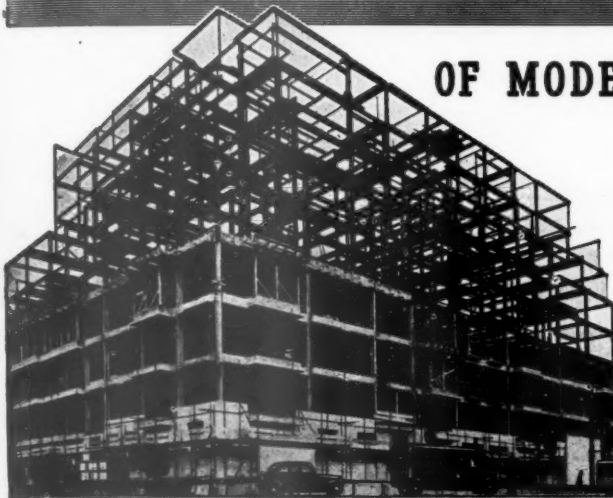


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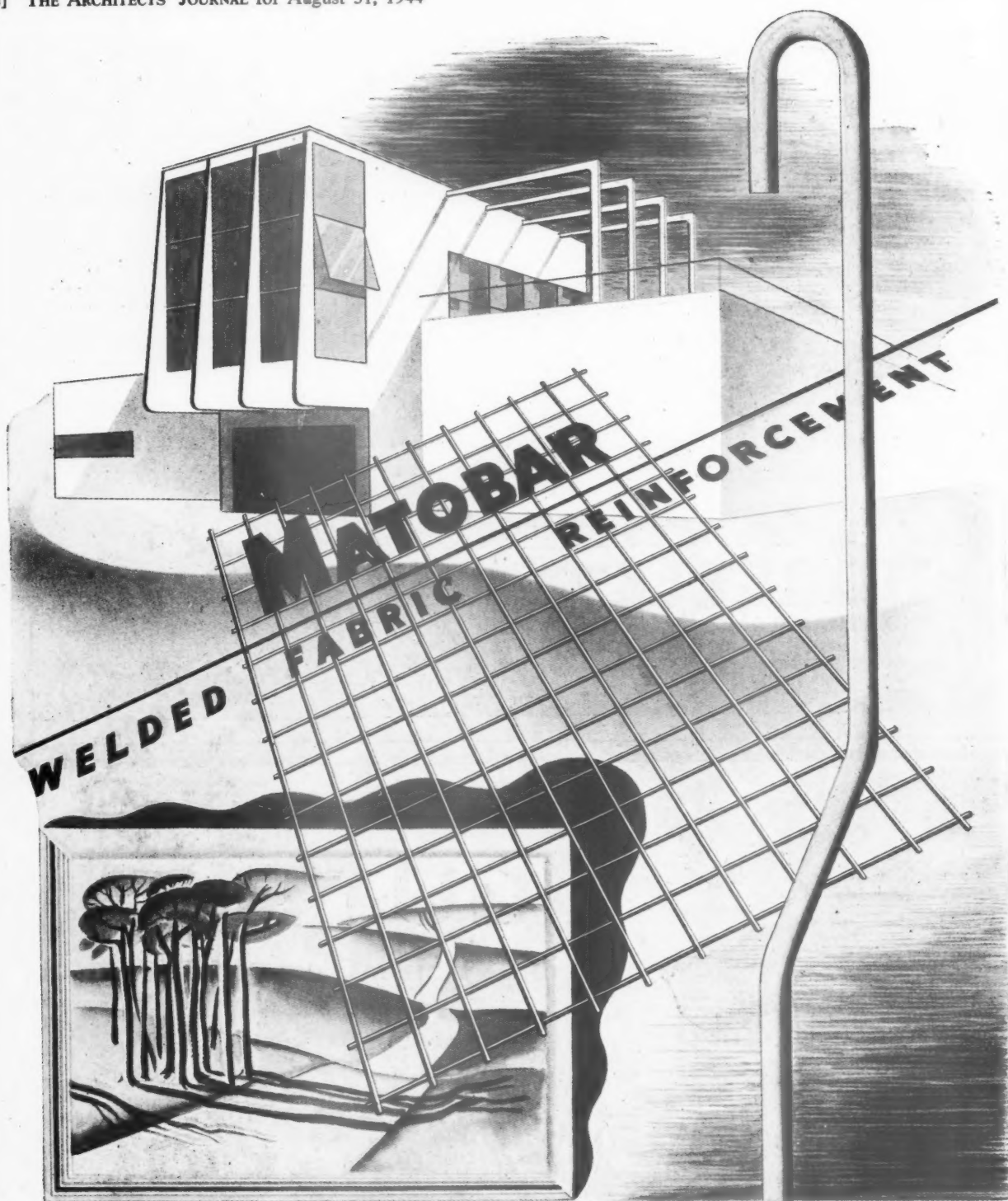
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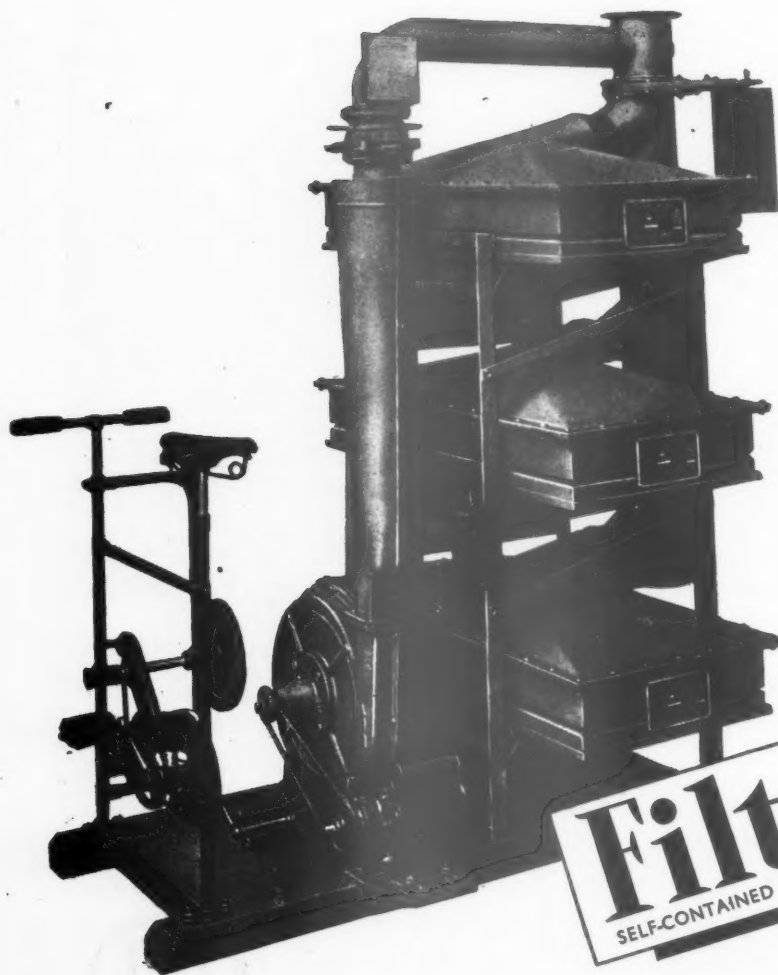
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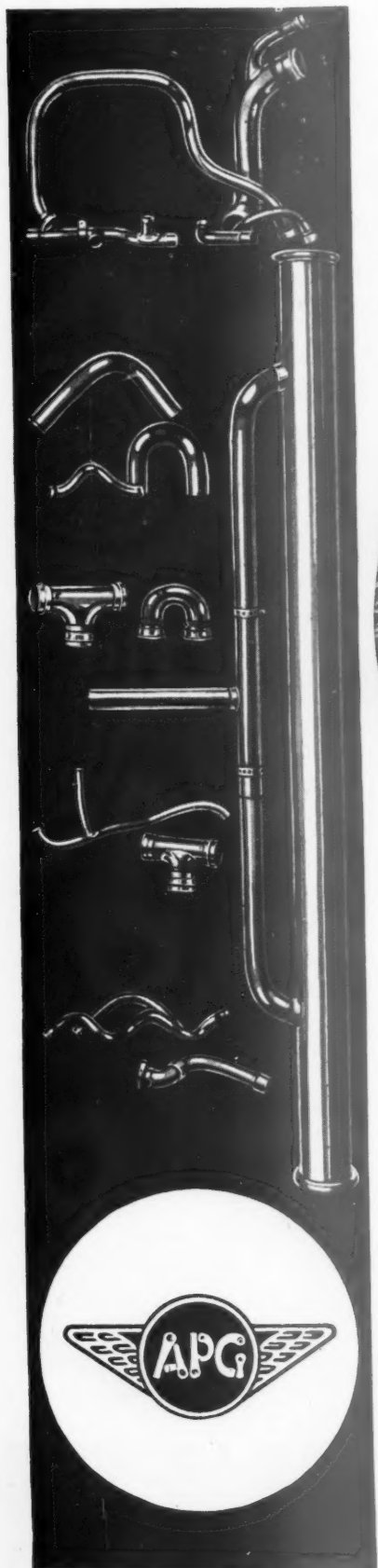
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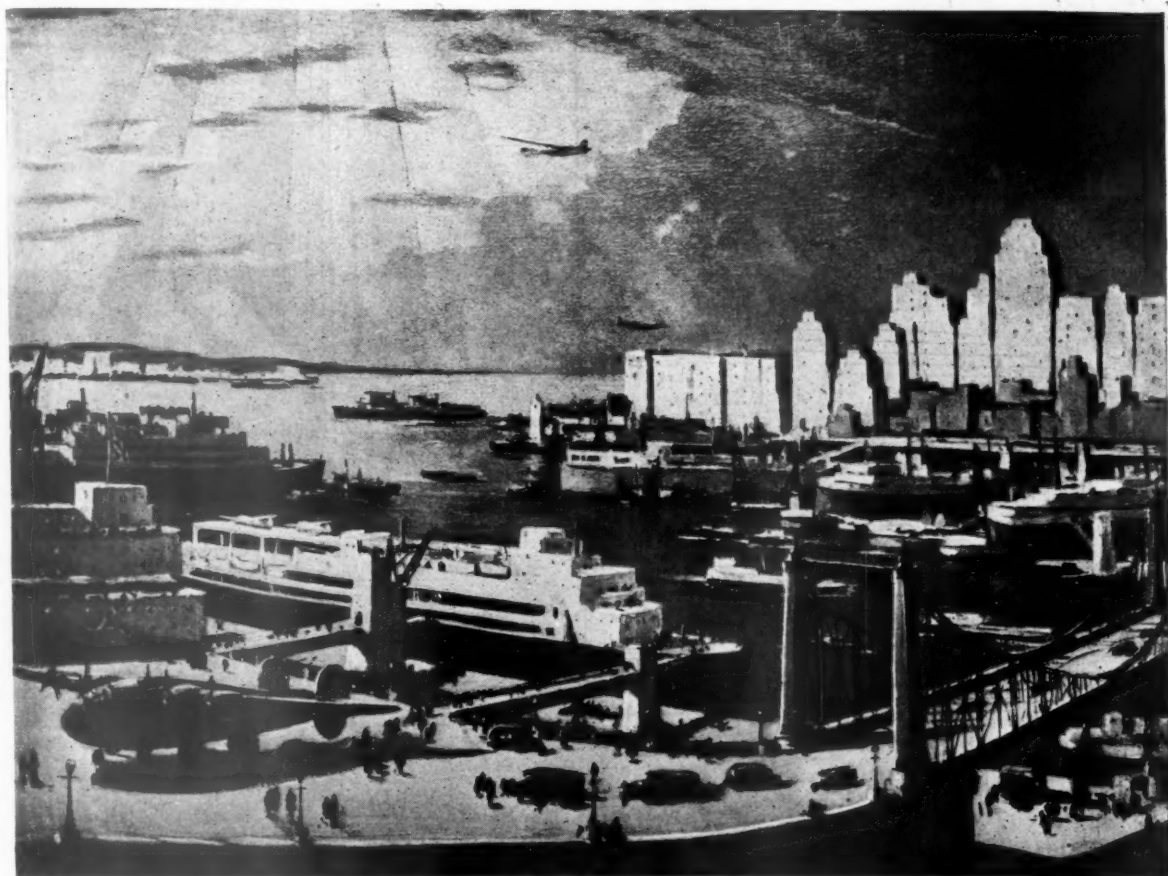


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I touch my country's mind, I come to grips,  
With half her purpose thinking of these ships.*

