit of their absorption into the technical establishments of their departments. Candidates who fail to make satisfactory progress will be eliminated from the courses at an early stage. Already over 70 candidates of both sexes have been selected as suitable for immediate training.

**At Birmingham Police Court last week Maddocks and Walford Ltd., builders, were SUMMONED FOR CARRYING OUT WORK in excess of £100 without a MOW licence. The company pleaded guilty and was committed to the Quarter Sessions.**

Mr. Pugh, for the prosecution, said the company had put up a structure at Marsh Hill, Erdington. The company applied to the Ministry of Works for a licence, but this was refused. Mr. Pugh read a letter from the company to the Ministry apologizing for having ignored the refusal of the licence to build. The letter stated the company accepted the refusal and had no intention of ignoring it. Knowing that it could expend up to a certain amount on work without licence, the company commenced the job on a very limited scale. Because of pressure of other work and the need for the removal of the temporary buildings and the storage of plant from another site, the job grew far beyond the original intentions. A Ministry of Works official who visited the site in June last estimated the value of the building at £3,000 and the value of the sewers at £600.

Another prosecution for carrying out work without a licence was made last week at Terrington St. Clement. For carrying on as a jobbing builder on July 26 without a certificate from MOW, under Defence Regulation 56AB, Ernest William Courtman, Hollow End, Enneth, was fined £5. He was also ordered to pay £2 2s. advocate's fee and 5s. 4d. costs. For carrying on building between November 4 and 11 without a certificate of registration under the same Regulation, defendant's brother, James Courtman, of Wisbech, was also fined £5.

**Major Thomas Clarence Edward Goff, a great-grandson of William IV HAS GIVEN THE NT HIS WILTSHIRE HOME known as the Court, Holt, Trowbridge, with an endowment for its upkeep.**

He and his wife, Lady Cecilie Goff, will continue to live at the Court. But on 30 days of the year the public will be admitted to the grounds and to four rooms on the ground floor. With the house Major Goff has handed over furnishings, pictures and notebooks and other property which belonged to William IV.

**In offices up and down the country several PAPER WASTING HABITS still persist, states the Waste Paper Recovery Association.**

The Association points out that doodling on blotting paper has been ruthlessly dealt with by the Ministry of Food by the simple procedure of stopping the issue of desk blotting pads. In this way hundreds of sheets of blotting paper are being saved annually.

## T C P A VERSUS L C C

A campaign launched by the TCPA apparently with the object of sabotaging the LCC plan is in full swing.

Letters have been written to organisations interested in planning inviting them to withhold their approval. Signatures are being canvassed for a memorandum stating that it is intolerable to have more than one flat in five dwellings; and last Saturday a meeting was held at Bethnal Green at which Mr. Osborn criticized the plan in the morning and Mr. R. L. Reiss offered an alternative in the afternoon. The agitation is based on answers to questionnaires. Not long ago the school children of Bethnal Green prepared a plan for their district showing a very high density development. Asked to explain this at a housing centre meeting their spokesman answered "Yes. We think most of us want houses. But as all the people who lived in Bethnal Green before the War will certainly want to come back there we thought it best to put nearly everyone in flats and keep some open space." How much of the sense of this would have been recorded in a TCPA questionnaire?

The LCC, by basing their proposals on density and leaving it open to each locality to favour whichever type of dwelling they prefer, have done their best to sidetrack the house-flat controversy which all serious-minded planners wish to see dead. The TCPA, in reviving it and using it to whip up opposition to the considered proposals of the LCC, shows itself to be fanatical to the verge of irresponsibility.

The density proposed by the LCC is 136 persons per residential acre, which works out at about 70 per acre overall. The TCPA favours a density of 12 persons per acre. Even though the former does not include main roads and industrial sites and the latter does, there is a big discrepancy. The TCPA figure is based on what it conceives to be the most desirable form of dwelling. The LCC figure has been calculated with reference to existing circumstances. Which of these approaches is correct?

Few who have thought about the question can be in doubt about the answer. Density is not an absolute. The best density is the one which shows most consideration for the convenience of the people housed in view of the way their life is organised. Points which planners have to bear in mind when examining density from the point of view of family life are (i) the provision of extra domestic services, e.g., day nurseries; (ii) the improvement of existing services, e.g., accessibility of shops, constant central heating; (iii) low construction and maintenance cost; (iv) easy upkeep; also of course, the provision of adequate floor space, open space and amenity. The first four points indicate a certain degree of concentration. What degree no one has yet troubled to work out. But it's a safe guess that the figure arrived at would be nearer 70 than 12.

Whatever the figure, it must be open to revision. The

particular type of industrial organization prevailing locally might be anything from mass production to market gardening. The same density applied indiscriminately would give very different results in terms of journey to work, and the possibility should not be excluded of modifying one in relation to the other. Finally when deciding the density to be adopted in any particular case the existing urban set-up must be considered.

From all these points of view the LCC figure provides a reasonable working hypothesis. There are grounds for pressing that its implications and possible advantages should be more fully worked out. None for sabotaging proposals put forward as the basis of a policy to which all men of good will can subscribe.



*The Architects' Journal*

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

### PROPAGANDA GONE MAD

For many years the TCPA has enjoyed a virtual monopoly of planning propaganda. Because of this they have had the support of a number of people who don't entirely agree with the Osborn formula. Now under his leadership the whole weight of the organization is being put behind a campaign to secure rejection by the public of sane and helpful proposals for the reconstruction of London County put forward by the authority who will be chiefly responsible for carrying out the job.

★

Under the circumstances, it's a great relief to hear Mr. Henry Strauss (October 6 at the RIBA) saying : "A good town is a compact

thing. Concentration is not necessarily an evil." We need more of this from people who matter to counteract the effects of propaganda gone mad.

### ON THIN ICE

A JOURNAL reader complains of my criticism of the ICE exhibition. "Why didn't you tell us about the exhibition itself?" he asks. "You seem to have an axe to grind and your remarks appeared to be ridiculously biased."

★

I certainly have an axe to grind. I have, indeed, many axes to grind. My criticism was certainly one-sided. It always is. The design and layout, as such, of the exhibition has been ably done, and many of the individual exhibits are extraordinarily interesting. It is not the fault of the designer, Mr. L. Hulme Chadwick (trained, by the way, not as an engineer but as an industrial designer and architect) that the exhibition fails in an important respect—its lack of a new and clearly defined social objective for planning. It is not his fault that the display has a far too commercial flavour, as though it were a glorified Building Exhibition. The exhibition lacks continuity and propaganda power because it has no unifying purpose and offers no British Standard Specification for that magnificent Mammon-freed civilization of the future, which engineers themselves have so largely made possible.

★

Architects are at least beginning to develop a social conscience and

to take a more philosophical, less narrowly specialized, less commercial view of their job. There is no sign yet that this is so among the engineers.

### STEPNEY EXHIBITION

The Stepney Reconstruction Group's exhibition at the White-chapel Art Gallery is far from slick. The lettering is so bad that one suspects its amateurishness is deliberate. But the show is not affected, the impression being one of complete sincerity. The exhibition tells its story intelligently, and it is effective in spite of, perhaps partly because of, its defects. A useful example has been set by this unofficial group, composed largely of people who are personally connected with the neighbourhood. More and more of this kind of propaganda is needed in every district in the country, if public apathy to planning is to be broken down.

★

The section of the exhibition which explains how public control works is interesting in that it tells us what part of every £1 of rates goes to the various services. Here are the figures :—LCC : Housing, 2½d. ; fire brigade, 3½d. ; drainage, 3½d. ; parks, 2½d. ; roads, 4½d. ; public assistance and the blind, 2s. 7d. ; health, 2s. 6d. ; education, 3s. 1d. ; other services including building by-laws and town-planning, 9½d. Total 10s. 4d. Stepney Borough Council : Public libraries, 4d. ; housing, 4d. ; sewers, 3d. ; health, 1s. 3d. ; streets and lighting, 3s. 8d. ; baths and wash-houses, 5d. ; refuse, 1s. ; other services including parks, 1s. 1d. Total 8s. 4d. That makes 18s. 8d. in all. The police take the balance of 1s. 4d.

★

The part that goes to housing seems to be disproportionately small, and why are *two* authorities needed to cope with no fewer than five of the services ?

### DIPLOMATIC CORNER

Mr. Reginald Ross Williamson, the writer and architectural critic, has been appointed Press attaché at our Legation in Dublin. Mr.

Williamson, who is a regular contributor to the *Architectural Review*, succeeds in his new post an ex-editor of that same paper, Mr. John Betjeman, while Mr. Betjeman has, among other activities, lately undertaken a job which would test the most experienced diplomat—as you know, that of Question-Master to the BBC Brains Trust.

★

He controlled the Trust—(was ever a word so lightly used since Baldwin's day?)—with confidence and modest assurance, and in his treatment of the listener's questions he showed a serious respect which is no usual feature of this programme. His grave and leisurely method was in contrast to Mr. Donald McCulloch's breeziness, and so was his tendency to side with the underdog (i.e., the questioner) against the Brains, a very telling diplomatic move that.

★

Mr. McCulloch is of course a formidable rival. As a broadcasting technician he is in the very front rank. His authoritative voice, easy manner, impeccable timing, attractive stammer and ready flow of facetiae for awkward pauses are accomplishments which make any successor's task a terrifying one. In the Brains Trust film, you will remember, he stole the picture.

The next question comes from a journalist, Astragal of the ARCHITECTS' JOURNAL. Should the Brains Trust crack little jokes and romp humorously together? Answer: You bet it shouldn't. We pay to hear it quarrel. The very best sessions have been those in which Joad could be induced to lose his temper.

#### HULL EXHIBITION

When the Hull Civic Diagnosis was shown in its home-town recently, along with the *When We Build Again* exhibit and some reconstruction proposals, a suggestion box was provided into which citizens whose interest was not entirely academic could put their planning bee. A good many of them seem to have put their bonnet in as well.

★

One citizen suggests that: "Flat roofs are most unsuitable for the English climate, hot in Summer, wet in Winter and expensive to make rainproof, and who sits on a flat roof anyway, except women in a harem?"

★

On the other hand, if we cannot have smoke abatement, there is charm in this idea: "You ought to have spiral chimneys, like they have in some parts of Italy. The smoke goes up in rings." ASTRAGAL



## LETTERS

H. A. Johnson, F.R.I.B.A.

Reginald Hollis.

H. W. Rosenthal.

### Who shall have the Child?

SIR,—I think Astragal's article in the ARCHITECTS' JOURNAL, dated October 17, is in the main correct, except for his gloomy and impractical forecast of a building control extending presumably over a five-year transitional post-war period. Surely the first thing as an aid to progress is to put a reasonable time limit on controls, say for two years only, in which period the Government should complete all arrangements for the importation or manufacture of wet building materials required, followed by complete freedom in design and construction. As things are now, it takes from two to three months to obtain an approval from a Service Ministry for an urgent building proposal, and the same time or more, for part of the timber allocated to Mr. Brown's Agricultural Cottages. These things are against production, which will rightly be the foremost requirement in post-war housing.

With regard to Mr. Roberts' letter, I would suggest that satisfactory design and construction of housing accommodation can be obtained by:—

1. Local Authorities undertaking the housing requirements of the lowest income groups and for those who are without sufficient means to secure accommodation for themselves.
2. The reorganization of Building Society activities on the lines of the Swedish Housing Associations (and in particular the HSB), to serve the needs of the remainder.

Or in other words by operating the Scandinavian Housing System in this country.

Doncaster

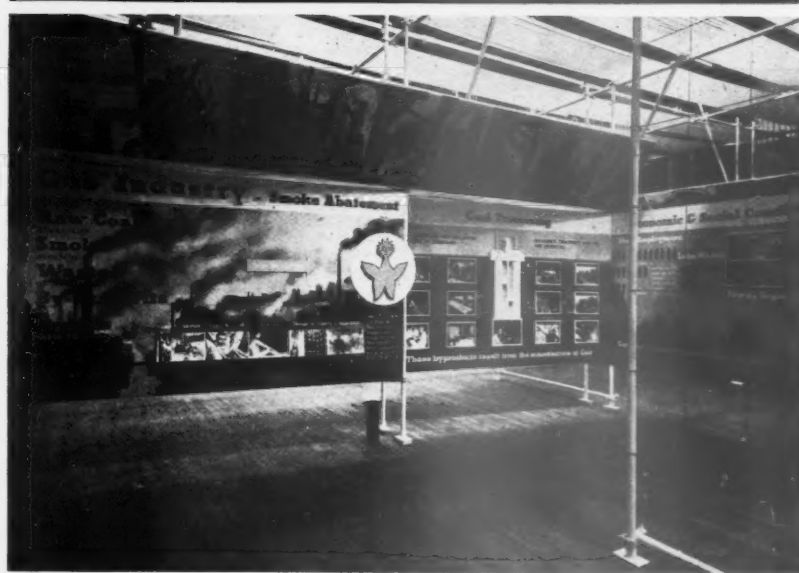
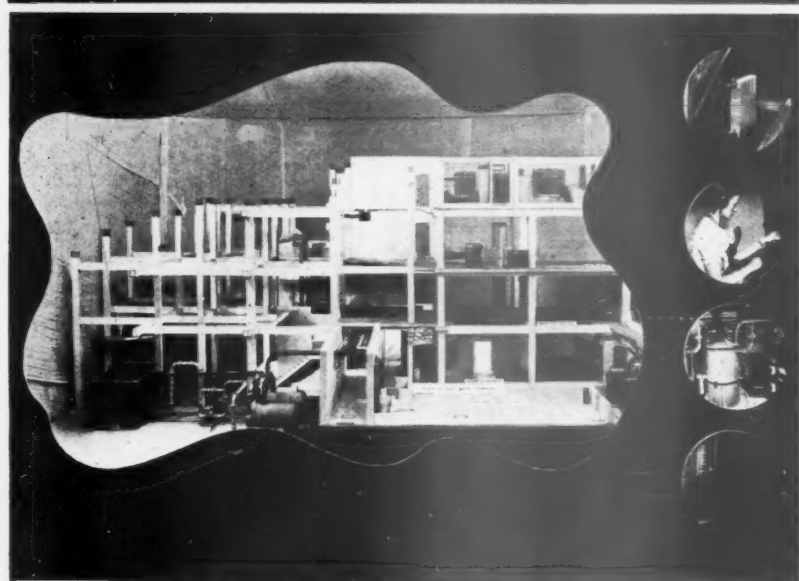
H. A. JOHNSON.



Mr. Lewis Silkin, M.P., L.C.C. opens the Stepney Reconstruction Group's exhibition at the Whitechapel Art Gallery. On the left is the Mayor of Stepney, Mr. H. C. Roeder, J.P., and in the centre Dr. J. J. Mallon, LL.D., C.H., Chairman of the Stepney Reconstruction Group and Warden of Toynbee Hall. See Astragal's note and pages 292, 300.



## AT THE ICE EXHIBITION



Views taken at the Practical Planning Exhibition of the Institutions of Civil Engineers and of Municipal and County Engineers at the ICE headquarters at Westminster. Top, model of a redevelopment scheme for Duddleston and Nechells, Birmingham, designed by H. Manzoni, City Engineer of Birmingham. Centre, model of an existing block of flats showing the engineers' part in a building, including services and construction. Above, a more general view of the exhibition, showing the gas industry's section, dealing with its part in smoke abatement, and its manufacture of well over 2,000 by-products.

## Advantages of Flats

SIR,—Here is a cutting from the *Sunday Times*, an outstanding example of a misguided attitude to post-war rebuilding, and is more general than it should be.

*Town and Country Planning Association*, at Middlesbrough.—Mrs. Jean Mann: Talk to the women and girls in the war factories and in the Forces to-day and you will find that the main and perhaps the only attraction of their new jobs and new freedom is an economic one. The predominant desire is still a cottage for two, a garden, and a family.

But the nation had better take warning. If there is no economic security there is likely to be no family, and if, instead of houses with gardens, we can only offer to the men and women returning after the war ersatz house-space in high flats we are curbing the natural desires and keeping down the birth rate at the same time.

It has been repeatedly stated that the desire for the traditional "Englishman's castle" or the "cottage for two" is still as ardent as ever. This may be so, but might not this continued singleness of mind be due to the lack of alternatives?

I wonder whether these average men and women mentioned by Mrs. Mann have any idea of what these ersatz houses could mean? It is doubtful, as there seems to have been no sound, well considered, well conducted campaign regarding the advantages of flats, properly designed and provided with abundant social amenities, and possibly based on the principle of some of the larger war camps. These would surely have a great attraction for the millions of young people who through the war have found a new lease of liberty, have savoured the fruits of independence, and have possibly a new trade to follow.

Mrs. Mann speaks as though immediately upon the declaration of peace there would be a vast rush by these young millions for marriage and a "cottage for two." This is absurd; there will be a great demand for houses by those already married, but there should be a greater proportion who could be fitted into these flats or camps. The natural desire would be freedom then even though marriage may be inevitable.

Why should the attractions of a communal life be only reserved for the occasion of war? Surely the single men and women of the future need not be presented with the only alternatives of marriage or loneliness, after experiencing communal existence to the extent that this war has provided.

Are the single men and women so interested in gardens, other than those which give pleasure without effort on their part. As for the birth rate, it is dependent on social conditions. Improve social conditions and the birth rate will take care of itself.

Although the "Englishman's castle" is an excellent solution for those mature in years, it is a hopeless one for ardent youth, especially when this youth has tasted the dust of travel and the fruits of freedom.

Banbury

REG. HOLLIS

## An Architect's Unusual Career

SIR,—I thought Astragal might be interested to learn (if he did not know before) that at least one architect has got somewhere in the world and found some sort of recognition for the ability to plan, which seems one of the qualifications of architects about which is so little known in public.

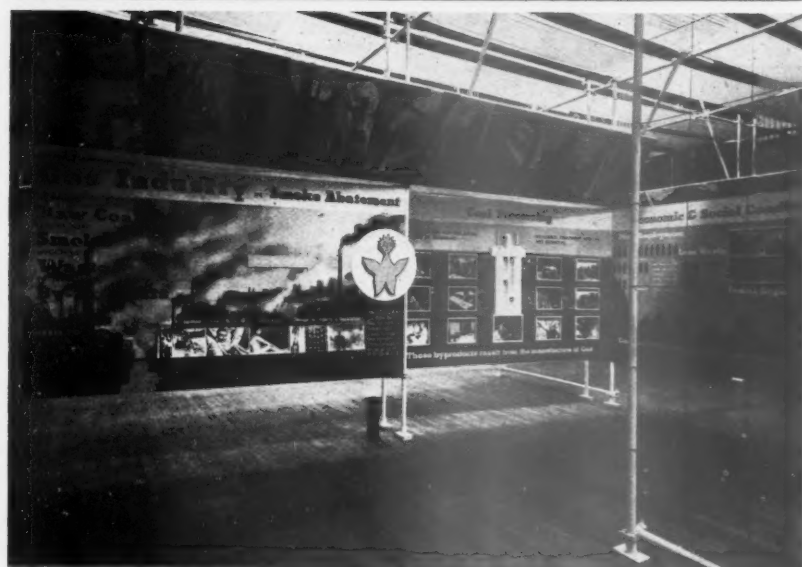
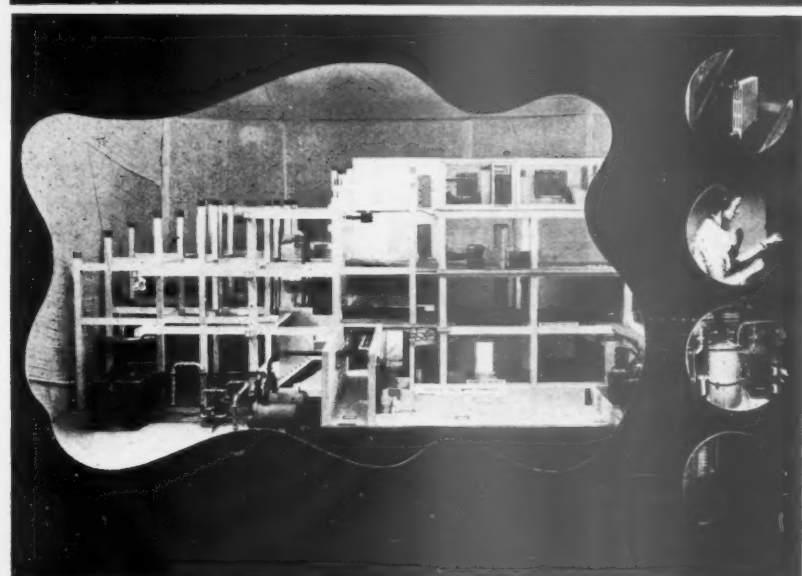
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H. W. ROSENTHAL,  
Leicester School of Architecture.





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Views taken at the Practical Planning Exhibition of the Institutions of Civil Engineers and of Municipal and County Engineers at the ICE headquarters at Westminster. Top, model of a redevelopment scheme for Duddleston and Nechells, Birmingham, designed by H. Manzoni, City Engineer of Birmingham. Centre, model of an existing block of flats showing the engineers' part in a building, including services and construction. Above, a more general view of the exhibition, showing the gas industry's section, dealing with its part in smoke abatement, and its manufacture of well over 2,000 by-products.

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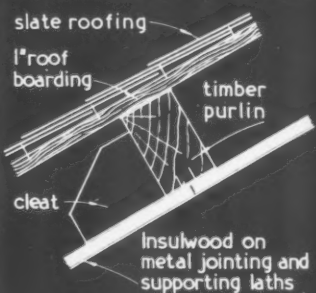
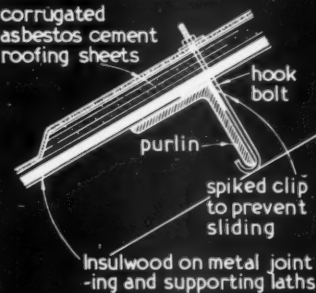
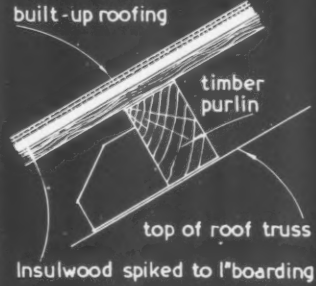
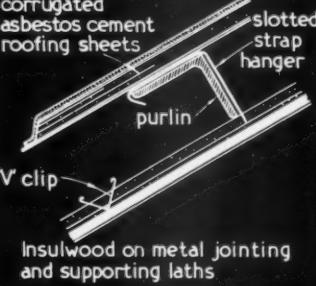
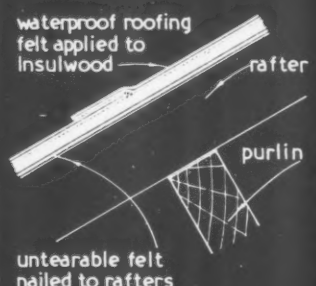
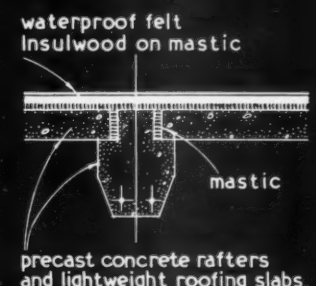
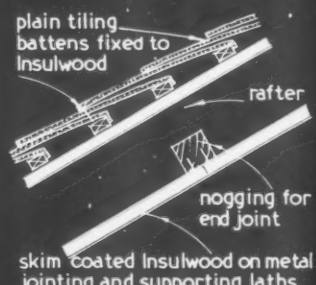
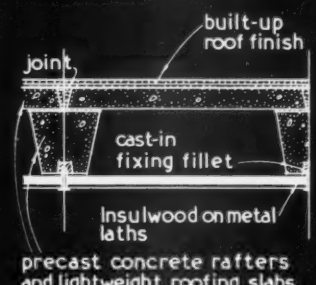






## THE ARCHITECTS' JOURNAL LIBRARY OF PLANNED INFORMATION

CONSTRUCTION AND COMPARATIVE EFFICIENCY OF INSULWOOD THERMALLY INSULATED PITCHED ROOFS  
(for details of fixings and finishings to Insulwood, see later Information Sheets of this series)