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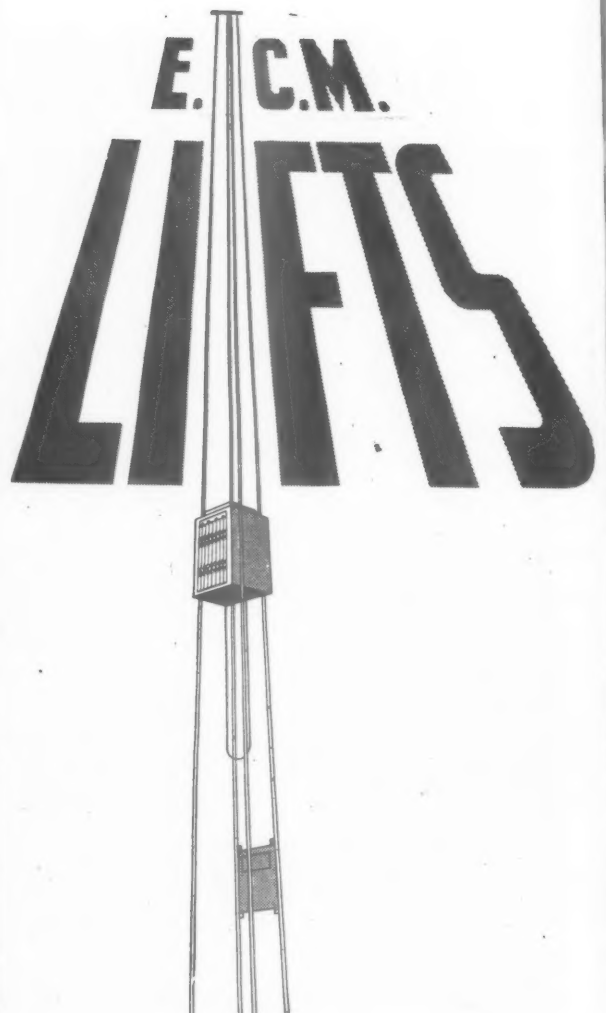
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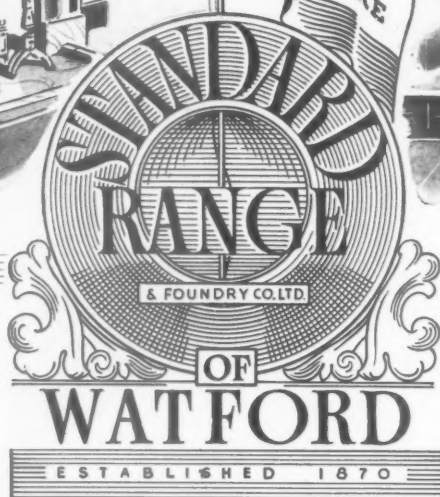
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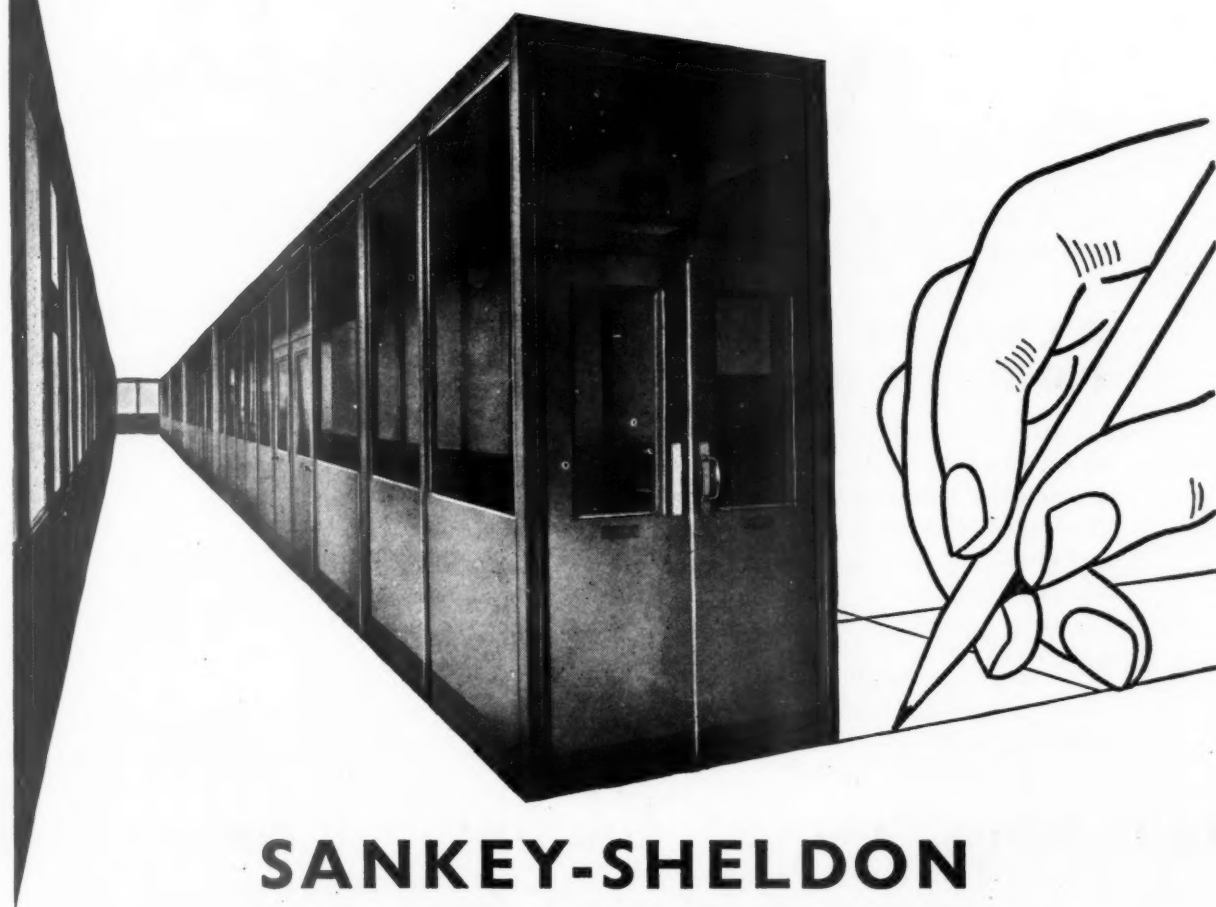
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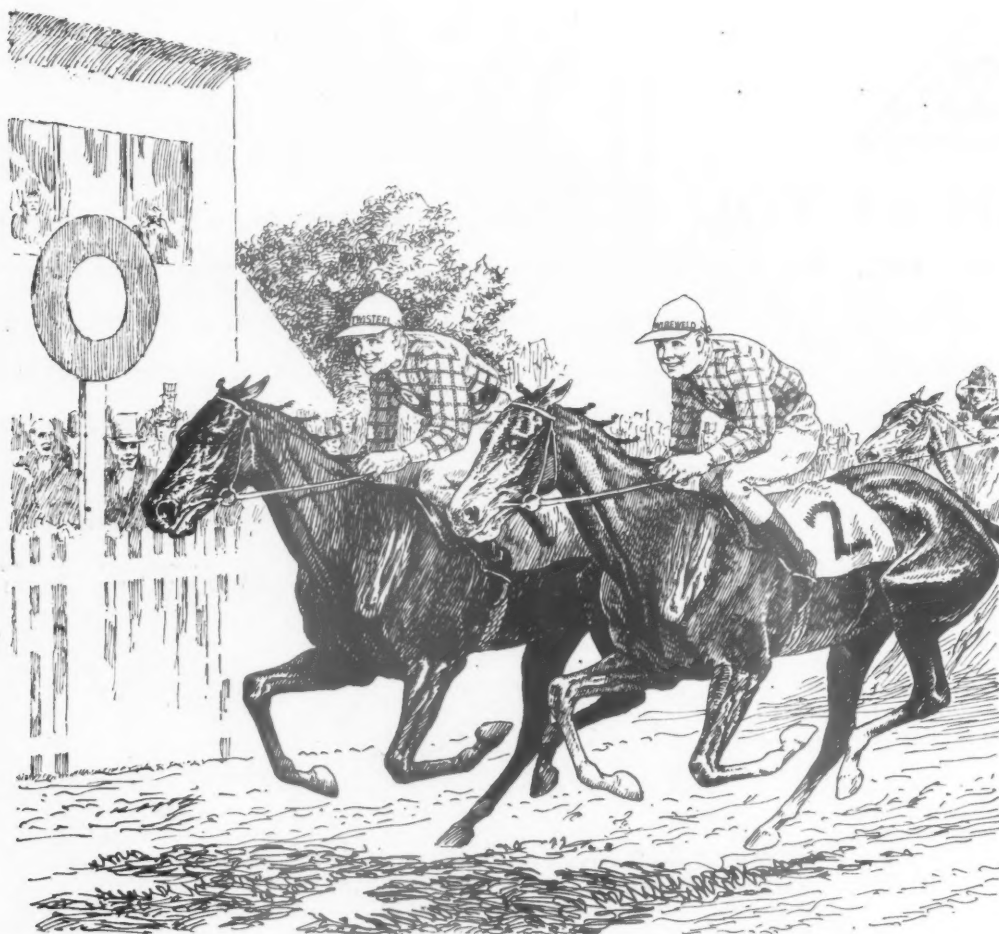
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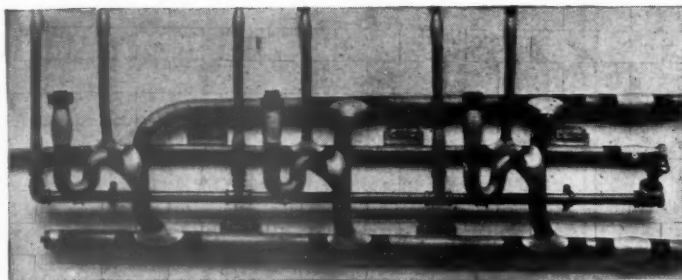
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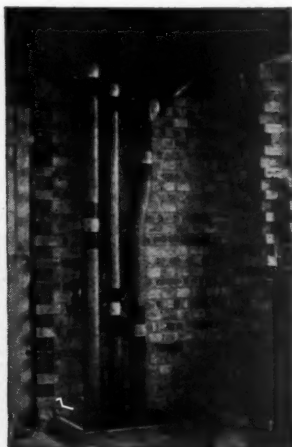
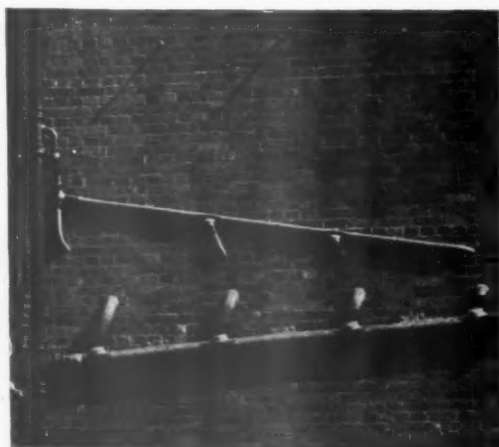
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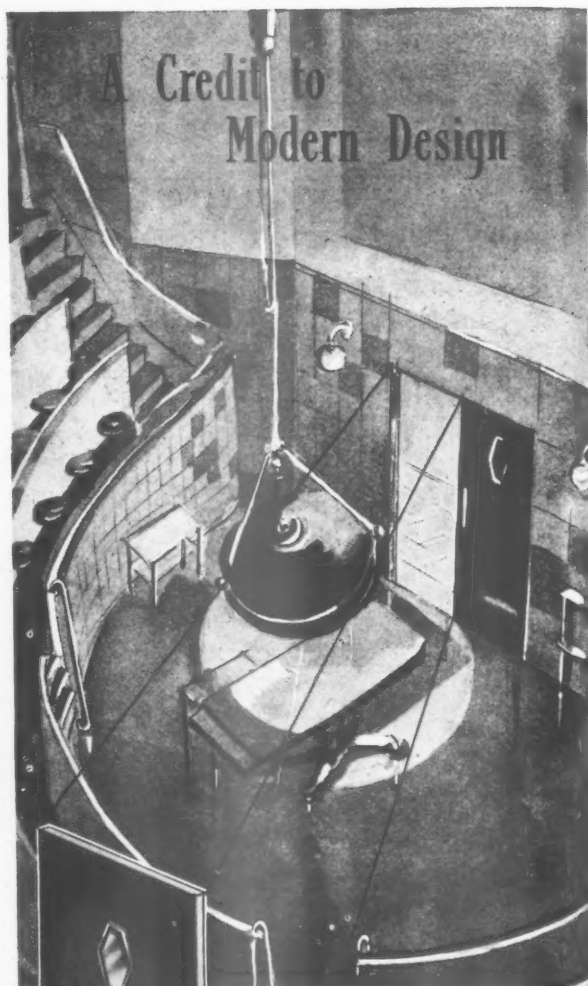
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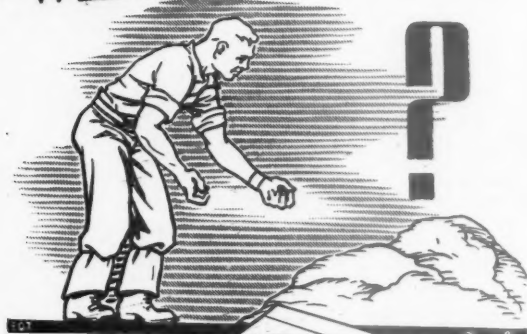
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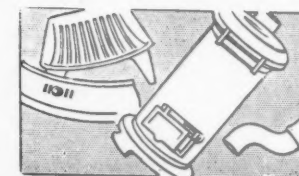
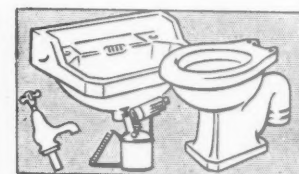
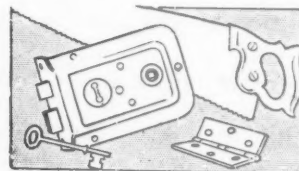
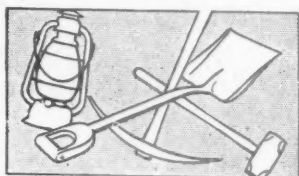
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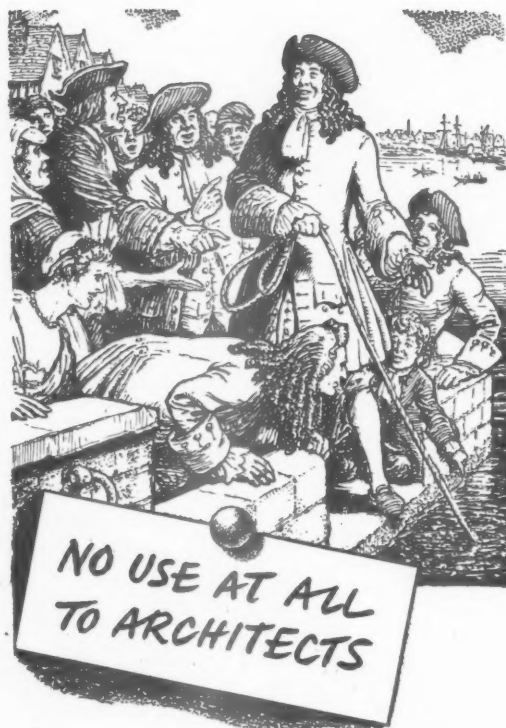
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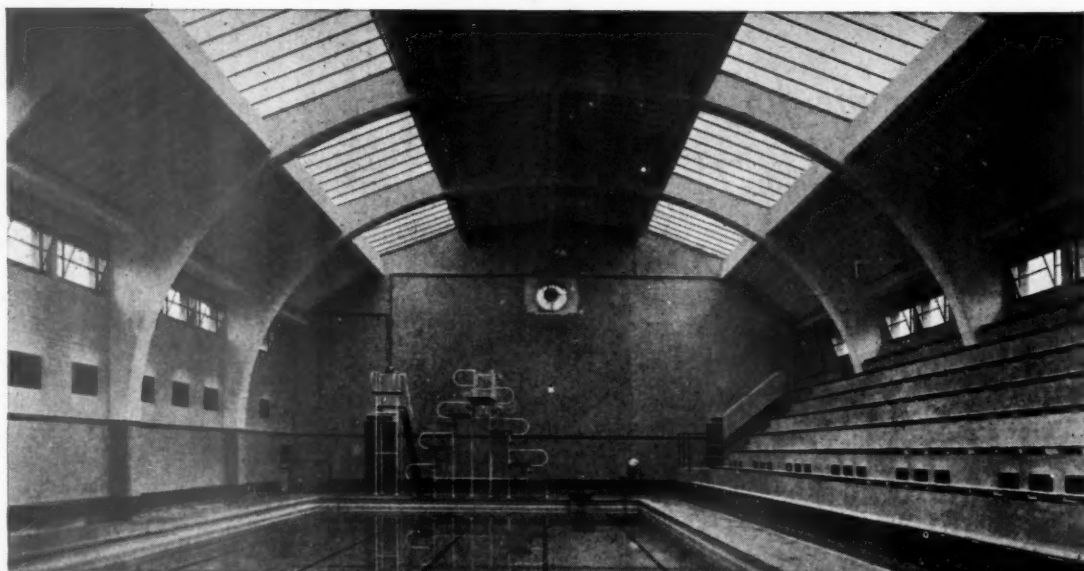
To-day . . . when many a kitchen is equipped with stock pots, multiple ranges, roasting ovens, grills and toasters, porridge and milk boilers, steamers and water boilers, hot cupboards and serving tables . . . the constant call for heat demands fuel on tap 24 hours a day. And gas provides the fuel . . . a fuel which is clean, speedy and reliable . . . a fuel which is economical, which has the necessary flexibility for fluctuating demand . . . a fuel which lends itself to use with compact and comprehensive labour-saving equipment.