STRUCTURE	THERMAL TRANS- MISSION B.Th.U./Sq.Ft.	HEAT LOSS B.Th.U. 1,000 sq.ft./hr. 30° temp.diff.	STRUCTURE	THERMAL TRANS- MISSION B.Th.U./Sq.Ft.	HEAT LOSS B.Th.U. 1,000 sq.ft./hr. 30° temp.diff.
 <p>slate roofing 1" roof boarding timber purlin cleat Insulwood on metal jointing and supporting laths</p> <p>0.23 6,900</p>	0.23	6,900	 <p>corrugated asbestos cement roofing sheets hook bolt purlin spiked clip to prevent sliding Insulwood on metal jointing and supporting laths</p> <p>0.44 13,200</p>	0.44	13,200
 <p>built-up roofing timber purlin top of roof truss Insulwood spiked to 1" boarding</p> <p>0.29 8,700</p> <p>(A) TIMBER TRUSSED ROOFS.</p>	0.29	8,700	 <p>corrugated asbestos cement roofing sheets slotted strap hanger purlin V clip Insulwood on metal jointing and supporting laths</p> <p>0.31 9,300</p> <p>(C) STEEL FRAMED ROOFS.</p>	0.31	9,300
 <p>waterproof roofing felt applied to Insulwood rafter purlin untearable felt nailed to rafters</p> <p>0.36 10,800</p>	0.36	10,800	 <p>waterproof felt Insulwood on mastic mastic precast concrete rafters and lightweight roofing slabs.</p> <p>0.30 9,000</p>	0.30	9,000
 <p>plain tiling battens fixed to Insulwood rafter nogging for end joint skim coated Insulwood on metal jointing and supporting laths.</p> <p>0.20 6,000</p> <p>(B) TIMBER FRAMED ROOFS.</p>	0.20	6,000	 <p>built-up roof finish joint cast-in fixing fillet Insulwood on metal laths precast concrete rafters and lightweight roofing slabs.</p> <p>0.22 6,600</p> <p>(D) CONCRETE FRAMED ROOFS.</p>	0.22	6,600

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THE ARCHITECTS' JOURNAL  
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## INFORMATION SHEET

• 912 •

### BUILDING BOARDS

#### No. 10

**Subject :** Thermal Insulation. Roofs (A).

**General :**

This Sheet is the fifth of the group giving typical comparative thermal transmission values for various forms of floor, wall and roof construction, and deals with insulated roofs using  $\frac{1}{2}$  in. Insulwood.

**Thermal Transmission Values :**

The thermal transmission values shown are based on assumed coefficients which have been adhered to throughout, and include surface resistances. The figures represent the calculated thermal transmission of the structure for 1 B.Th.U./1 sq. ft./1 hr./°F., and heat loss per 1,000 sq. ft. over 1 hour, for the specified temperature difference.

In calculating values, allowances have not been made for variations in moisture content, etc., which would occur in actual practice due to aspect, climatic conditions, etc.

**Insulwood :**

This board belongs to the low-density range, and has a thermal conductivity of 0.36 B.Th.U. per sq. ft. per hour for 1 in. thickness and for each degree F. difference in air temperatures.

The waterproofing process undergone by the board during manufacture increases its efficiency, and ensures both a dry medium and the rejection of any absorption of atmospheric moisture.

The material can be left in its natural state, or distempered, painted, enamelled, coated with plaster, paper, etc. It may be used as an

underlay for floor covering, and a permanent shuttering to concrete.

Sheets  $\frac{1}{2}$  in. thick are used in the constructions shown. Sizes, weight and other physical properties are given in previous Sheets of this series.

**Application :**

Horizontal concrete or screeded surfaces should be thoroughly clean and dry, mopped with hot asphalt or pitch, and the insulwood firmly embedded while the mopping is hot. Two or more layers of insulation may be applied in a similar manner, well brushed before laying.

Waterproof felts and built-up roofings should be applied according to makers' instructions.

Timber nailing strips not less than 2 in. by 1 in. should be secured to brickwork or masonry walls by means of plugs and galvanized screws, at not more than 2 ft. centres. 6 ft. Insulwood sheets require three intermediates, 4 ft. two intermediates, and 3 ft. one intermediate. Cross nailing strips should be inserted to take end nailing.

On no account should sheets be forced into position, but be cut and fitted so that they are in moderate contact only—or  $\frac{1}{8}$  in. space may be left between.

Nail first to intermediates from centre outwards in each direction, with  $1\frac{1}{4}$  in. galvanized cut clasp nails at 8 in. centres; finally, nail edge of sheets in a similar manner with  $1\frac{1}{4}$  in. galvanized slater's nails at 4 in. centres. It is important to nail  $\frac{1}{2}$  in. from the edges of the sheets.

**Previous Sheets :**

Previous Sheets of this series on wallboards are Nos. 893, 895, 896, 898, 900, 902, 904, 909, and 911.

For Pimco systems of metal ceiling and partition fixing see Sheets Nos. 854, 858, 861, 864, 868, 872, 879 and 884.

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# PHYSICAL PLANNING

# 12

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*Dr. W. A. Robson, whose article on Administration is published in this and next week's issue of Physical Planning, is a Barrister-at-law and a University Reader in Administrative Law at the London School of Economics. His writings include Civilization and the Growth of Law, 1935; The Development of Local Government, 1931, and The Government and Misgovernment of London, 1939.*

### PROBLEM NUMBER ONE

*In Physical Planning Nos. 5 to 9 the bogie skeletons were taken out of the planning cupboard and aired. In No. 10 we propped them up side by side and surveyed them together. In No. 11 we gave a synopsis of the latest planning legislation, the first blow in the demolition of the cupboards. In No. 12 we begin to consider the framework of an environment for flesh and blood people, in which cupboards for skeletons are not one of the requirements.*

*The first problem that arises in building the framework for this environment is how the new legislation necessary to carry out the job should be administered. The first part of Dr. W. A. Robson's article deals with administration on the national and regional levels. He illustrates the inadequacy of the past conception of physical planning as almost entirely a local government affair, and outlines the duties which should fall within the sphere of national and regional authorities in positive national planning.*

## HOW WILL THE NEW LEGISLATION BE ADMINISTERED?

by Dr. W. A. Robson. Part one—  
national and regional levels

### planning in the past, local inadequacy

It is necessary to consider the place hitherto occupied by town and country planning in Britain, if we are to understand the position which it should have in order to produce the positive results of which such high hopes are entertained.

Broadly speaking, the concept which prevailed until recently was that town and country planning is almost entirely a local government affair. It was assumed that even the smallest and least competent local authorities could safely be left to initiate and execute elaborate and costly plans with incomparably less central supervision than that required for public health, education or housing. Moreover, no grant-in-aid or other financial assistance from national funds was provided for planning.

Thus the Town and Country Planning Act, 1932, confers

primary planning powers on the councils of county boroughs, non-county boroughs, urban districts and rural districts. When it is recalled that 244 out of 572 urban districts, 129 out of 476 rural districts and 86 out of 309 boroughs have a population below 10,000, the weakness of the units chosen becomes manifest. Their financial position is no less inadequate. Excluding the County of London, the areas of planning authorities in England and Wales whose rateable value is below £300,000, and in which a penny rate provides less than £1,200, comprise 229 non-county boroughs, 550 urban districts, and 471 rural districts. To expect a vigorous planning initiative and the employment of skilled planners by small or poor local authorities is to expect the impossible.

Even county councils are planning organs only in a secondary sense. A county district can by agreement relinquish

any of their powers or duties in favour of a county council; or the Minister can appoint one or more county councils to be represented on a joint committee consisting of several planning authorities. But neither of these things may happen.

### regional non-cooperation

For regional planning reliance is placed on voluntary co-operation in the 1932 Act. Local authorities (including county councils) where they are "desirous of acting jointly in the preparation or adoption of a scheme" may appoint a joint committee for the purpose. If they are not "desirous" and the Minister considers joint action expedient, he may constitute a joint committee—but even then only at the request of one or more of the local authorities or county councils concerned. These provisions are typical of the feeble conception of planning administration as it evolved—or, rather, failed to evolve—under the ægis of the Ministry of Health.

### central negativity

The Minister's own powers are extensive, but they consist mainly of considering and approving the activities or proposals of local authorities. It is, for example, necessary to obtain the Minister's approval of the resolution to prepare a scheme for a defined area; his agreement must also be sought for the preliminary statement of the plan, and subsequently for the draft scheme. The Central Department also exercises control over many procedural details. After the Minister has approved a scheme, he is responsible for laying it before Parliament. He can hold local enquiries at various stages laid down by the Act. He can order a local authority which has failed to prepare a scheme to do so; and if it remains recalcitrant, he can himself act in its place, or empower the county council to do so.

All these duties occupied the time of a number of worthy officials at the Ministry of Health and in local authorities for a number of years. But they achieved virtually nothing in the way of planning. The

world has yet to hear of any satisfactory planning schemes which were made and executed in Britain during the 30 years between 1909 (when planning legislation was first introduced) and 1939.

In greater London, on the Ministry's own doorstep, powers were divided between the LCC, the City of London and 77 separate town planning authorities, who agreed on only one thing: that nothing should be done to plan the metropolis either as a whole or even piecemeal at a time when it was being enlarged and despoiled at a more rapid rate than ever before in its long history.

There was thus no intelligent perception of the administrative problems involved in town and country planning. It was apparently believed that if lawyers drafted Bills, and Parliament passed them, local authorities would thereby become endowed with sufficient goodwill and knowledge to make plans, and sufficient resources to execute them.

Before the war scarcely anyone in official circles perceived the need either for national planning or for regional planning. It was not recognized that small, poor and incompetent local authorities are unsuited to perform planning functions; that effective planning cannot be carried out on a permissive basis and that compulsory powers are needed; that many plans involve substantial expenditure which must be met in part at least from national funds; that control of the location of industry is the key to planning; that planning is a new vocation requiring new kinds of training and many different types of skill and knowledge: no inkling of these simple truths ruffled the minds of politicians or officials, councillors or citizens, prior to the outbreak of World War II.

### the changing outlook

During the past four years, however, there has been a great deal of cogitation and heart searching on the part both of the public and its servants. The desire to improve the physical environment by planning post-war construction has spread to wide sections of the community and to members of all political parties. It may even be that there are votes in planning. The Govern-

ment and Parliament have taken the highly significant step of creating a Ministry of Town and Country Planning. The Barlow, Scott and Uthwatt Reports have raised, though not settled, many of the major issues involved in making town and country planning a reality.

If we consider planning as a problem of Government, our first task is to distinguish the matters which should be dealt with at the national, regional and local levels respectively.

### national planning

The matters which must clearly be decided on a national basis include the decentralization of population and the location of industry as between regions (including the restriction of industrial development in London and the dispersal of industry from congested cities recommended by the Barlow Report); general policy regarding satellite towns, garden cities and country towns; trunk roads; main line railway development; major port and harbour policy; national parks; coast reservation; agricultural policy; rural development; the development of fuel and power resources.

In determining these matters of national interest, the central government must lay down the general administrative framework within which planning at all levels is to take place. It must also decide the methods by which the necessary resources of finance, labour and materials are to be made available for carrying out public developments called for in the plans.

This manifold task is of great complexity and magnitude. It involves settling the relationship between the Ministry of Town and Country Planning and the various Departments responsible for matters whose future development will closely affect planning policy, such as agriculture, transport, housing, commerce and industry. It raises the highly important question whether control over the location of industry is to be exercised by the Ministry of Town and Country Planning, by the Board of Trade, or by a new organ to be set up.

The main aim in deciding these and cognate problems should be to leave the existing Departments with their present

responsibilities for development, but so to organize the central machinery as to ensure that there is genuine planning and integration of policy at the top, and not a hopeless attempt on the part of the Ministry of Town and Country Planning to co-ordinate a series of disconnected Departmental programs which are fundamentally incompatible with one another. To achieve this, certain basic conceptions must be accepted by all the Departments concerned, such as those which have already been enunciated by the Government in the statement made in Parliament in February, 1942.

The well-meaning enthusiasts who propose to make the Minister of Town and Country Planning a Minister in charge of the future development of everything, or who advocate (as the Uthwatt Committee did) the appointment of a Minister of National Development, can scarcely appreciate the implications of their proposals in terms of Ministerial responsibility and Cabinet Government. What Minister in charge of education or agriculture or transport, for example, would be willing to forego responsibility for future policy in regard to schools, farms and roads? What Cabinet would delegate to one Minister authority to settle the future of Britain? These questions answer themselves.

The creation of the Ministry of Town and Country Planning makes a potentially strong addition to the machinery of central planning. If the new Ministry is willing and able to recruit a sufficiently good staff to perform the novel functions which are expected of it, and can obtain from Parliament the extensive powers they will require, a new and hopeful chapter will open in the history of town and country planning in this country.

### regional planning

The position is much less promising at the regional level. Nearly everyone in the planning movement is agreed that regional planning is of the utmost importance. It is indeed the indispensable bridge which spans the gap between national planning on the one hand, and local planning on the other. Without regional planning many things will not be



planned at all; while others will be planned less well than they might be.