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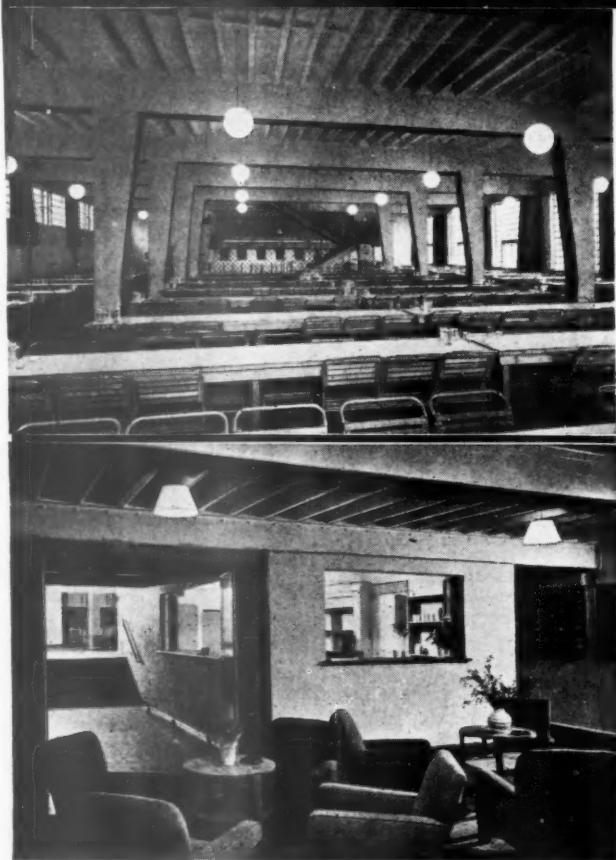
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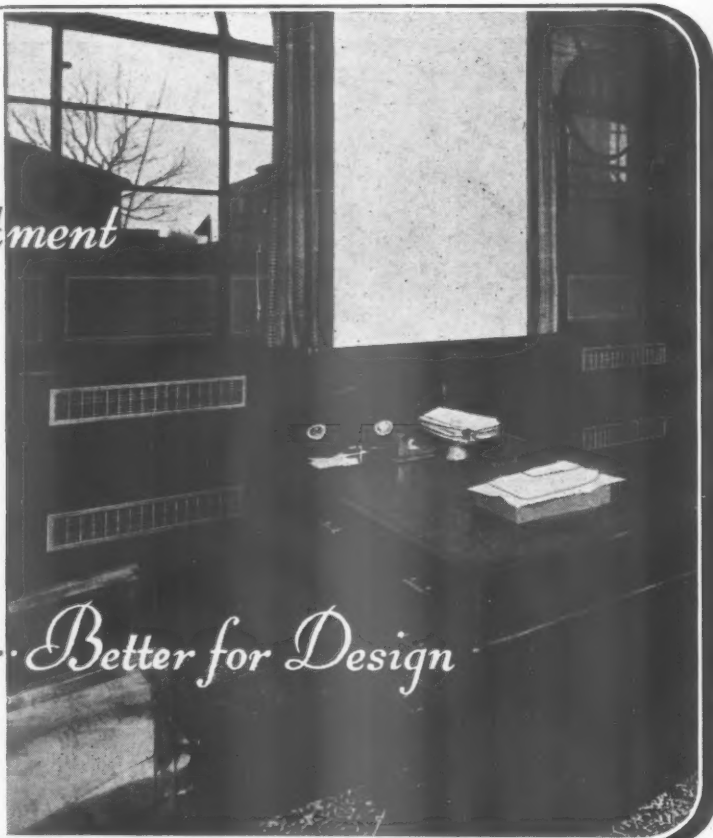
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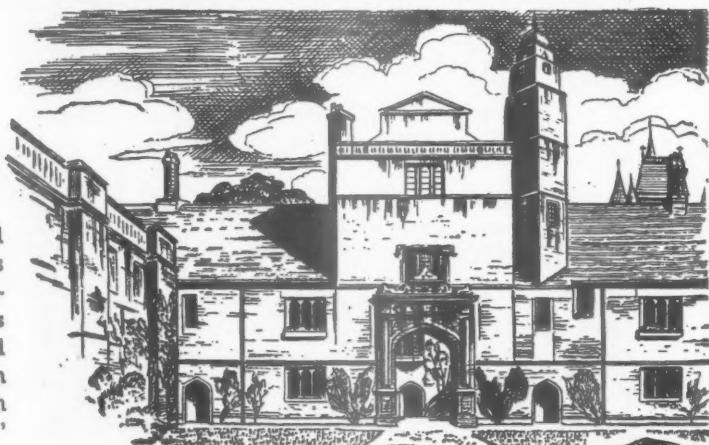
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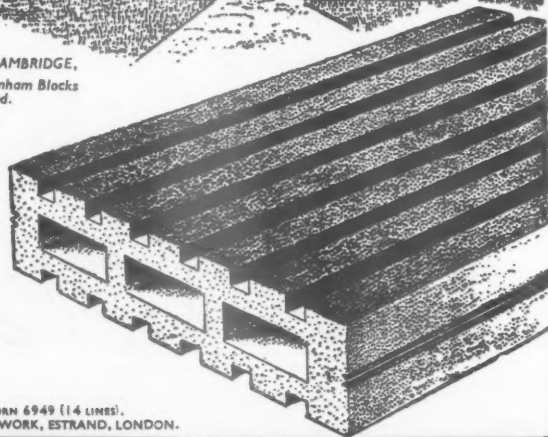
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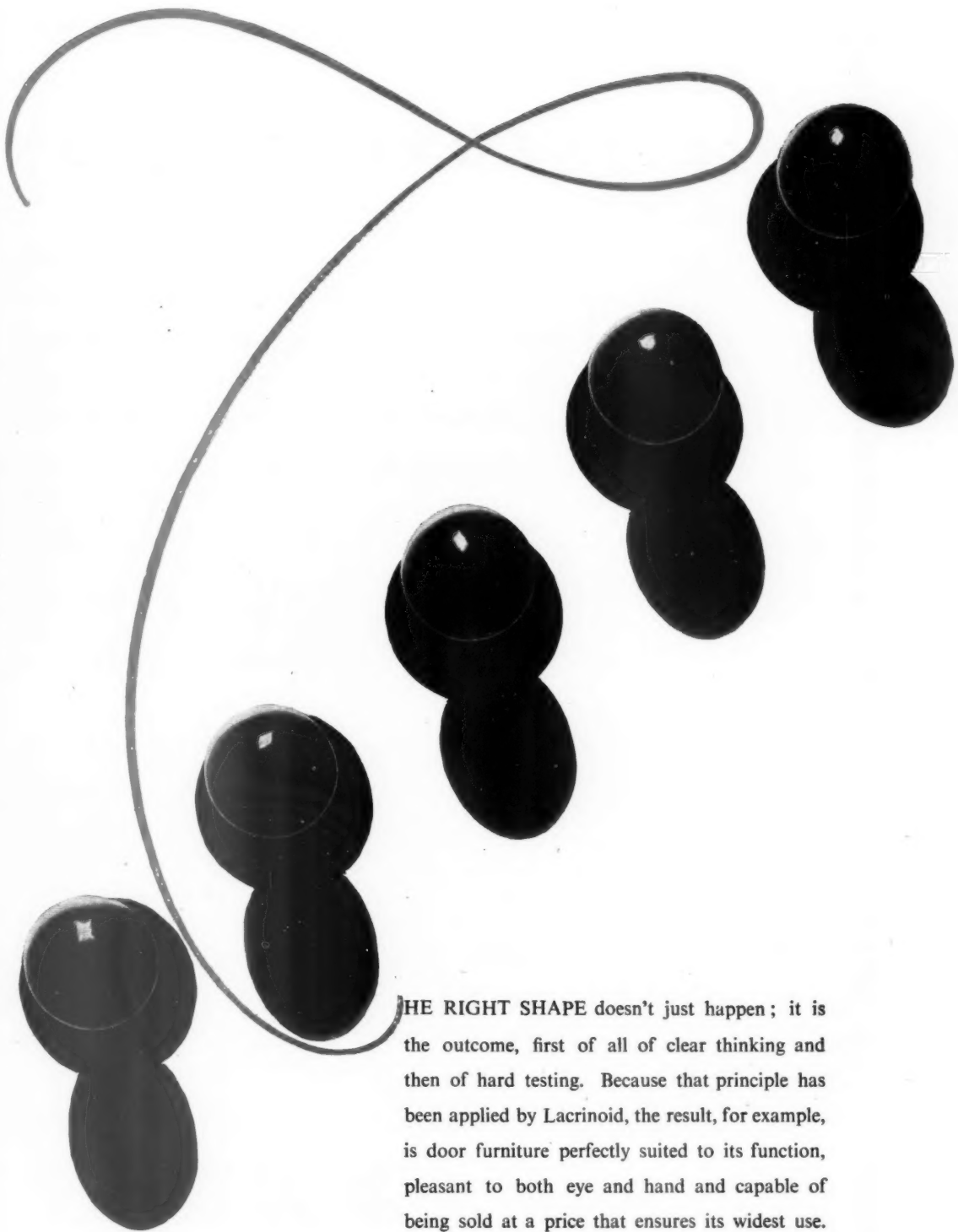
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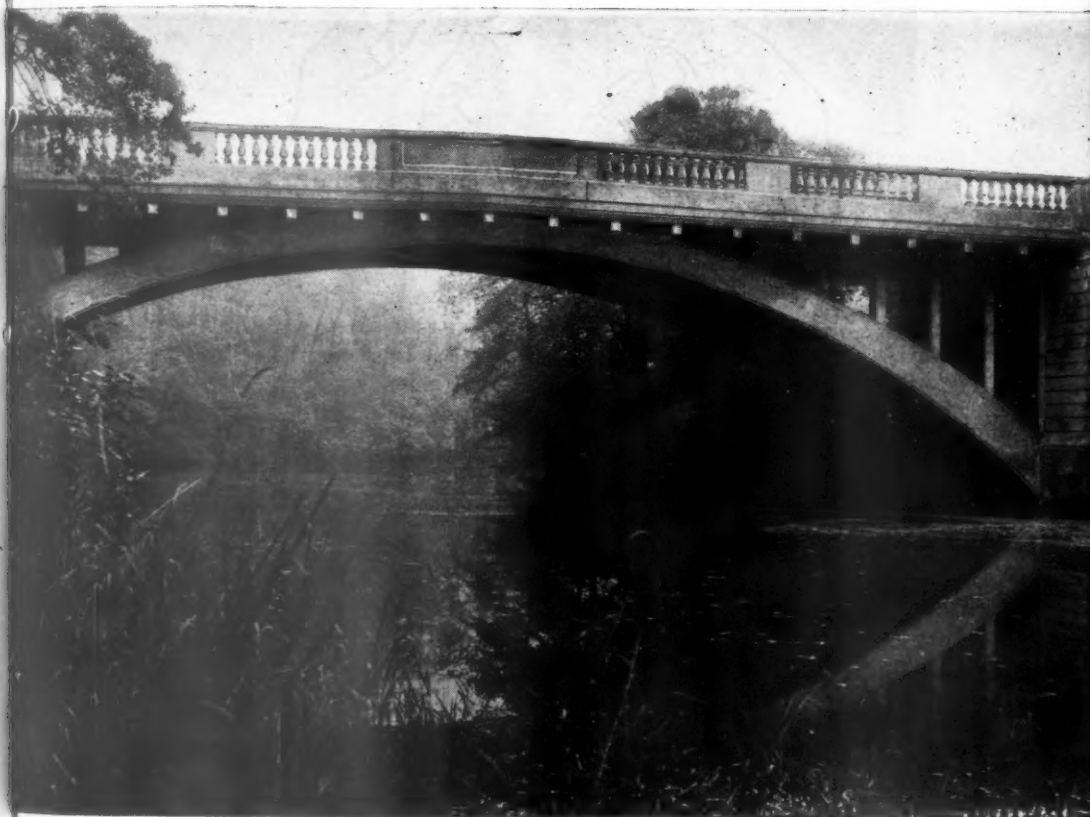
In appearance reinforced concrete bridges can be equal to the best examples of traditional stone bridges and they have the advantage that they can carry modern roads and the vehicles that run on them. In common with bridges built of stone the architectural effect is obtained by good proportions rather than by external decoration. Reinforced concrete is always adaptable to the form of architectural treatment most suited to the site of the

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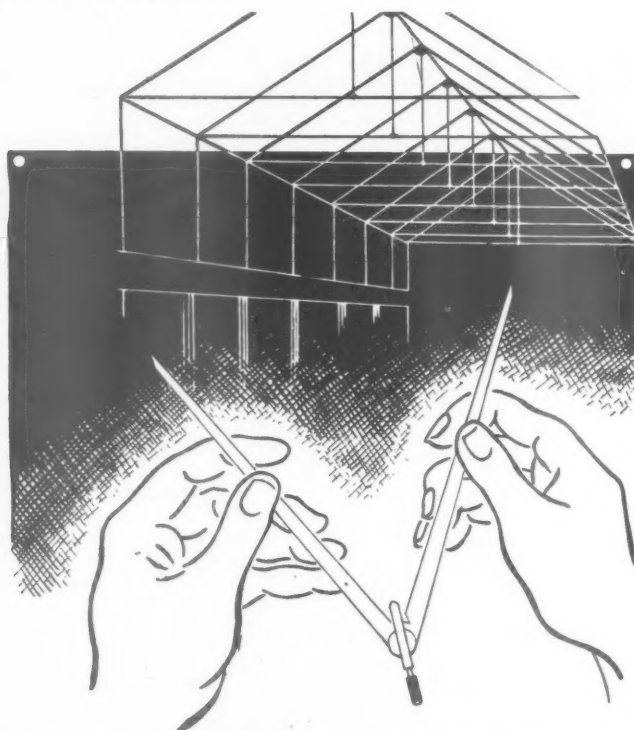
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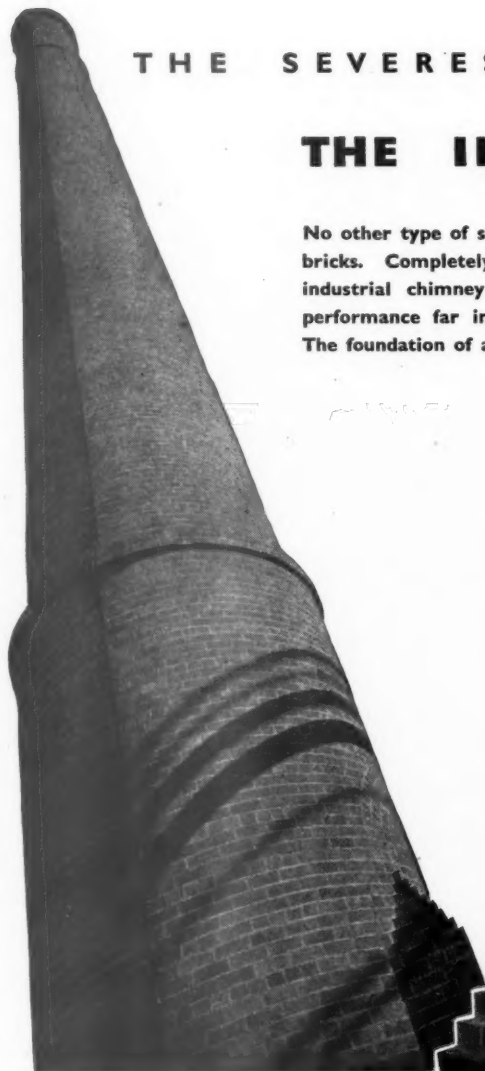


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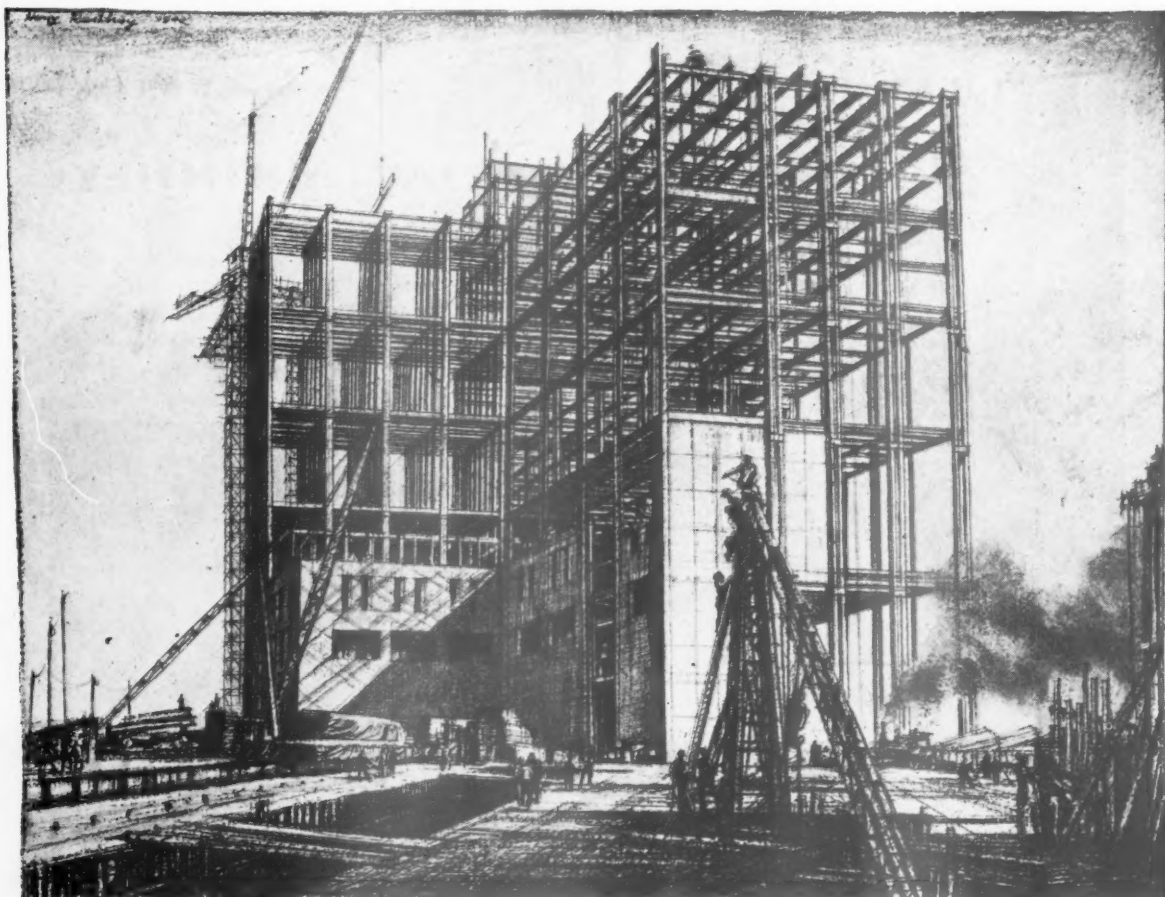
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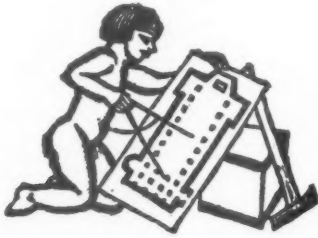


R. & A. MAIN LIMITED, LONDON AND FALKIRK



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

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## DIARY FOR SEPTEMBER OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER

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.