The need for regional planning is illustrated by the situation in London. The capital is a metropolitan region, whose economic, social and cultural life constitutes an entity if not a unity. Yet after 30 years of muddle and mismanagement it is divided for planning purposes, like ancient Gaul, into three parts: the City, under the Corporation of London; the administrative county, for which the London County Council is responsible; and outer London, which falls within the jurisdiction of an absurdly large number of planning authorities.

It is true that Professor Patrick Abercrombie, joint author with Mr. Forshaw of the County of London plan, has been commissioned to extend the plan so as to cover greater London (excluding the City); but an arrangement of this kind cannot hope to overcome defects in the administrative structure inherent in the set-up of planning areas and authorities. This can be seen by considering the slight attempt which the Forshaw-Abercrombie plan makes to deal with congestion of population in the administrative county. Decentralization of population, industry and commerce from the inner core of London to the low density areas nearer the borders of the London Traffic Area (which is a much more suitable planning area than Greater London) is the principal need in the metropolis. Yet how can we expect the LCC or the City Corporation to acquiesce in the loss of population, rateable value and industry from their respective areas on anything like the scale which

is necessary if densities in the central parts of the metropolis are to be reduced to a figure far lower than that at which the County Plan aims?

On the other hand, a regional planning authority would be able to consider impartially proposals in a regional plan to shift population, industry or rateable value from one part of its territory to another.

The need for regional planning and, indeed, the entire movement towards regionalism, with all its wide implications, arises from the fact that improvements in transport and communications have made the boundaries of our local authorities obsolete. Economic and social activities are no longer contained within the areas which still serve in a most imperfect way the purposes of local government.

Little has been done to provide for effective planning at the regional level. A number of regional planning bodies of one sort or another have been established, but they are generally inadequate both as regards the scale of their operations and the scope of their powers. Many of them cover territories which are too small for regional planning, while in some places—notably London—there is no regional planning organization at all. Frequently the regional organ has no executive powers and depends on numerous authorities enforcing the plan in their respective areas. The Ministry of Town and Country Planning has appointed a regional planning officer in each of the 12 civil defence regions into which the country is divided for war purposes; but no other steps have been taken in the direction of regional organization.

It is probable that the most

difficult problems in the realm of planning will occur at the regional level, although the most important decisions on policy will have to be made by the central authorities, and the greatest mass of detailed work carried out by local authorities.

The following list shows the principal items, grouped under six main headings, which require to be determined on a regional basis:—

#### I.—DISTRIBUTION OF INDUSTRY AND POPULATION.

- (a) Location of industry within the region.
- (b) Redistribution of population within the region.
- (c) Construction of satellite towns, independent towns and suburbs.
- (d) Housing schemes.

#### II.—TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS.

- (a) Main highways (other than trunk routes).
- (b) Main bridges.
- (c) Public transport services within the region.

#### III.—LAND USE.

- (a) Agriculture, market gardening and green belt development.
- (b) Large parks (other than national parks) open spaces and playing fields.

#### IV.—PUBLIC UTILITIES.

- (a) Water supply.
- (b) Gas supply.
- (c) Electricity supply.

#### V.—PUBLIC SERVICES.

- (a) Refuse disposal (but not collection).
- (b) Main drainage.
- (c) Wholesale food markets.
- (d) Fire brigade service.
- (e) Police stations.
- (f) Public baths and wash-houses.
- (g) Schools, colleges and technical institutes.

- (h) Hospitals, health centres, sanatoria, etc.

#### VI.—AMENITIES.

- (a) Theatres and concert halls.
- (b) Museums and art galleries.
- (c) Libraries.

This list may include a few items which might be left to local planning; it may omit certain matters which should be brought within the scope of regional schemes. But unquestionably most of the items should be dealt with on a regional basis.

On this assumption, there is clearly a need for regional planning organs covering the entire country.

#### a planning movement

I will not specify the precise form which these authorities should take beyond saying that Britain is sufficiently democratic to make it doubtful whether anything short of an elected body could or should be made responsible for regional planning. To get planning "across the footlights" to the general public, to make it a live public issue, to make it as much of a reality to the man in the street as housing or social security, to overcome the opposition and obtuseness of sectional interests, to sweep away doubts, hesitation, reluctance, resistance to new ideas and new methods, to win acceptance for the interference with customary habits and attitudes which planning inevitably involves—all this will require a popular movement of great momentum and vitality. It is for these reasons that the creation of democratically-elected regional authorities is eminently desirable.

end of part one

### BOOK LIST . . . . . extracts from the National Book Council's List No. 162 on Central Government.

- The English Constitution*: Walter Bagehot. (Oxford University Press), 1867. 2s. 6d.
- English Political Institutions*: John A. R. Marriott. (Oxford University Press), 1938. 5s.
- How Britain is Governed*: Ramsay Muir. (Constable), 1940. 9s.
- The Growth of Political Liberty*: S. H. Carr. (Dent), 1921. 2s. 6d.
- A Grammar of Politics*: H. J. Laski. (Allen & Unwin), 1925. 12s. 6d.
- The Law and the Constitution*: Ivor W. Jennings. (University of London Press), 1938. 7s. 6d.
- Parliamentary Government in England*: H. J. Laski. (Allen & Unwin), 1928. 12s. 6d.
- Parliament: What it is and How it Works*: Henry Morrison and Wilfred S. Abbott. (Pitman), 1935. 2s. 6d.

- The British Cabinet System, 1830—1938*: A. B. Keith. (Stevens), 1939. 15s.
- Outlines of Central Government*: John J. Clarke. (Pitman), 1939. 6s.
- British Public Utilities and National Development*: M. E. Dimcock. (Allen & Unwin), 1933. 12s. 6d.
- British Experiments in Public Ownership and Control*: T. O'Brien. (Allen & Unwin), 1937. 10s. 6d.
- Public Enterprise*: Editor W. A. Robson. (Allen & Unwin), 1937. 12s. 6d.
- Report of the Royal Commission on the Civil Service, 1929—31*. Cmd. 3909. (HMSO), 1931. 3s. 6d.
- The British Civil Servant*: Editor, W. A. Robson. (Allen & Unwin), 1937. 7s. 6d.
- Regional Government: "Regionaliter."* (Fabian Society), 1942. 6d.

## PLANNING REVIEW

### LOCAL GOVERNMENT SERVICES

Sir William Jowitt has explained in a letter to the County Councils Association and the Association of Municipal Corporations, the reasons for the rejection of their request for a full inquiry into the general machinery of local government. (Current Events, 7:10:43.) He bases his rejection of the request on the delays which would be caused by an exhaustive inquiry and the difficulty of conciliating the divergent interests in a field where controversy is so active.

The *Times* has suggested in a leading article that the dangers of lack of co-ordination in administration may be averted in two ways: either the machinery of local government may be progressively adapted in respect both of areas and of powers to discharge new administrative duties, or an increasingly large amount of administrative work formerly done by local authorities may be transferred to central direction. In either case it is essential that some competent authority should continuously survey the general effect of all changes, not only at the level of policy-making, but in the field of local administration.

It is widely agreed that the system is in need of reform... it should not be beyond the ability of the Government's advisers to construct some means of imposing authoritative co-ordination upon the varied projects of local administration now being devised.

### REPLANNING MANCHESTER

A report recently drawn up by Mr. R. Nicholas, the City Surveyor of Manchester, emphasizes the need for research work as a preliminary to assessing the importance of the various tasks confronting the planning authorities.

The Manchester planning authority, the Manchester and district regional planning authority, and the South Lancashire and North Cheshire advisory planning committee are all housed at the Manchester Town Hall, and are co-operating in research and planning.

### RIBA AND NATIONAL PLANNING

Mr. Arthur W. Kenyon, Chairman of the RIBA Central Advisory Committee, has stated in a letter to *The Times*, in connection with the RIBA national plan (Current Events, 30:9:43) that national planning cannot be dealt with within regional boundaries under the divided authority of public bodies. It must include such things as electricity, gas, land drainage, transport, hospital services, clinics, schools, housing, etc.; he emphasized the existence of a great deal of research work on many subjects related to post-war

development which has never been co-ordinated, and expressed the hope that his committee will bring these together, into a factual whole, so that when development resumes it may do so on a well-thought-out policy.

Mr. N. Rowntree, while agreeing that the efficient functioning of public services in relation to housing and industry in post-war planning makes imperative a thorough survey of the services now, feels that Mr. Kenyon has rather hastily assumed that the Central Advisory Committee of the RIBA is the competent authority to co-ordinate the planning of public services. Mr. Rowntree believes that the survey of most public services is a matter for administrators and technical officials, such as engineers and medical advisers, with an intimate knowledge of their subjects, and that there is no necessity for the RIBA, who have their own special problems to consider, to act as intermediaries in this branch of planning.

### FOUR-YEAR PLAN

A leading article in *The Times* has pointed to the lapse of six months since the Prime Minister proposed the preparation of a four-year plan for Britain which would include five or six large measures of a practical character. Up to the present moment the co-ordinated and agreed framework of the four-year plan seems to be still indeterminate. In some particular fields, among them that of physical reconstruction, initiative is conspicuously lacking. The article emphasizes the fact that unless there is some disclosure of a policy, particularly in regard to the Uthwatt report, suspicion will grow that this and the other reports have been successfully resisted by interests affected by them.

### STEPNEY EXHIBITION

An exhibition prepared by the Stepney Reconstruction Group, *Stepney To-day and To-morrow*, was opened on October 13, by Mr. Lewis Silkin, M.P., with Dr. J. J. Mallon in the chair. Dr. Mallon stated that the aim of the exhibition was to banish uninformed apathy to local reconstruction problems in Stepney; to quicken the people's interest and to gain their support in the reconstruction of their own borough.

Mr. Silkin, in his opening speech, pointed out that Stepney exemplified the four major defects illustrated in the LCC plan for London (1). Depressed housing; (2), traffic congestion; (3), lack of open space; (4), pepping of housing and industry. The exhibition will be open at the Whitechapel Art Gallery until the end of October.

## CITY PLAN. MACHUPICCHU, PERU. 500-1,100 A.D.



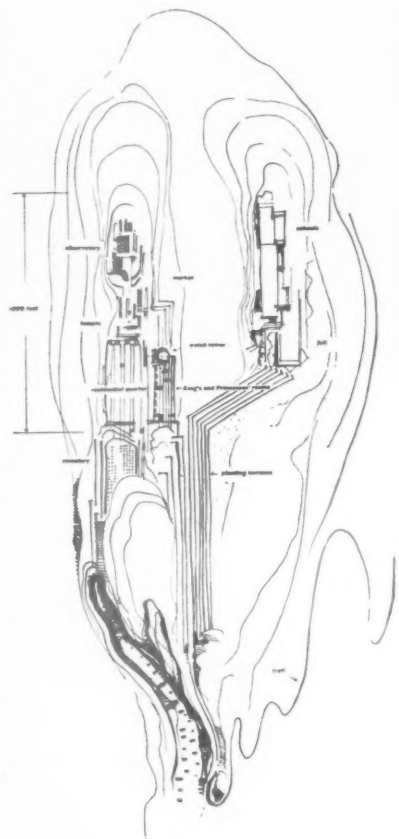
The city seen from the cemetery, with the school and prison on the right of the public square which included a market place, and on the left, the watch tower and observatory.



A view from the temple over the market place with the school and prison block in the foreground. The temple walls rise up to the observatory which dominated the city.

The pre-Inca city of Machupicchu contains certain interest for today's architects and planners. It was founded by a band of Quechuas who were driven by the barbarians from their homes on the Pacific coast. They fled into the Andes, and after an arduous journey discovered the peak of Machupicchu isolated from the surrounding mountains by deep gorges. To reach it they crossed an eighty foot wide torrential river, and climbed its 3,300 foot walls. The city they founded endured from the fifth to the eleventh century A.D., when they abandoned it after some natural cataclysm had cut off the city's water supply and caused collective terror.

Thus the site was consciously selected and the plan deliberately laid out. In it we have a concrete example of municipal organization and planning, revealed to modern planners by the archaeologist. That it is a ruin is not due to any organic deficiency, but to an external phenomenon. In its six hundred years succeeding generations left their traces on the city; the process of improvement was felt there as it is in our day. Yet nothing broke the continuity of their civilization, least of all their amazingly vigorous construction, as expressed in the temple or humbler buildings, staircases or retaining walls. The clarity with which we can see that way of life is testimony to the foresight of its founders and a lesson to us in planning to-day. The danger from without that forced the



The sketch plan of Machupicchu above, by G. Jones-Odrizola, shows the boldness with which the municipal organization of the city was planned. The general pattern of life of the inhabitants still so clearly expressed in the closely related but separately defined quarters is a testimony to the foresight of the planners.

Quechuas to plan their city with such vigour and imagination is replaced in our day by the more serious danger of decay from within; if they could succeed in working out their salvation, so can we. (From an article by G. Jones-Odrizola, in *New Pencil Points*, July, 1943.)

## NEW BOOKS

*Plan for Clean Air*: The case for smoke prevention in a Quiz of 20 questions and answers. The National Smoke Abatement Society; 2d.

*TVA, Adventure in Planning*: Julian Huxley. The Architectural Press; 8s. 6d.

*What Plan?* Joyce Wells. Planned Reconstruction 5. Industrial and Social Order Council of the Society of Friends; 6d.

*Ministry of Town and Country Planning Circular No. 3*: Town and Country Planning Acts, 1932 and 1943. October 12, 1943; 2d.

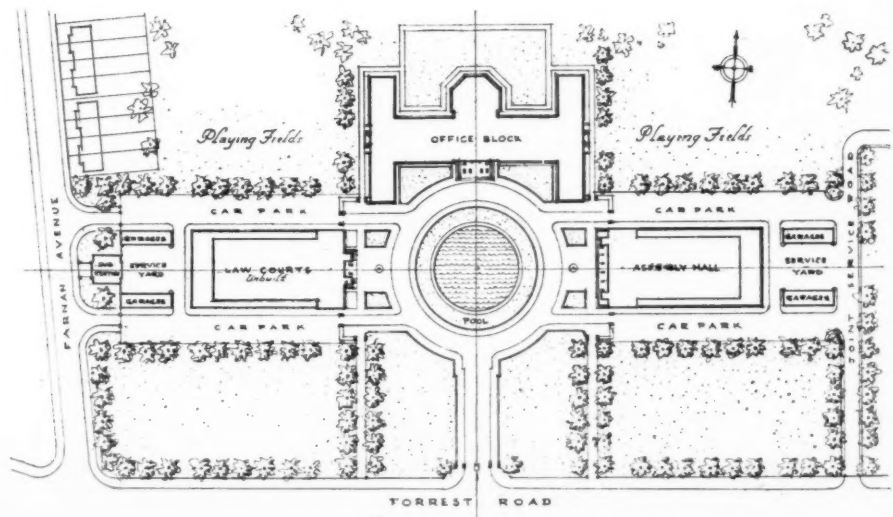
*Labour in the Building Industry*: Planning No. 212. PEP; free to subscribers.



# CIVIC CENTRE

AT WALTHAMSTOW

BY P. D. HEPWORTH



Top, the town hall or, actually, the municipal office building, is the centre of the Civic Centre composition; the view is from the south-west. Right, site plan.





*Three views of the town hall block: left, the main entrance; above, top, the council chamber, which juts out polygonally; and a view from the south-east.*

GENERAL—Walthamstow, one of the eastern factory and housing districts of Greater London, with a population of nearly 150,000—roughly the size of Norwich—decided in 1932 to build a civic centre. A competition was held, and Mr. Philip D. Hepworth, whose design was awarded first prize, was commissioned to carry out the scheme. Three main buildings were required: municipal offices, assembly hall and law courts. Building did not start until 1937. When war broke out, two of the three buildings planned had been begun. But they were still empty shells with both roofing and walling incomplete. The office block—



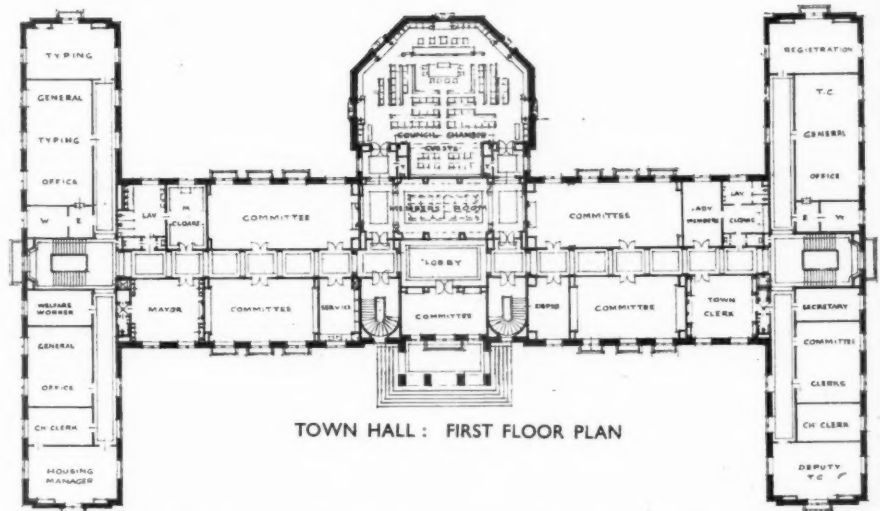
usually called the town hall—was occupied in an unfinished condition in 1941, the assembly hall, converted into a municipal meal centre, in 1942.

**SITE**—The site is north-east of the present centre of Walthamstow, adjoining the Essex Technical College. It falls steeply away from the main access road. The main entrances are as much as eighteen feet below street level. The land is boggy with several underground streams.

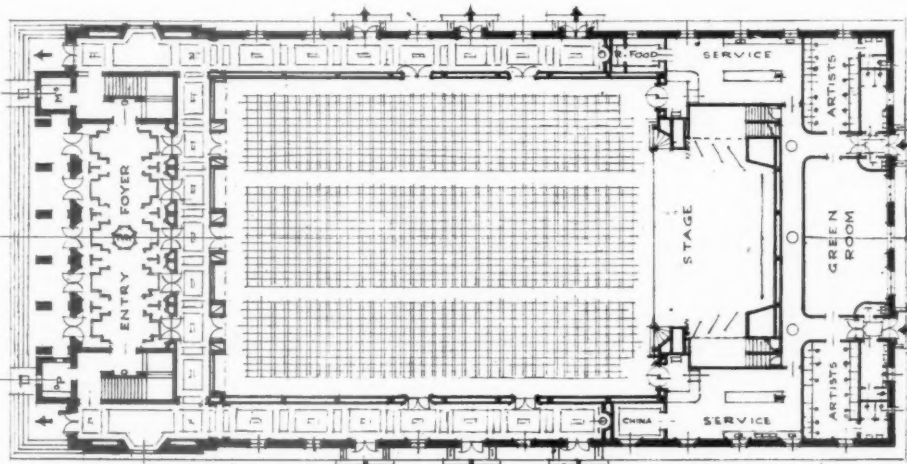
**PLAN**—The three buildings (of which the left one will only be started after the war) are grouped according to the old Capitol principle: three sides of a rectangle, with the centre of the middle building emphasized by a tower; the fourth side is kept free for the main approach. Free circulation to all buildings has been obtained, by means of the central square with its circular pond, a hundred feet in diameter, and by means of a service road to the east. The town hall has council chamber, five committee rooms, and offices. The assembly hall holds 1,530 people. Projecting equipment is above the foyer; an exceptionally large practice room is above the stage. Behind the stage are spacious dressing rooms, etc. Cloaks are in the basement and on gallery level.

**CONSTRUCTION**—Town hall with weight-bearing external walls, assembly hall with steel frame. Hollow block floors. Foundations, reinforced concrete with internal waterproof tanking.

**FINISHES AND EQUIPMENT**—External finish was first planned in brick, but then, at the request



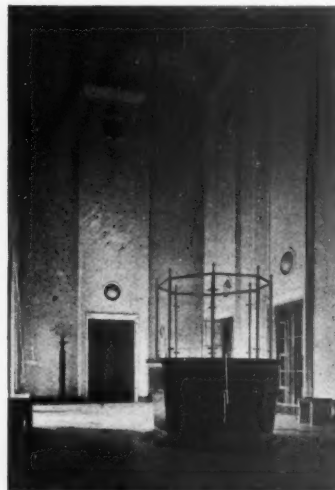
*Above, view looking from the lobby adjacent to the members' room into the council chamber in the town hall block. Below, side elevation, facing south, of the assembly hall block, which lies to the right of the town hall.*



CENTRE, WALTHAMSTOW: BY P. D. HEPWORTH



The photographs on this page are of the Assembly Hall block, which is now used as a municipal meals centre. Right, below, the main front taken from the north; right above, another view of the main front, taken from the south-west; part of the courtyard, with flag pole, is seen on the left of the illustration. Left, top, interior view of the hall, looking towards the stage: seating accommodation is provided for 1,530 people. Left, below, pay-box in the entrance foyer.



of the Council, replaced by Portland stone. Internal finishes had to be simplified throughout, owing to the war. Plain plywood paneling is used in the committee rooms, plain painted iron where bronze had been projected. The lantern, however, is sheathed in copper, despite material shortages. It serves as an intake for the ventilation immediately below. It was found convenient to place the ventilation plant on the roof instead of into the basement. Hot water supply and heating are all-electric. Heating is almost everywhere by ceiling panels. Hot water is on the thermal storage principle. All furniture must be regarded as temporary. The general contractors were Rice and Son and Wilson Lovatt and Sons; for list of sub-contractors, see page xxvi.

CIVIC CENTRE, WALTHAMSTOW  
DESIGNED BY P. D. HEPWORTH

# INFORMATION CENTRE

The function of this feature is to supply an index and a digest of 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. 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 developments from any source, including manufacturers and contractors.

## STRUCTURE

### 1265 Damp Brick Walls

DRAFT REPORT ON DAMP BRICK WALLS. (*The Structural Engineer*, July, 1943, pp. 273 to 284). Effects of dampness on brickwork. Moisture transmission as water or vapour. Damage caused by capillarity. Materials and methods of wall construction influenced by weather conditions. Completely impervious construction normally unnecessary. Cavity construction properly designed and carried out affords complete protection.

The most usual case of dampness upon an interior wall surface is in connection with solid brick walls, but faced walls, thick masonry walls and cavity walls may also give trouble. Dampness may be harmful through:

1. The direct effect upon surface treatment, e.g., blistering of paint, lifting of rendering, etc.
2. Discolouration of surface.
3. Effect upon adjacent material, e.g., rotting of timber, deterioration of stored goods, etc.
4. Effecting transfer of soluble substances and the effect of this on the wall by crystallisation or by chemical action.
5. Increasing liability to disintegration by frost.
6. Effect on health.
7. Appearance of moisture on a surface. The latter is often attributable not to penetration from outside but to condensation from the air inside.

Moisture transmission through walls may occur as water or as vapour. The investigation reported in the paper was confined to the movement as water, this being relatively more important.

It is likely that in certain cases, e.g., in a porous wall whose surface is sealed by paint, damage to the paint film may be caused by capillary forces due to moisture. Water vapour does, in fact, pass through the material of a brick wall, evaporating from the inner surface.

Weather conditions in this country have determined the traditional methods and materials of wall construction. Periods of rain up to a few hours duration are followed by periods when evaporation occurs from the wetted surface. Apart from those positions which are continuously exposed to moisture, it is unnecessary to use a completely impervious construction. Transfer of moisture occurs by capillary forces acting in the soil and in the wall and this must be stopped by a complete break in the capillary path, either by an impervious layer (damp proof course) or by an air gap which must be kept clear.

In faulty or deteriorated work and in exposed situations the wind pressure may acquire great importance.

Cavity construction, properly designed and carried out, affords complete protection in walls. Special care is needed at openings and bridging must be prevented.

Porous walling materials cause some considerable transfer of moisture through to the inner surface, but under normal conditions the rate of evaporation there is such as to prevent the appearance of moisture on that surface. The most marked cause of failure is lack of bond between walling unit and cementing material which may be due (a) to the use of unsatisfactory materials; (b) unsatisfactory workmanship.

The report contains various suggestions regarding materials for mortar and methods to be adopted.

A number of experiments on bricks, mortar and on combinations of these two materials were carried out and a brief account of these is given.

## LIGHTING

### 1266 Fluorescent Installation

COLD-CATHODE FLUORESCENT LIGHTING. J. C. Sabatini. (*Journal of the Illuminating Engineering Society of America*, April, 1943, p. 171.) Description of a recent cold-cathode fluorescent installation.