**AYLESBURY.** *When We Build Again.* (Sponsor, TCPA, in collaboration with Messrs. Cadbury Bros.) SEPT. 4-8  
Town and Country Planning Association Conference. SEPT. 6

**BERWICK-ON-TWEED.** *When We Build Again.* Exhibition and Film. (Sponsor, TCPA, in collaboration with Messrs. Cadbury Bros.) DEC. 9-16

**BUXTON.** *When We Build Again.* Exhibition and Film. (Sponsor, TCPA, in collaboration with Messrs. Cadbury Bros.) OCT. 14-21

**CARDIFF.** *When We Build Again.* Exhibition and film. (Sponsor, TCPA, in collaboration with Messrs. Cadbury Bros.) SEPT. 16-23

**CARLISLE.** *Living in the Country.* Exhibition. (Sponsor, HC.) AUG. 31-SEPT. 2

**CHELMSFORD.** *The English Town: Its Continuity and Development.* Exhibition. And *When We Build Again.* Film. (Sponsor, TCPA.) SEPT. 1-9

**DURHAM.** *The English Town: Its Continuity and Development.* Exhibition. (Sponsor, TCPA.) OCT. 4-18

*When we Build Again.* Exhibition and film. (Sponsor, TCPA, in collaboration with Messrs. Cadbury Bros.) NOV. 11-18

**GREENFORD.** *When We Build Again.* Exhibition. Speaker, Miss E. E. Halton. At 8 p.m. on September 14. (Sponsor, TCPA, in collaboration with Messrs. Cadbury Bros.) SEPT. 14-16

**LONDON.** Judith Ledebor. *Design for Dwellings.* At 2, Savoy Hill, W.C.2. Chairman, Professor Patrick Abercrombie. (Sponsor, TCPA.) 1.15 p.m. SEPT. 7

John Charrington. *The Place of Solid Fuel in Town and Country Planning.* At 2, Savoy Hill, W.C.2. (Sponsor, TCPA.) 1.15 p.m. SEPT. 21

Sir Albert Howard. *Fresh Food and Town Planning.* At 2, Savoy Hill, W.C.2. Chairman, Lord Portsmouth. (Sponsor, TCPA.) 1.15 p.m. OCT. 19

A. W. Kenyon, Chairman of the RIBA Central Planning Advisory Committee. *The National Plan.* At the RIBA, 66, Portland Place, W.1. (Sponsor, RIBA.) 6 p.m. NOV. 14

T. P. Bennett. *The Architect and Organization of Post-War Building.* At the RIBA, 66, Portland Place, W.1. (Sponsor, RIBA.) 6 p.m. DEC. 12

**NORFOLK.** *Your Inheritance.* Exhibition. (Sponsor, HC.) AUG. 31-SEPT. 30

**SPALDING, Lincs.** *The English Town: Its Continuity and Development.* Exhibition. At the East Elloe Post-War Housing Committee, Holbeach. (Sponsor, TCPA.) DEC. 4-16.

**STRET福德, MANCHESTER.** *When We Build Again.* Exhibition and film. (Sponsor, TCPA, in collaboration with Messrs. Cadbury Bros.) SEPT. 30-OCT. 7

**SUDBURY, SUFFOLK.** *The English Town: Its Continuity and Development.* (Sponsor, TCPA.) SEPT. 21-30

**SWADLINCOTE.** *The English Town: Its Continuity and Development.* Exhibition. (Sponsor, TCPA.) OCT. 24-NOV. 8

**YORK.** *The Artist and the Church.* Exhibition. At York Cathedral. (Sponsor, CEMA.) AUG. 31-SEPT. 9



## NEWS

THURSDAY, AUGUST 31, 1944  
No. 2588. VOL. 100

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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.

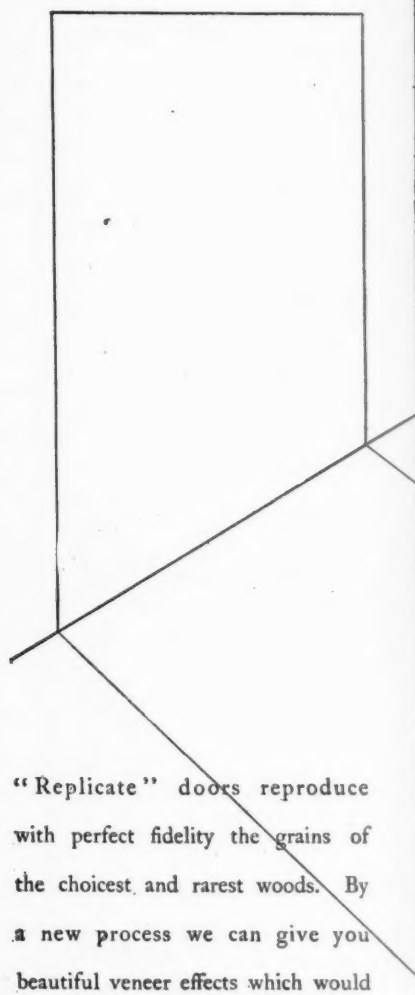
### Here are the midsummer examination results of the SOUTHERN COLLEGE OF ART, WINCHESTER. SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE

Certificate in Architecture: Kenneth R. Brown, Griffin C. Bartlett, Emanuel M. Morris, Eileen M. Newman, Peter T. Whitworth. The Certificate in Architecture of the Southern College of Art now carries exemption from the RIBA Intermediate Examination, and the above students are the first to receive Certificates since the School has been recognized by the RIBA Board of Architectural Education.

### The War Damage Commission announces an amendment of its notice of 5th October, 1942, respecting the inclusion in the PROPER COST under the War Damage Act of travelling allowances for building operatives in the London Area

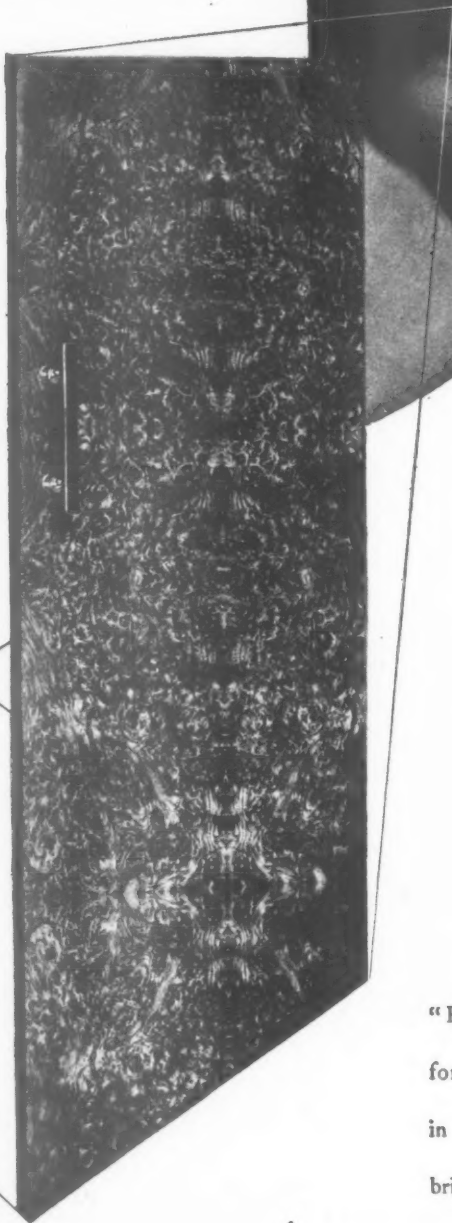
To bring the scale into accordance with the recently revised Working Rule Agreement, the following changes are made in the allowances to be paid where the distances to be travelled by the workman sent from the shop or job are:—Over five miles and up to ten miles—1s. 6d. per day, in place of 1s. 3d.; over ten miles—2s. 6d. per day, in place of 1s. 10d.

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## From AN ARCHITECT'S Commonplace Book

ROSSETTI AND MORRIS SEE THE REAL ENGLAND. [*From The Pre-Raphaelite Tragedy, by William Gaunt (Jonathan Cape)*]. Kelmscott, on the upper Thames, thirty miles from Oxford by water and three miles from Lechlade, was discovered in a London house agent's list in the spring. They went down together to see it. . . . "O me! O me! How I love the earth and the seasons and weather, and all things that deal with it and all that grows out of it as this has done." He thought this as he stood there in his blue serge suit and blue cotton shirt, Janey, beautiful as Juno, by his side, and with them, quite out of place, flippant and mocking, Rossetti, not in the least loving the earth, or the grey house that grew out of it, and rather less able to breathe in the clean, calm air than he was in Chelsea. . . . For the first time Rossetti saw the real England, and it was an entirely foreign country. The "great Italian" could be comfortably "lost in London" because it was a city made to lose yourself in. At Kelmscott he was a solitary interloper in a place he could not understand, whose fat purring hedges and peace and quietude were the expression of an attitude to life in which it was impossible for him to share . . . the house a quite unaltered relic of Elizabethan middle-class architecture, though whether actually built in Elizabeth's time or even perhaps a century later in this dozy, primitive, undeveloping region, may be doubtful . . . He seemed to find in the calm of Kelmscott an immovable and antagonistic force which he admired without having the slightest affection for it, despised while he respected. So might Lucifer have spoken of the Garden of Eden.

*In Lewes some of the SITES OF ANTIQUITY ARE STILL OBSCURED from view and consideration should be given to such re-planning as may be necessary to secure their recognition, maintenance and preservation.*

In making this recommendation the Post-War Development and Housing Subcommittee, in its first report on the reconstruction of Lewes, the ancient capital of Sussex, state: The geographical features of the terrain upon which the county town of Sussex stands do not lend themselves to a vast scheme of expansion, nor indeed is such a plan desirable. Changes in the development and redevelopment of the town will obviously be required to keep pace with modern advancement in the design and utility of buildings, but there is no tangible reason why the planning and design of new buildings should not secure the settings required to preserve its character and amenity. Some of the sites of antiquity in the town are still obscured from view, and consideration should be given to such replanning as may be necessary to secure their recognition, maintenance, and preservation. Various road widening schemes are suggested, and there is a two-year programme of housing in hand providing for the construction of 160 houses at a total estimated cost of £98,655, including land, roads, and sewers. The long-term tentative programme of some 600 houses for slum clearance and to deal with overcrowding and general needs will call for an approximate expenditure of £370,000.

*Mr. J. W. Stephenson, President of the National Federation of Building Trades Operatives, has been ELECTED VICE-CHAIRMAN OF THE WAR SAVINGS COMMITTEE of the Building, Civil Engineering and Allied Trades, of which Mr. George Hicks, M.P. is Chairman*

The other Vice-Chairmen are Mr. J. Crowley, of the Federation of Civil Engin-

neering Contractors, and Mr. Leslie Wallis, President of the Building Industries National Council. Mr. J. G. Gray, President of the National Federation of Building Trades' Employers, and Mr. H. C. Harland, President of the London Master Builders' Association, have recently joined the Committee. Mr. W. T. Creswell, K.C., is Honorary Secretary.

*It would be an entirely erroneous impression to assure that statutory electricity undertakers were free to erect POWER STATIONS wherever they chose, until the passing of the Town and Country Planning Acts*

This statement is made by Mr. Frank D. Long in a letter to The Times, in reply to a correspondent taking part in the protests which have arisen against the proposed erection of power stations at Durham and Lincoln. In his letter Mr. Long says:

The fact is that under the Electricity (Supply) Acts, 1882 to 1936, no authorized electricity undertaker has been free to build a generating station without the construction being authorized and the land specified in a special Act, provisional order, or special order, and the consent of the Electricity Commissioners obtained. The following procedure is stipulated before the Commissioners' consent can be obtained:—

"(1) Notice of the undertaker's proposals must be given to (a) the local authority of the district in which the land is situated; (b) owners and lessees of all land situated within 300 yards of the land on which a generating station is to be built. (2) Objections to the undertaker's proposals must be considered by the Commissioners and the objectors may be given an opportunity of being heard at a public inquiry."

As the Electricity Commissioners are responsible to the Minister of Fuel and Power, it follows that there has always been an opportunity for any dissatisfaction being voiced in Parliament. It is therefore difficult to understand how duplication of protective machinery under the Town and Country Planning Acts can be of value . . . The electricity supply industry is already subject to more legislative control than probably any other industry in the country, with the possible exception of coalmining.

★  
*Portsmouth City Council has decided to form A NEW DEPARTMENT FOR PLANNING and Reconstruction, and has appointed Mr. F. A. C. Maunders as City Planning Officer and Reconstruction Architect.*

Mr. Maunders was trained at the Durham University Schools of Architecture and Planning under Professor R. A. Cordingley, and won the British Rome Scholarship in Architecture in 1934. He was appointed Deputy City Architect at Portsmouth in 1936, and latterly has been preparing plans for the post-war development of that city.

★  
*During the week Monday, September 4 to Saturday, September 9 THE RIBA LIBRARY WILL BE CLOSED for all but essential war enquiries*

This is to enable arrears in work and the annual cleaning to be completed. Books due for return during the week when the Library is closed will automatically be extended for return on Monday, September 11. Current issues only of periodicals will be available on the first floor landing.