In these days when all eyes are turned to fluorescent lighting of the mains voltage type it is useful to be reminded that cold-cathode fluorescent has some advantages. It will operate well at low temperatures, has no time-lag in turning on, and no special starting device is needed. It operates at higher voltages than normal which, while often a nuisance, is in some cases useful, especially when existing wiring is to be re-employed because, as the author says, by stepping up the primary voltage the load current is reduced. In the case described, this meant that wiring which formerly carried a lighting system yielding less than 10 ft.-candles was enabled to give about 35 ft.-candles. The tubes are characteristically much longer and a little thinner than our wartime fluorescent, and have a very high rated life, about 8,000 hours as compared with the 2,500 for the ordinary fluorescent, and 1,000 for tungsten.

### 1267 Fluorescent Lighting

LIGHTING FROM COLD-CATHODE FLUORESCENT SOURCES. H. J. Chanon and A. C. Barr. (*Journal of the Illuminating Engineering Society of America*, December, 1942, p. 769.) Discussion of engineering aspects of cold-cathode fluorescent lighting.

In recent years we have become much more familiar with the normal hot-cathode fluorescent tubes than with the cold. The big advantage of the hot-cathode tube is that it operates at mains voltage whereas the cold-cathode requires a higher voltage; but the latter source has much to commend it for many purposes. It has about an equal efficiency, and a far longer life; a cold-cathode tube doing normal domestic duty

would probably last ten years. Starting is instantaneous, there is little flicker, and few outlets are needed, seeing that a hundred feet or more of tube can be run on one transformer. Other points are discussed in this article, along with the engineering and technical design aspects.

### 1268

### Fluorescent Lamps

POST-WAR LAMPS. "Megohm." (*Electrical Times*, August 5, 1943, p. 173.) Some topical questions on fluorescent tungsten lamps for the future.

The writer raises questions regarding the relative emphasis to be laid on fluorescent and tungsten lighting in the home in future, because it closely affects the design of installations with a view to replacement at a later date.

There is a discussion of some questions of design, and the writer examines briefly the suitability of the war-time fluorescent tube for domestic use. Apparently it would give a diffuse illumination of about 6 or 7 foot candles over an area of 100 sq. ft. or so, and the writer concludes that it would therefore be a very useful standard, though smaller sizes will be needed for small rooms.

### 1269 Fluorescent Lamp Replacement

GROUP REPLACEMENT OF FLUORESCENT LAMPS. H. Reinhardt. (*Journal of the Illuminating Engineering Society of America*, April, 1943, p. 178.) Discussion of economic factors in lamp replacements for large installations.

Factory designers, who are concerned with many economic factors of maintenance, will be interested by this discussion of illumination problems.

Group replacement is intended to avoid the inconvenience and expense of individual replacements every time a lamp is permitted to burn until it fails. Records are kept by which a suitable burning time for the majority of lamps may be determined, and then the whole lot in any installation is replaced, regardless of individual lamps which may appear to have considerable life left. For large plants, the economies of group replacement seem to be substantial.

The author inadvertently brings out a point of special interest to English users. In his calculations he is able to assume a list price for lamps of about 4s., and a nett price, with discount, of about 2s. 6d. This compares favourably, to say the least, with the English price of 30s., and will alter substantially the basis of the value of group replacement.

### 1270 Paint Colours and Lighting

LIGHTING AND PAINTING. C. A. Atherton. (*The Decorator*, August 15, 1943. *Extracts from paper read before the New England Paint and Varnish Production Club*.) New sources of light, mercury lamps, sodium lamps and all fluorescent lamps affect the appearance of colours and give different results from tungsten lamps. In future more attention to this will be required. Paints may have to be specified as "such and such a colour" under "such and such a light."

### 1271 Fluorescent Factory Installation

FIFTY FOOT-CANDLE FACTORY INSTALLATION. (*Light and Lighting*, June, 1943, p. 85.) Description of one of the first big fluorescent lamp installations in England giving 50-foot candle illumination of the working plane.



## QUESTIONS and answers

**T**HE 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.

### 1272 Books on Timber

**Q** Can you please recommend an authoritative book on timber in all its aspects, particularly types, seasoning, shrinkage, and last, but by no means least, the cure and/or prevention of dry rot and decay?

**A** We have been in touch with the Timber Development Association, who recommend as a comprehensive book dealing with timber generally, including seasoning, etc., and dry rot, *Timber*, by H. E. Dasch. For different types of timber they recommend the Forestry Research Pamphlet, *Empire Timbers*, obtainable from HMSO, which covers practically all Empire timbers in a very scientific way. They also suggest Howard's *Timber of the World* which, although not so scientific, deals with practically all types of timber in the world.

### 1273 Granite Dressing Tools

**Q** Can you give me the name and address of a firm who specializes in machinery for the dressing of granite or any other information relative thereto?

**A** We give below the name of a firm which supplies most types of tools and machinery for the working of stone:

The Anderson-Grice Co., Tayworth Engineering Works, Carnoustie, Scotland.

There are a variety of firms making practical tools and machines, and if you care to let us have further details of your requirements we will give you some additional names.

### 1274 Septic Tanks

**Q** I have to instal a septic tank or tanks on a site in the country to deal with the sewage from a number of small buildings. There will be 6 W.C.'s and about 40 people concerned. Will you please tell me how to arrive at the proper size of the septic tanks.

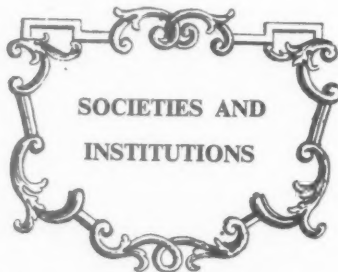
**A** It is beyond the scope of the Information Centre to work out details of construction for a particular scheme, and in any case we could not do so without full particulars. Any scheme must depend upon the number of fittings, the amount of surface water, if any, the fall and the nature of the subsoil, etc., etc., but it appears that your proposals are inadequate and will require considerable modification.

We should advise you to get in touch with a firm of sewage disposal experts such as Messrs. Tuke & Bell, of 1, Lincoln's Inn Fields, London, W.C.2, but in the meantime we are giving you some notes of a general nature which may be useful.

1. A fairly usual allowance for a settling tank is 30 gals. per head.
2. The capacity of the sludge tank depends entirely upon the system adopted—whether sludge can easily be dealt with or whether it will have to be pumped out at comparatively infrequent intervals.
3. The amount of filtering media depends upon the standard of purity required—the nature of the ground and the presence of

streams, etc. A filter bed is usually 4 ft. deep and anything from one-third of a yard cube to one yard cube per person may be required. Incidentally you have not indicated any method of spreading the effluent over the filter bed: tipplers and spreaders are usual for small installations, but it is quite possible that a circular bed with a revolving distributor would be more economical in this case.

4. Unless you can provide for an adequate fall between the inlet and the outlet, you will have to allow for a pump chamber.
5. A humus chamber may be required in addition, if the presence of scum is undesirable (if the effluent is to be discharged into ditches, etc.). A humus chamber usually has a capacity equal to one-sixth of the day's flow.



*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.*

## MOH

### Repair of Houses

The following circular on a GENERAL SCHEME FOR REPAIR OF HOUSES, ETC., has been sent to local councils throughout the country by the Assistant Secretary of the Ministry of Health.

SIR,—I am directed by the Minister of Health to refer to the Circular of August 4 (Circular 2845) and to state that, as indicated in that Circular, he has been in consultation with the Minister of Labour and National Service and the Minister of Works with a view to making the best practicable arrangements for applying in present conditions the principle adopted by the Government that after the demands for war purposes have been met housing should have the first call on immobile building labour.

2. As the Authority are aware arrangements to this end have already been made over a part of the housing field—

- (1) In a number of districts arrangements were made for the further repair of houses

seriously damaged by enemy action by means of contracts between Local Authorities and builders and by the use of a special form of contract.

- (2) Circulars 2828 and 2828A dealt with the repair of houses on which statutory notices have been or can properly be served and provided for the safeguarding of labour employed on this work.

3. The object of Government policy is to secure that available building labour and materials should be used so as to secure the maximum amount of improvement to the largest possible number of houses. The priority to be accorded to the work should, therefore, depend on the nature and not on the cause of the defects and on the measure of the improvement in housing conditions which will result from the execution of the work.

4. The work which will come within the scope of the scheme will therefore be—

- (1) essential work on the further repair of war-damaged houses;
- (2) work in respect of which a Local Authority issue a statutory notice for the execution of works of maintenance and repair to a house under either the Housing or Public Health Acts;
- (3) works of repair or maintenance which the Local Authority certify to be essential to avoid danger to health or grave deterioration of structure;
- (4) works of repair, adaptation or conversion certified by the Local Authority as essential to bring into use for housing purposes accommodation not at present used for that purpose so as to relieve an urgent housing need in the district;
- (5) works certified by the Local Authority as necessary for the completion of partly built houses which the Authority are satisfied will be brought into occupation so as to relieve an urgent housing need in the district.

In all cases whether of notice or certificate inclusion will be subject to the condition that the cost of the works will not exceed £250 per house (or in the case of flats or similar tenements £200 per dwelling).

5. The Local Authority will appreciate that the amount of immobile labour and of controlled materials available at the present time is likely throughout the country to be considerably less than that required for the amount of work needed to be done for the improvement of housing conditions.

6. The decision as to the importance of such works, in themselves or, when there is more work than can be carried out with the labour and materials available in relation to one another, will rest with the Local Authority. The arrangements for the use of labour and materials must be such as to ensure that they are used most efficiently and economically.

The arrangements for the grouping of builders which have been adopted by the Government for use on the scheme for the further repair of war-damaged houses in certain areas were devised with this object and should be applied wherever practicable. The Government believe that this system is calculated to secure the best results where a Local Authority are themselves carrying out a large volume of work on a cost plus basis which is sufficiently homogeneous and concentrated to enable mass-production methods to be applied. Where a group of builders has already been established for the repair of war-damaged houses or circumstances otherwise appear suitable, the Authority should co-operate in the application of this system to any work within the ambit of the present scheme which can appropriately be dealt with in this way. The experience of the Ministry of Works in the present grouping arrangements will be available to Local Authorities for the extension of this system and its application to the fullest practicable extent. It is recognized, however, that it would not be practicable to apply the present system of grouping to work normally let out to competitive tender and carried out for a large number of individual owners all with separate contracts often of very small size.





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of household articles, but its wider value as a vital feature of industrial production is only now becoming fully realised. To-day Bakelite Plastics are playing an increasingly important part in wartime industry, with results which will be widely reflected in post-war uses.

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7. The Authority will appreciate that it will not be possible under present conditions to arrange for the assignment of mobile labour to this work and there will be no question of issuing directions by the Ministry of Labour and National Service to individual men to take up this work. But it is intended to aim at the largest possible concentration of immobile labour on housing work within the scheme of the Authority and it is thought that an expansion of the amount of essential housing work done can be secured if the following points are appreciated and made widely known:—

(1) Immobile labour employed on this work will so far as possible be protected from transfer to other work. Complete protection cannot be guaranteed in the event of work of even greater priority being started in the district, but the Ministry of Labour and National Service have directed their local officers that in interviewing men for transfer to other work those employed on housing work certified by the Local Authority will be left until immobile labour employed on unessential work has been fully utilized.

(2) Work under this scheme is certified by the Authority as having a high degree of public interest. It is work of a kind familiar to local builders, and it is assumed that most Local Authorities would be able to assure builders that regular employment over a period of time could confidently be expected.

8. Concentration of labour on this work will be assisted by a decrease in the amount of non-essential work. In order to secure that the relative urgency of particular pieces of building work is considered with a full knowledge of local conditions, the Regional Officer of the Ministry of Works will in future consult the Local Authority in regard to any applications for licences for the execution of housing work which he receives, and will consider such applications in the light of the views of the Authority. In order to expedite procedure on certified housing work which requires the issue of a licence, the Regional Officer of the Ministry of Works will, if approached by the Local Authority, be ready to deal with the issue of a licence at the time when the Authority are dealing with the application for a certificate.

9. The question of extending the scope of licensing has been considered. On the information at present available it does not appear that in general any substantial amount of labour and materials is used on unessential work for which no licence is required, and it is thought that the complication in machinery which would be involved in amending the present limit would more than outweigh the practical advantages. If, however, the Authority find that the scope of their work on certified housing is hampered by unlicensed operations of this kind, the Minister will, in consultation with the Minister of Works, be prepared to give further consideration to this matter.