*Merrist Wood Hall, Worplesdon, is to be THE FIRST FARM INSTITUTE IN SURREY for agricultural education*

Merrist Wood Hall is a 600-acre farm. The initial cost of fitting it out will be about £30,000. The institute will be fully residential, with 30 students to begin with, an official of the Surrey War Agricultural Executive Committee told the Evening Standard, at an annual running cost of about £7,000. It is an ideal spot for a farm institute, the ground being eminently suitable for horticultural research as well as stock-rearing. It is understood that horticulture will be the main study.





## Save us our Ruins

The roofless Church of St. Swithun's now affords a pleasant lunch-hour retreat for City workers. The proposal that all such ruined City churches should be preserved was first made by the *Architectural Review*, an admirable idea which now has the full support of a number of eminent people, according to their letter

in *The Times* of August 12, reprinted in the *Journal* last week. They advocate the preservation of the churches as permanent war memorials, used in many cases for open-air services and "surrounded by lawns, flower-beds and flowering trees, with seats for those in search of quietness and rest."

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**A committee has been set up to provide a MEMORIAL TO SIR EDWIN LUTYENS.**

Details of the proposals of the committee were given in the following letter published in *The Times* last week: **SIR**—We believe that all those interested in the arts of our nation will wish to contribute to a memorial to the late Sir Edwin Lutyens, the greatest architect of our time. Hence a committee, set up to consider the best form such a memorial could take, has concluded that the publication of a book in three or more folio volumes covering all aspects of his work would provide the most fitting monument. It will be a permanent record for future generations of the incomparable achievement of this master, and will have great practical value for students not only in this country but, we hope, throughout the world. Mr. Christopher Hussey and Mr. A. S. G. Butler have agreed to act as joint authors and editors of these volumes, which will contain plans, detail drawings, and photographs, as well as analytical notes intended to illustrate the genius of Sir Edwin and his high position in the historical sequence of architecture. Subscribers to the memorial fund will be entitled to copies of the work at privileged rates, which will be determined later having regard to the response to this appeal and the cost of publication. Moreover, we hope in addition to found an annual scholarship at the School of Architecture of the Royal Academy to be known as the Lutyens Scholarship. This further object, however, can be achieved only if the amount subscribed is sufficient. Donations to the memorial fund will be gratefully acknowledged by the hon. treasurer, Viscount Esher, at the office of the Lutyens Memorial, 13, Mansfield Street, W.1.—Yours faithfully, JASPER RIDLEY (Chairman), W. H. ANSELL, CRAWFORD AND BALCARRES, ESHER, MEREDITH FRAMPTON, GREENE, EDWARD MAUFE, HUBERT WORTHINGTON.

**At the request of the RIBA Committee on the Training of Architects in Town Planning, Dr. H. V. Lancaster, F.R.I.B.A., has prepared an outline of STUDIES IN TOWN PLANNING**

In making this announcement the RIBA State: Owing to war conditions many of the well-known textbooks on town planning are unobtainable, and this Outline will be especially valuable to those who cannot take a course at a School and must rely on private study. The Outline has been produced in pamphlet form, and copies can be obtained on application to the RIBA, price 1s. 3d. each, including postage.

**Let us BUILD A HOME FOR MUSIC, said Lord Horder in a BBC broadcast**

Lord Horder was making a broadcast appeal on behalf of the Sir Henry Wood "Proms" Jubilee Fund. He said: While we build homes for our families let us build a home for music—a fine, comfortable, acoustically perfect concert hall in the capital of the Empire, a hall to seat 4,000 people, employing every modern device, perfect for direct performance and for broadcasting; a really modern Henry Wood concert hall.

## RECESS FOR THOUGHT

**S**HORTLY before Parliament rose for its annual recess, the Minister of Health moved the second reading of the Housing (Temporary Accommodation) Bill, which mainly concerns the Portal House. A lively debate followed Mr. Willink's speech, in which it was clear that though members did not approve of every aspect of the Portal House, they realized how important was the question of temporary housing and how necessary it will be. "One of the most important Bills," said Mrs. Tate, member for Frome, "that has come before this House." "A Bill," to quote Mr. Willink, "to meet a need as urgent, in the civil sphere, as any we have ever had to face." With the flying bombs adding to the rubble day by day, we can at least feel relieved to know that this urgency is fully realized in the Commons.

Many will also feel relieved that the Portal House is having to run the gauntlet of serious criticisms by M.Ps. These criticisms during the recent debate were largely of a negative kind, and it is to be hoped that more constructive remarks will be offered at the debate which is to take place when the House reassembles in September.

Mr. Barnes (East Ham, South) set the tone. "The irritation and feeling expressed at the beginning of the debate and while the Minister was speaking," he said, "reflect a general feeling that we are not satisfied with the preparations made by the Government. . . . Admitting the need for temporary housing, what has been the reason for concentration and publicity on one type of temporary house?" Mr. Silkin (Peckham) stated bluntly that the prospect of 250,000 of these houses, all alike, scattered all over the country, filled him with horror. He made many criticisms of detail and stressed the difficulties of siting, certainly not one of the minor problems. A fear that was almost unanimous was that the houses would become permanent.

Mr. Hicks, MOW's Parliamentary Secretary, put up a spirited defence of the house. "Sheer, hard, stern necessity has conditioned this proposal to tide over a period. . . . About 50 or 60 people have put up proposals for housing to meet the need for temporary houses, but at the moment they have not stood up to the requirements. Some are going along fairly well. . . . Let anyone with ideas come along."

The JOURNAL itself has already come along with a number of ideas—ideas that have so far not been heeded, either by the Government or Parliament. We have in the past dealt with fundamental issues which lie outside the scope of this Bill, but which, nevertheless, condition it. Up to the present they have not been settled. For instance, is temporary housing to be considered not merely as an immediate—and to many an unfortunate—emergency measure, but, more sensibly, as a generally applicable building principle in keeping with these times of social flux and rapid technical development? Again, is housing to be dealt with as a problem distinct from physical planning or, as it must be if chaos is to be avoided, as part

and parcel of comprehensive national, regional and local plans?

Coming from these long-term principles to the Portal House, the JOURNAL urges members of Parliament, while accepting the idea of mass-produced prefabricated housing to consider whether the policy of providing one stereotyped type, with one stereotyped plan, is likely to satisfy even temporary requirements—the JOURNAL contends most strongly that this policy is too limited. What is needed is the development in its place of a highly flexible unit system, together with the designing of a variety of suitable type houses based upon that system. Such houses, though temporary, should not be sub-standard, and need not be, if a realistic attitude towards finance is adopted.

The Ministry of Works has at its disposal an enormous staff of experts, among which lies plenty of talent and imagination. We beg that when the House reassembles to discuss the Bill, members will demand that that talent and imagination shall be released and at once fully applied to the problem of producing a temporary house that is, above all, *flexible*.



*The Architects' Journal*

War Address: 45, The Avenue, Cheam, Surrey;  
Telephone: Vigilant 0087-9

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

### IN NORTHERN ENGLAND

Everybody was very kind in the large city which could count bombs received during this war (in 1940) on the fingers of two hands. "You poor things . . ." they said, and asked for details.

A guest was bound to try to cut things short, to swear that, if humanly possible, the phrase *and then the Engine Stopped* would not be used by him.

Yet, as the holiday slipped by, it was impossible not to notice how very wedge-shaped was interest and understanding. They began great and tailed

to nothing almost on the instant. What also could one expect? . . . of course, nothing else. The newly painted house, the three weeks at the sea, the plans for after the war—all were very reasonable to anyone who could feel quite certain that he still had a house. But how different it was when one could not feel certain.

"What we fear about this Development Area idea," said the intelligent business man, "is that the Government will not take the state of the North seriously enough. There's no good poking around on Special Area lines. The North should not only be given priority, it should be given concentrated and comprehensive attention for 5 or 7 years. Otherwise a sizable portion of the nation's resources will decay entirely. The South doesn't understand . . . they are too prosperous to understand. . . ."

And so on and so on. But why were one's nods rather automatic, even resentful? In the bed on the second floor, beside a big uncurtained window, the guest found himself hoping that, when all first priorities had been awarded—to the disabled, to ex-Servicemen and their relatives, to blitzed cities, and Development Areas—the people of Greater London would not be too shy to give themselves a priority. A medal or double rations or two months' holiday for every mother

of young children . . . and rub in the reason why.

### SEALED LIPS DEPARTMENT

The recent death of Lord Hardinge of Penshurst recalls the debut of Sir Edwin Lutyens' Indian career as a practical joker. Building had just started on New Delhi, and Lut was staying with Hardinge, the new Viceroy, at the old Lodge. It was a torrid week-end, and shady recreations were few. A ping-pong table was among the Viceregal luggage, and it was decided to erect it. A Lascar led the way to a remote attic.

In mid-floor was a vast and rusty screw. Imperiously, the King Emperor by proxy demanded whether it might safely be removed. Lutyens smiled but said nothing. The Lascar pulled and tugged at a giant bolt. Suddenly there was a crack, a whirr, and a subterranean explosion which shook the old building like an earthquake. Hardinge forgot his dignity and rushed to the gaping hole where the screw had vanished. Far below him, on the floor of the Throneroom, the Chandelier of a Thousand Candles, a Victorian monstrosity, lay shattered in a million fragments.

### THIS CHANGING WORLD

Those who have read in Hulton's *World Review* some of the articles which have appeared during the last two years on contemporary science, philosophy, and art, will be interested perhaps to know that they have now been collected into a book under the title *This Changing World*. Edited by J. R. Brumwell, jacketed by Ben Nicholson, and prefaced by Herbert Read, it contains an imposing array of experts—among them Bernal and Waddington on Science, Mumford and Balogh on Society, Kathleen Raine on Literature and John Summerson on Architecture, and it provides a useful and stimulating survey of all aspects of the present age.

The contemporary achievement of specialists in other branches of life than one's own is often difficult to understand, and constantly outstrips even the most enquiring and energetic of lay minds. *This Changing World* is no quick guide to these modern mysteries—some of the articles indeed are far from easy reading—but whether you

believe that behind that lies a coherent pattern or nothing but aimless anarchy, they will seem perhaps a little less obscure in the light thrown upon them by these skilled and authoritative contributors

## POETS' CORNER

I learn that during alerts, the Red Flag now flies from the roof of a well-known Ministry:

What Lenin couldn't do  
And Barlow's scarce begun,  
What Scott's still trying to,  
Nor Uthwatt yet has won,  
The doodle bug has done!  
The doodle bug has done!  
Where Morrison is mute  
And Bossom fails to bud,  
Where law must landlord suit  
And Downing Street be dud,  
The doodle draws blue blood!  
The doodle draws blue blood!  
Let us remember then  
When victory is won,  
And record with black pen  
Writes blackly of the Hun,  
What doodle bugs have done!  
What doodle bugs have done!

## DULWICH PICTURE GALLERY

The Dulwich Picture Gallery, with the Mausoleum of its founder, Sir Francis Bourgeois, R.A., embodied the genius of Soane at its very highest.\* Every line, every profile, every relief and recession contributed to the highly-strung total effect, unparalleled in the work of any other architect. The Mausoleum was crowned by a lantern built of thin slabs of Portland Stone, so delicate and precise that it might have been constructed by the sensitive hands of Soane himself. Through the

\* The gallery was built 1811-14 according to the terms of a bequest by Sir Francis Bourgeois.



Dulwich Picture Gallery today. See Astragal's note.

yellow glass in this lantern a flood of light poured into the Mausoleum and was reflected in the shallow dome of the Greek Doric vestibule.

Recently, this masterpiece of abstract design was wrecked by a flying-bomb. But the building can be accurately restored, and there is perhaps no other case of bomb-damage, unless we except St. Stephen's Walbrook, where conscientious reconstruction is so imperative; not on mere grounds of sentiment, but because we cannot allow the eloquence of architecture such as this to be silenced by a mere doodle-bug.

## ABSOLOM! ABSOLOM!

I quote the following from a judgment of the Lord Chancellor in the House of Lords:

'Absolom formerly carried on the business of a speculative builder from which he retired on 31st December, 1937. He appealed to the Special Commissioners against four assessments to income tax in the sums of £87,000, £48,000, £24,000 and £30,000 for the four years ending 5th April, 1935, to 5th April, 1938, inclusive, made on him under the provisions of the Income Tax Act, 1918, Sched. D, Case I. Before he retired his business consisted mainly of erecting workmen's houses which he sold, at prices ranging from £395 to £750. . . .'

I have only one comment to make. I should like to know what relation the architect's fees paid by Mr. Absolom during those four years bears to figures mentioned in the extract above.

ASTRAGAL



## LETTERS

R. V. Davies, A.R.I.B.A.

Gordon O'Neill

John Murdoch, A.R.San.I.  
(Burgh-Surveyor, Buckie, Scotland)

## The Churchill House

SIR,—I would like to congratulate Astragal on his splendid plan for the Churchill house. I, too, feel that it is a mistake to divide up one's living space into a series of small compartments, each opening direct on to a passage. The passage itself is a waste of space, and the rooms tend to be used for certain set functions, such as eating and sleeping.

Consequently, for long periods, parts of the house are not lived in.

I hope Astragal's plan comes to the notice of those who are responsible for the Churchill plan.

Clitheroe

R. V. DAVIES

SIR,—Your Journal has made a big contribution to the housing problem by ventilating this matter in such a practical way, and further a great many architects are now considering for the first time the possibilities of a Pocket House.

Astragal by his plan has nearly put-paid to the problem, and I am sure there are few architects who have seen his effort who will not admit that he has delivered the goods. There is only one criticism I wish to offer to Astragal's plan, it does not make provision for further bedrooms.

The problem of our manpower is such that the time has come to make provision for it, and two bedrooms are only a flea-bite towards the needs of the present, not to mention the future.

So all suggestions for any temporary abode should show how the plan can be developed. This criticism also applies to the Churchill House, and most of the other plans appearing in the Journal; Mr. J. R.



Duerdoth, however, solves this problem with his continuous unit.

I have sailed in small boats, and lived in them for weeks on end over the last forty years, and have come to the conclusion that regulation floor area is not the beginning and end of good small house planning, one central room like a yacht's saloon, with a place for everything, can be far more interesting than a series of box-like rooms with no internal vista whatsoever.

If you will now open your Journal to suggestions for the permanent houses that will be erected in conjunction with the Dudley report, *Design of Dwellings*, I am sure many architects would avail themselves of the opportunity of bringing before

your notice many points which need ironing out.

Chelmsford.

GORDON O'NEILL.

SIR.—After reading the various letters on the Churchill House, I have decided to submit the enclosed, as no plans I have seen so far come up to my expectations. The sketch, I think, shows how the arrangements can be made to better advantage without altering the overall size. The nearest approach to my idea is that by Mr. R. V. Boughton. While not increasing the overall dimensions of the building, I have given a larger kitchen, and a hall large enough to take the pram. The external shed should also be provided, and a coal-bunker could be placed in the recess behind the larder.

I am of opinion that the wc should be in the same apartment as the bath, etc.,

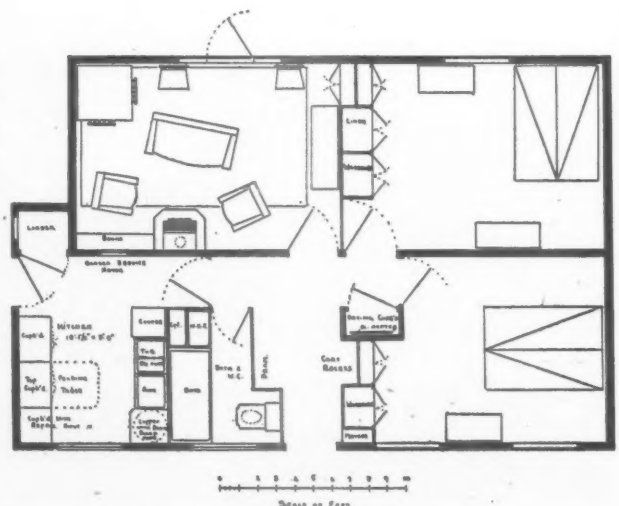
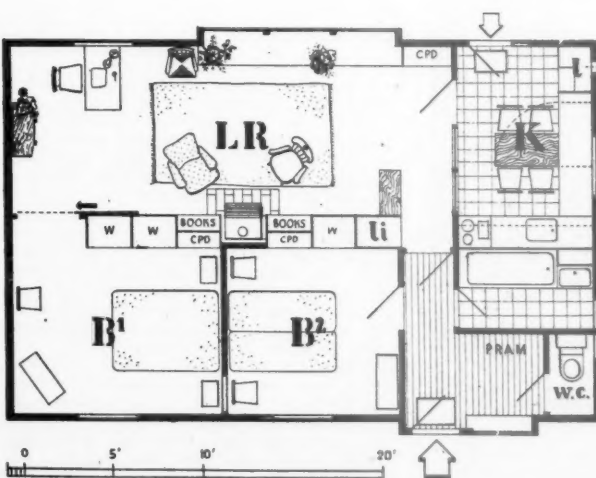
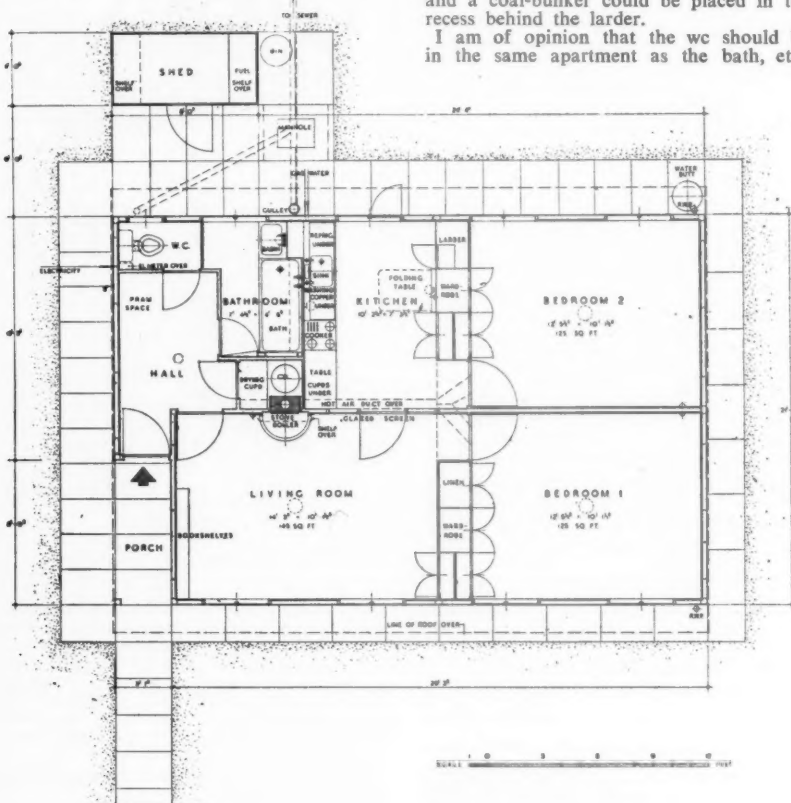
and the alteration of position of bath and wash-hand basin brings the hot water cylinder nearer to the fireplace, so entailing shorter lengths of piping and still allowing for this piping to be utilised as a towel rail. I also show position of furniture, and in place of two windows in the living-room I show the window as a french type with side windows, this being similar to the glazed screen of the original. As for the inclusion of the wc in the bathroom, I quote the report of the Scottish Housing Advisory Committee (*Planning Our New Homes*).—"We have received much evidence for and against the provision of separate apartments for the bath and wash-hand basin and for the wc. Our conclusion is that in houses with three bedrooms or less, all these facilities should be in one apartment. It is important to emphasize, however, that, for obvious reasons of personal hygiene, wherever a separate apartment is provided for the wc, it should also include a small wash-hand basin."

In view of the above, and in my own opinion as a Public Health Official, the provision of separate apartments for bath and wc, in the Churchill House is far from ideal and is really unnecessary. The general standard of the house is so low that it takes more than the provision of separate apartments to raise them, and especially the non-fulfilment of the most elementary standards of public health really takes the standard down still further.

In my opinion the whole effort is one of window dressing, the appeal depending upon the fittings provided and the ample provision of cupboard accommodation. The housewife, when visiting the trial house, is so overwhelmed by the fine appearance of the plywood doors, ample cupboard accommodation behind these doors, and the chromium plate and refrigerator in the kitchen. It is only after she has expressed her delight at these items that she turns her attention to the height of ceilings, size of rooms, disposition of windows and doors (which really decide the placing of her furniture), access to bedrooms, position of fireplace in relation to doors, siting of bathroom (and separate wc) in relation to bedrooms, and all these items give ample opportunity for criticism. Indeed if this house has been designed by an architect then it should be kept quiet, as it is the worst possible advertisement for the employment of such a profession in solving the housing problem in the post-war years.

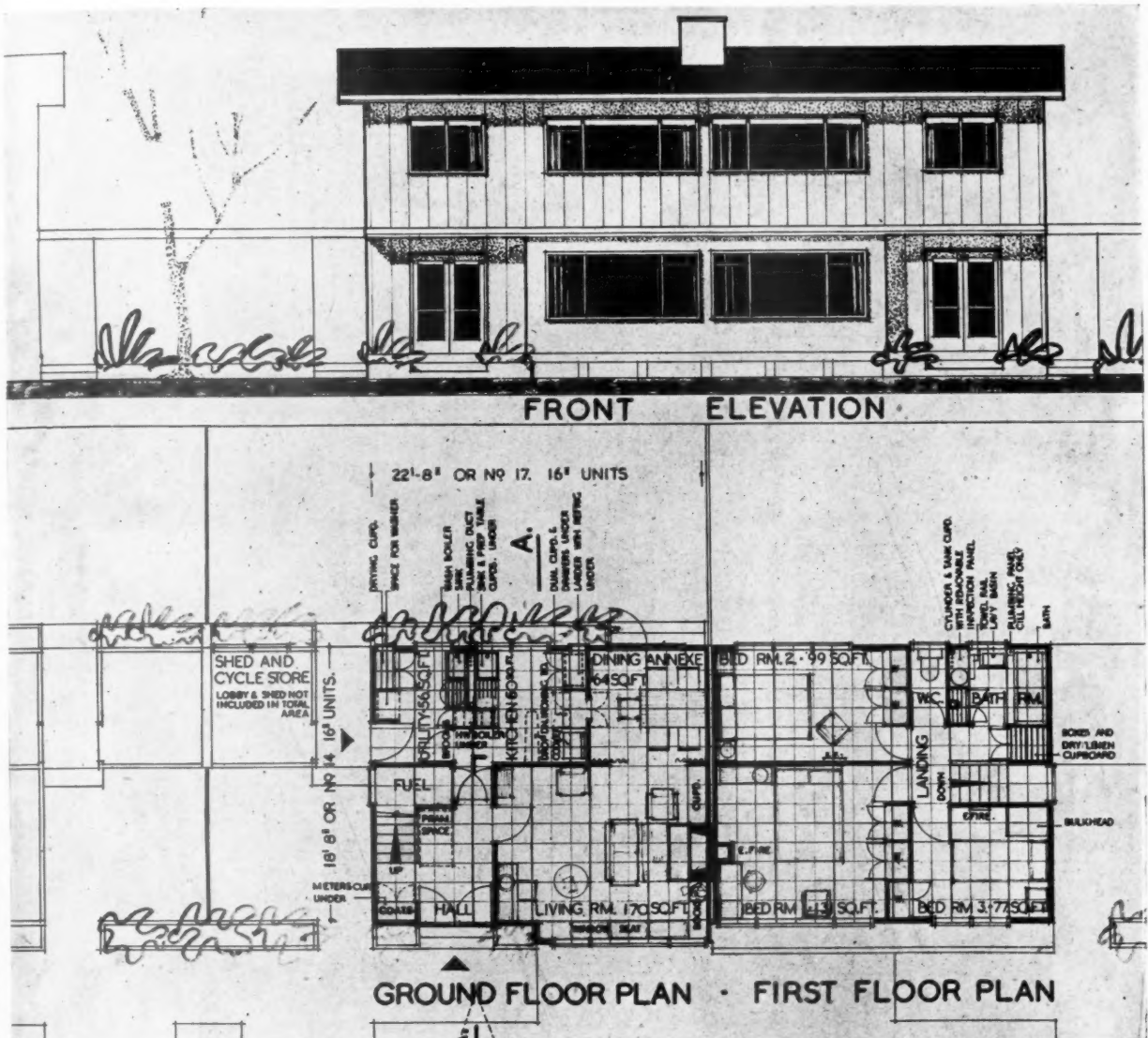
JOHN MURDOCH.

Buckie, Scotland.



The Churchill House. Top, Ministry of Work's plan. Bottom, suggested plans by Astragal (left) and John Murdoch (right).