10. Any estimate of the amount of work which can be carried out in any particular period of time must be speculative, as the total amount of immobile labour in any district is by no means static, and the extent to which it will be attracted to the certified work may be gradual. In order to assist the Local Authority in estimating within what general limits they can certify work which is capable of being executed by the amount of labour available, the Local Officer of the Ministry of Labour will upon inquiry by the Local Authority be ready to advise them of the probable amount of labour available. The Minister has made arrangements with the Minister of Production for the release of a quota of controlled materials, and the question of a further quota will be considered in the light of experience gained, having regard of course to other urgent commitments.

11. The Minister recognizes that these arrangements impose a considerable amount of work and responsibility on Local Authorities. He believes also that they provide them with an opportunity for preventing further deteriora-

tion in housing conditions and for effecting in co-operation with builders, owners of property and the local officers of the Ministries of Works and Labour and National Service as much remedial action as is practicable in the circumstances of wartime. The arrangements indicated above are necessarily experimental, and the Minister will, in consultation with the Minister of Works and with the representatives of Local Authorities review them in six months' time. In the meantime he is confident that the Authority will do all in their power to make a practical success of the scheme which they are now authorized to put into operation.

12. The Appendix to this Circular contains notes on the machinery to give effect to the scheme and the following Specimen Forms are also enclosed:—

C.W.1. Form of Application from a private owner for a Certificate of Essentiality.

C.W.2. Form of Certificate.

C.W.3. Statistical Return.

The following are extracts from the Appendix referred to above.

The success of the scheme depends to a great extent on attracting contractors to certified work. Local authorities should therefore take all necessary steps to make the scheme known to local contractors in their areas and to explain its mode of operation.

It will be of great assistance if local authorities can draw up a programme of the certified work they wish to undertake and can keep selected contractors with their full or a specified complement of men regularly and continuously employed over convenient periods.

Where local authorities carry out work, whether on requisitioned houses or not, and cannot meet the cost by other appropriate means, applications for loan sanctions will be entertained.

The cost of war damage repairs will be recoverable from the War Damage Commission in the usual way.

Repair or maintenance work by local authorities requires no authorization under Defence Regulation 56A. Conversions of premises into residential dwellings, adaptations of houses into flats or tenements, or finishing uncompleted houses (i.e., items (4) and (5) of paragraph 4 of the Circular) rank, however, as new work. If the costs exceed £100 they require a building licence or Departmental authorization.

Applications for the necessary quantities of controlled materials (timber, iron and steel) should be sent in the usual way through the Senior Regional Officer of the Ministry to the Priority Division, Ministry of Health, Caxton House, S.W.1. Such applications might conveniently cover a month's programme in advance.

It is of course essential to maintain war-time standard of economy in the use of all materials (see Ministry of Works "Standard of War-time Building," published by H.M. Stationery Office, May, 1943.)

Only immobile labour will normally be available for this work. Where difficulties are experienced in finding contractors, the local authority should consult the Senior Regional Officer of the Ministry of Health who will ascertain if the Ministry of Works are in a position to help by nominating suitable contractors.

The "cost plus" type of contract is only permissible in exceptional cases such as first aid repairs of war damage. On other work, local authorities should get quotations, tenders, etc., in the customary manner for work of the character in question.

When private owners, etc., wish themselves to do work of the character itemized in paragraph 4 of the Circular, local authorities are authorized, after determining the extent of the work necessary, to issue certificates for the purposes of this scheme. These certificates will serve (a) for evidence in procuring a building licence from the Ministry of Works (see paragraph (2) below) and (b) for the contractor to present to the Ministry of Labour

as protection of labour engaged on the work against transfer.

The local authority before granting a certificate of essentiality in respect of extensive repairs of war damage to a building in an area which has been specified by the War Damage Commission under Section 20 of the War Damage Act, 1943, will clear the position with the Planning Authority and will inform the Regional Licensing Officer that this has been done when forwarding the certificate to him.

Where the cost of the work together with the cost of any other work carried out on the property during the preceding twelve months exceeds £100, a building licence is required from the Ministry of Works. To simplify the machinery for procuring a licence, a local authority receiving an application for a certificate should ask the applicant to fill up, at the same time, an application for a building licence (Form O.W.L. 1136); the local authority should then send the certificate and Form O.W.L. 1136 together to the Regional Licensing Officer of the Ministry of Works.

All applications for a building licence for the carrying out of housing work other than certified work and irrespective of the cost will be referred by the Regional Licensing Officer to the appropriate local authority for their views before the granting or refusal of a licence.

In cases where a building licence is needed the Regional Licensing Officer will issue to the applicant the necessary certificate for the purchase of timber, steel and cast iron.

In cases where no licence is required, the local authority should ask the applicant who wishes to obtain controlled materials to fill up the appropriate Form O.W.L. 1142. The local authority should send the certificate of essentiality with the Form to the Regional Licensing Officer who will issue authorizations for steel and cast iron. The Regional Licensing Officer will return the certificate to the applicant, together with the appropriate licence application form for timber, which the applicant should then complete and send to the Timber Control Area Officer.

Where a private owner applies for a certificate of essentiality he should tell the local authority whether he requires help in finding a contractor. If so, they may help by putting him in touch with one of their own contractors or by asking the Senior Regional Officer of the Ministry of Health to confer with the Ministry of Works as to the possibility of their nominating a contractor.

This experimental scheme will be reviewed by the Ministry in consultation with local authorities in six months' time.

## MOW

# Codes of Practice Second Report

The First Report of the Codes of Practice Committee for Civil Engineering, Public Works, Building and Constructional Work of MOW, presented to its constituent bodies, was issued last April (see JOURNAL for April 15, 1943, pp. 248 and 259). The Second Report has now been published by H.M.'s Stationery Office, price 3d. The Committee is under the Chairmanship of Sir Clement Hindley, K.C.I.E.

The Second Report of the Codes of Practice Committee to its constituent bodies (which include the principal technical institutions, the BSI and BINC) comprises three Chapters and certain Appendices. The first two Chapters describe the progress made in carrying out the programme of drafting the comprehensive scheme of Building Codes, which was described in the First Report, issued in March, and the



third Chapter sets out the Committee's conclusions on the preparation of Codes for Civil Engineering and Public Works.

#### Building Codes.

The comprehensive scheme for Building Codes adopted by the Committee includes a Classification Code and the General Series of Building Codes.

Chapter I of the Second Report deals with the progress made in drafting the Classification Code. This relates to the fundamental functions of a building, irrespective of materials or methods of construction, and will give recommendations as to the assumptions to be made in designing a building and the method of arriving at those assumptions. The instances mentioned in the report are the suitable temperatures to be maintained in various parts of a building, with guiding principles as to the correlation between heat insulation and heating; the intensity of illumination, whether daylight or artificial; and structural and other precautions against fire. The preliminary drafting of this part of the scheme is in progress under the direction of the Co-ordinating Committee, assisted by a technical drafting group. The names of the Co-ordinating Committee and their technical drafting group are shown in Appendices C and D. One section of the Classification Code dealing with Strength—stability and loadings (Chapter V) has been circulated for comment and the other Chapters are in course of drafting. The Committee are preparing an Interim Classification Code applicable to Dwellings and Schools, in view of the importance which buildings of this class will have in post-war building.

Chapter II of the Report explains the arrangements made for drafting the General Series of Building Codes by committees convened by the technical institutions. These Codes and Sub-Codes will cover, in a logical sequence, all building operations and will aim at giving recommendations as to the methods of construction to be adopted in order to fulfil the functional requirements of the building as indicated in the various sections of the Classification Code. The allocation of subjects to these institutions is shown in Appendix A and the membership of the Committees set up is in Appendix B. The list of members gives some indication of the wide interest which is being taken in this work and the influential backing which the Codes will have when finally published.

The Committees set up by the Institutions are now at work on the preliminary drafting of the Codes. The drafts, when approved by the Main Committee, will be circulated for general comment for a period of six weeks and the Codes will be finally redrafted and published. The drafts will be amended where necessary in the light of these comments and the Main Committee will then publish them as British Codes of Standard Practice.

#### Civil Engineering and Public Works Codes

Chapter III deals with Codes for Civil Engineering and Public Works and breaks new ground. It sets out the objectives of this group of Codes, which are to secure in such works fitness for purpose, based upon a wide measure of freedom in the sound selection of materials and in their efficient use, long life and economy of materials and of labour both in design and in construction. The aim of these Codes is stated to be

- (1) to disseminate amongst practitioners in the field of Civil Engineering and Public Works, expert knowledge of long-established methods of design and construction;
- (2) to encourage the early adoption of new but well tried materials derived from invention and research.

The report includes a schematic layout showing the extent to which the more important sub-divisions of Civil Engineering are common to the main branches of public works and are therefore suitable for inclusion in Codes of Civil Engineering and of Public Works practice. It also indicates the subjects which could effectively be dealt with in main Codes, each being undertaken by a technical institution

as convener body and a selected list of branches of Public Works to which these main Codes would have application.

For the present it is proposed to proceed with Codes for the following subjects.

- I. Site investigation.
- II. Earthworks.
- III. Foundations.
- IV. Drainage.
- V. Liquid retaining structures.
- VI. Aqueducts, etc.
- VII. Earth retaining structures.
- VIII. Traffic bearing structures, and
- IX. Use of materials of construction, and they have been allocated to appropriate institutions as convener bodies.

Appendix E of the report is a bibliography of existing British and overseas Civil Engineering and Public Works Codes and similar documents. It is not intended to be exhaustive but will be useful to the drafting committees and to engineers who may wish from time to time to refresh their minds on current practice.

## SRG

## Exhibition

Oct. 14, at Whitechapel Art Gallery. Exhibition of STEPNEY, TO-DAY AND TO-MORROW, organized by the Stepney Reconstruction Group, an unofficial organization under the Chairmanship of Dr. J. J. Mallon, LL.D., C.H., Warden of Toynbee Hall, opened by Lewis Silkin, M.P., L.C.C. The exhibition will remain open until October 31. See Astragal's note on the exhibition on page 286, and also page 292.

**L. Silkin:** Stepney has the four major defects set out in the County of London plan: (1) Depressed housing; (2) traffic congestion; (3) lack of open space; (4) peppering of industry with housing.

Stepney grew by some 200,000 inhabitants during the latter part of last century. At least half the houses in Stepney were built before any by-laws were introduced. There is probably no other Borough in London where housing is so bad.

Stepney, however, has many qualities—a long river frontage, a number of wide and important thoroughfares, proximity to the City (making it convenient as a possible dormitory area for city workers).

I hope the people of Stepney will study this exhibition seriously. The Reconstruction Group has done a fine job of work and has rendered a great public service.

**Exhibition** of slogans, maps, diagrams and photographs can be explained briefly by the following wording taken from the exhibition.

*What sort of Stepney do you want?* The Stepney Reconstruction Group exists to find out the facts and to make clear what you would like. This exhibition aims to show what could be done if the public interest were put first.

*From village to slums:* 1777, Before the Docks; 1815, The First Docks; 1833, End of the Canal Age; 1870, The Railway Age. Houses have been built on every inch of space and then on top of one another. Once built no one could get them pulled down.

*How did it happen?* Nobody cared. How can we avoid it? Public control.

*This land is ours.* Stepney had 1,800 acres for 200,000 people. Willesden had 4,600 acres for the same number. The LCC area as a whole had 40 times the room for 20 times the number. Factories, docks, shops, railways, etc., take one-third of the space. Children had nowhere to play. Stepney rents were high—4s. for one room. Three out of every five families could not call their home their own.

*Stepney's one great natural advantage*—nearly three miles of river front. Less than half a

mile open to the public. The rest was used for shipping. Did it need it all?

*You had to choose* (1) to live in bad surroundings but near your work and friends and with plenty of life or (2) away from everything with a long journey but in a better house. Planning could give us the advantages of both without the drawbacks.

*What is wrong is overcrowding*—houses crowded together, people crowded in houses, factories crowded anywhere.

*We must move industries out of Stepney.* Some could be moved, but others like the docks must stay. Small firms are not tied. Out of 3,200 firms, less than 60 employ more than 100 workers. Many small workshops could go into one big building, thus saving space.

*Nobody has the power to deal with the whole problem.* We need a plan to satisfy our wants. The local authorities need new powers to carry it out. If the plan is to be ours, we must take an interest. In 1937 more than half of Stepney's ratepayers did not vote. How can we get public control? *Use your vote.* Choose the right people and give them the power. There was no cure, because no one had power to deal with the whole problem. Thanks to Hitler's bombs we can begin again. Now is the chance that will never come again.

*How public control works*—House of Commons, LCC, Stepney Borough Council.

*What we need*—a Stepney with decent houses, jobs nearby, open spaces and all we need for a full life. This means less industry, more parks, a smaller population. We must move factories out, then people will not want to crowd back.

*The LCC has a plan.* Do you like it? The LCC plan means:—Each neighbourhood with all its needs without having to cross main roads; factories apart from houses instead of the jumble of to-day; river front a pleasure for all; parks in St. Katharine's and round Wapping; fewer streets will save space; fewer people—200,000 in 1938, 94,000 under the plan; no more smoky railways—electricity instead of steam; open spaces, large and small for young and old—games, tea in the square, swimming; fast, safe main roads for through-traffic will avoid traffic jams and accidents; shops will be on separate service roads.

*Houses or Flats?* There is a choice. Living in houses means having a house to yourself; living in flats means less privacy but more open spaces. The LCC proposes: two-thirds of population in flats, one-third in houses (at present only one-sixth live in flats) and 376 acres of open space instead of 45.

*The Community Centre.* Something for every age in one building, owned and run by the community—canteen, library, hobby-room, hall and theatre, evening classes, bar, billiards, dance hall, gym.

*Stepney could have a town hall like this, modern flats, houses, hospitals like these. Factories can be clean and attractive. Churches need not be gloomy. Surroundings like these give the children a chance.*

*We can get nowhere without power to control land and the placing of industry.* To get any plan we need Government action now. To control industry—the Barlow Report, 1940. To control land—the Uthwatt Report, 1942. *If we don't want chaos again, we must plan now.*

## WIN

## Competition

The Women's Institutes of Northampton have promoted a competition for a pair of cottages for rural workers. Details are as follows:

The object is to secure a suitable design for a pair of family cottages for rural workers, where the prevailing standards of comfort, space and seamlessness which have hitherto been accepted as adequate for their purpose, shall be sensibly, but in no way extravagantly,





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raised. The promoters cannot give any guarantee that the winning or any other design submitted will be carried into execution at any given period, but they promise to bring to bear all the powers and influence they possess in order that such designs as they think fit shall be brought prominently to the notice of the competent authorities concerned. They will further do all in their power to see that the standards so set by the results of this competition both for appearance, quality of structure, convenience and size, shall be the standards accepted for the future rural housing of the county.

Great importance is attached to a sympathetic and realistic study of the conditions of family life in a country working-man's home, and of the unnecessary burdens which that family, particularly the mother, is frequently faced to bear in the course of a normal day. Studies and surveys have been made. Yet, in the opinion of the promoters, the average cottage built of recent years shows little evidence that these studies have been put to practical use.

Accommodation is not to exceed a total floor area of 1,000 superficial feet, exclusive of any necessary one-storey outbuildings. It is to be suited to a family consisting of a married couple with four children.

No notice is to be taken of the present shortage of building materials, but they can be assumed to be all available in the normal manner. Competitors are free to design in whatever materials they please, providing that they are in harmony with the rural background of a village and take notice of the building facilities of the county. In choosing materials and fittings, competitors should take into consideration that these cottages should be suitable for erection in large numbers by public authorities whose power of expenditure will be limited.

The site being purely imaginary can be taken as level. These cottages are to be assumed to

be set back thirty feet from a secondary public road running east and west through a village. There will be gardens at the back to which access is available on both sides of the block of buildings.

The drawings are limited to two sheets in all. One sheet is to show plans and not less than one section, all drawn to a scale of half an inch to a foot. The promoters make a stipulation that this sheet is to include as much relevant information as possible to show the competitor's intentions both as regards structure, finishings and fittings of all kinds. The second sheet is to show the elevations drawn to a scale of an eighth of an inch to the foot, and is to include on it a small perspective sketch. Both drawings may be presented in any medium the competitor thinks fit and the sheets may differ in size if so desired.

The assessor is Mr. Darcy Braddell, F.R.I.B.A. Premiums: first, 75 guineas; second, 50 guineas; third, 30 guineas. Time for sending in: January 31, 1944. Designs should be sent to the Hon. Mrs. Macdonald-Buchanan, Cottesbrooke Hall, Northampton.

Competitors who wish to enter for this competition may obtain the full conditions from the Hon. Mrs. Macdonald-Buchanan, at the above address.

### CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Mr. Philip G. Lees, L.R.I.B.A., M.INST.R.A., Chartered Architect, Surveyor and Valuer, has commenced practice at Park Villa, 62, Melbourne Road, Leicester. He was in practice for 17 years at Chingford, Essex, until his offices were blitzed.

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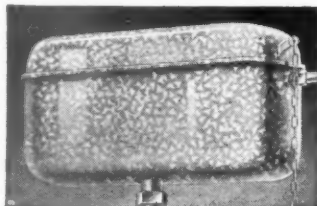
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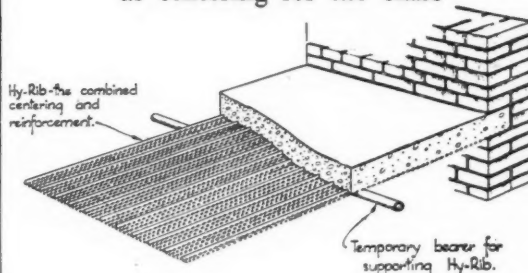
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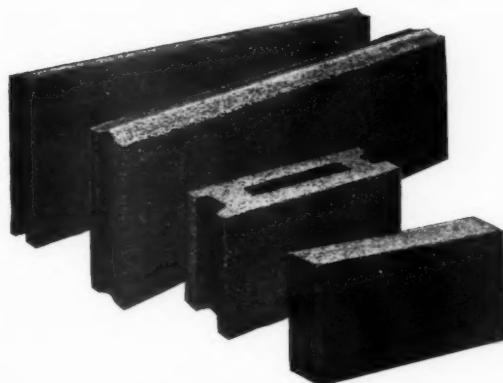
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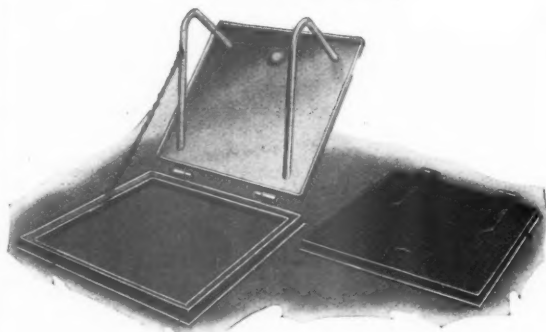
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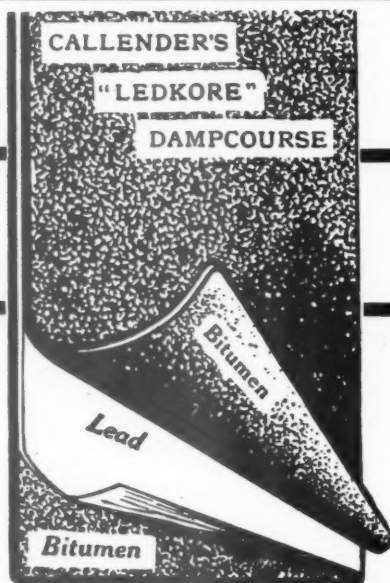
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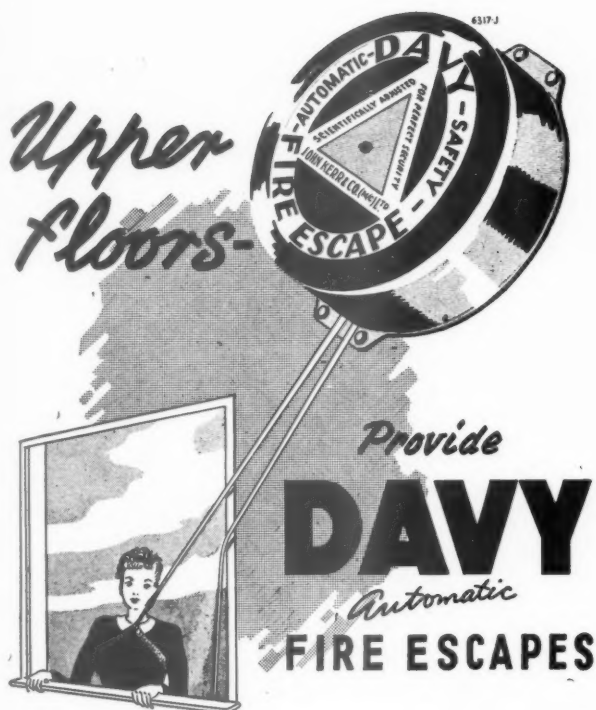
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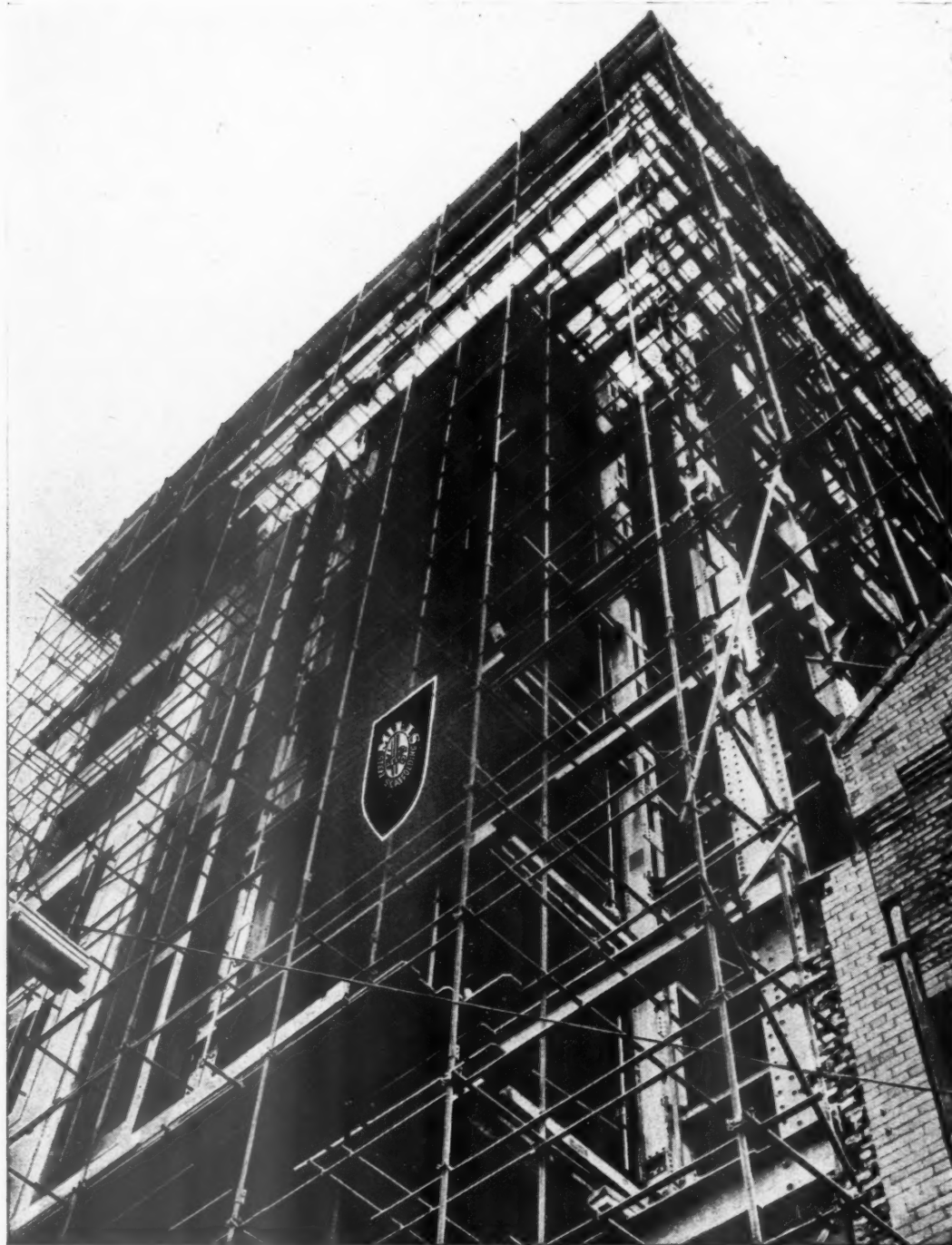
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