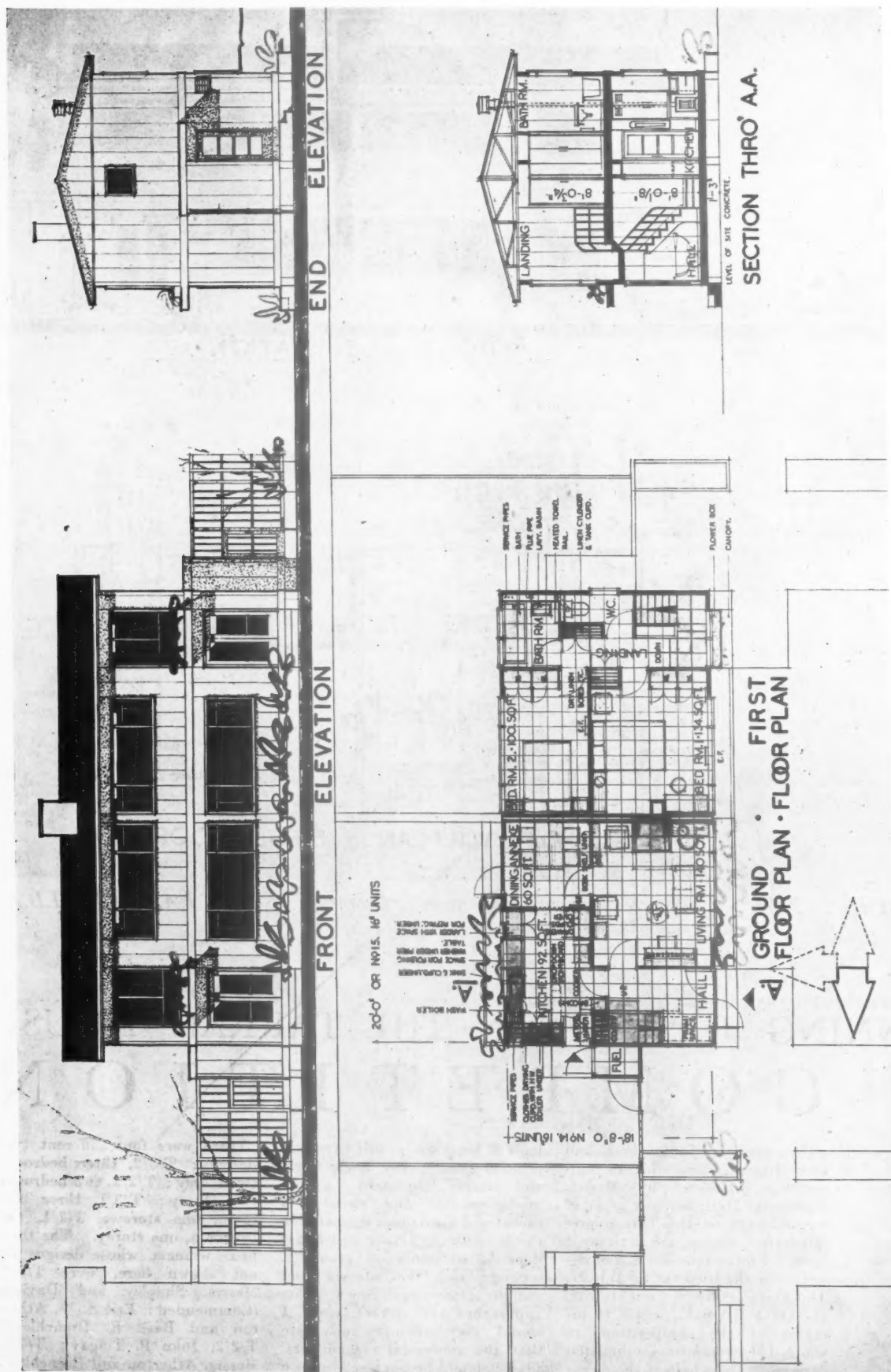
First Prize : Type T/3/2, three bedroom, two storey. George E. Salt, F.I.A.A., L.R.I.B.A.

## WINNING DESIGNS IN THE TARRAN HOUSE COMPETITION

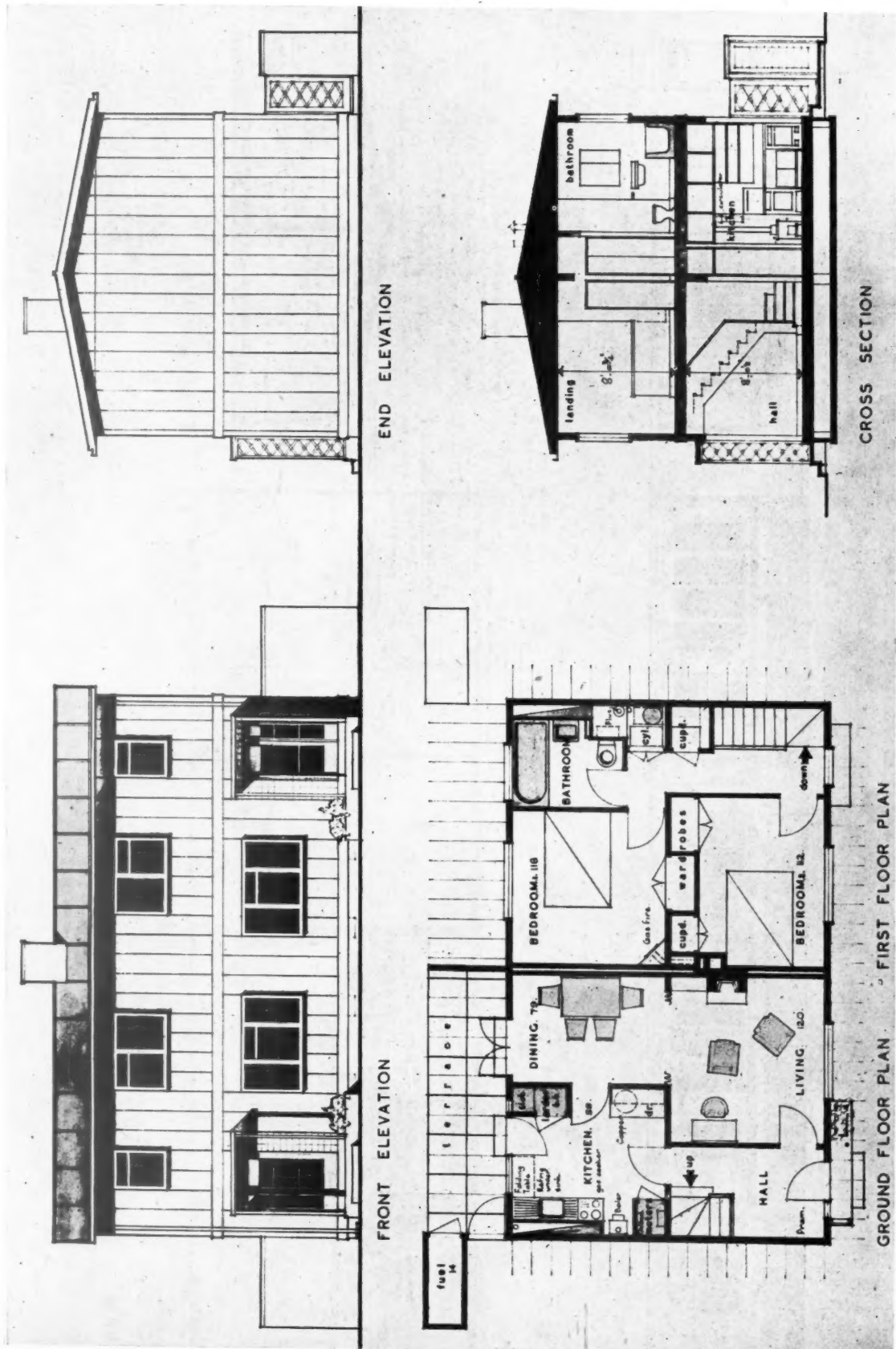
The designs of the first and second prize winners in the competition organized by Messrs. Tarran, of Hull, for four types of houses built on the Tarran prefabricated system, are illustrated here. The system itself was described in the JOURNAL for July 27. The Assessor, Mr. T. Cecil Howitt, D.S.O., F.R.I.B.A., writes in his report of the competition, in which 131 competitors submitted designs, "The whole of the drawings show very clearly the present-day outlook on the planning prob-

lems of meal space, utility rooms, plumbing units, easy house work, and ample cupboard accommodation for the variety of rooms and floor space indicated in the Conditions. As a unit house depends so much on grouping, setting, and the masses and various sizes of each block for its appearance and attractiveness, I would very strongly advocate that the successful competitors' advice should be obtained on any block plan scheme, even for the smallest number of houses."

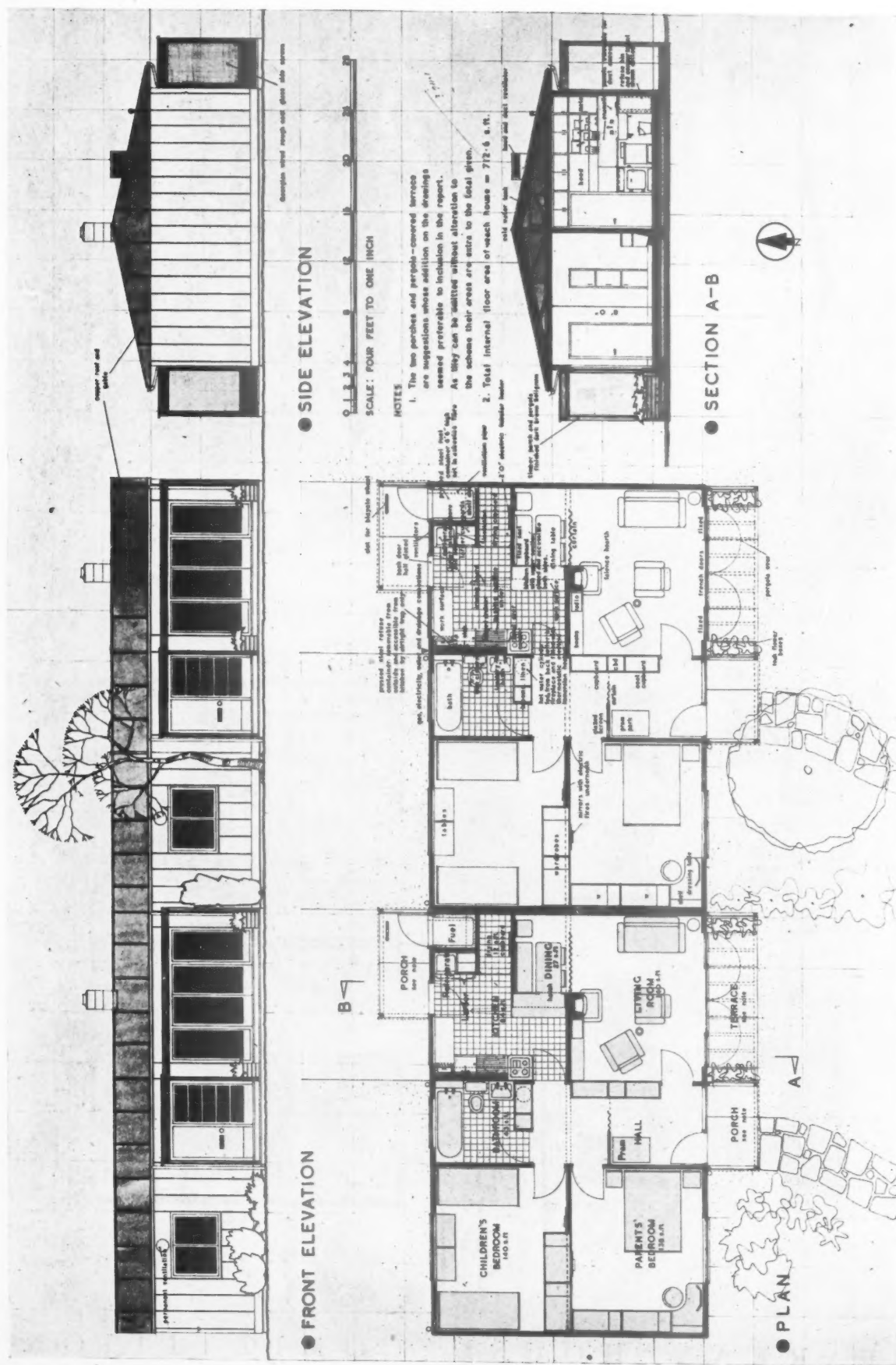
There were four different type designs: T/3/2, three bedroom, two storey; T/2/2, two bedroom, two storey; T/3/1, three bedroom, one storey; T/2/1, two bedroom, one storey. The third prize winners, whose designs are not shown here, were T/3/2, Messrs. Shapley and Davison (Commended: Eric S. W. Atherton and Basil E. Brechley); T/2/2, John P. Tingay; T/3/1, Messrs. Atherton and Brechley; T/2/1, A. Pickles (Commended: J. H. McMorland, Lt., R.E.).



First Prize : Type T/2/2, two bedroom, two storey. George E. Salt, F.I.A.A., L.R.I.B.A.

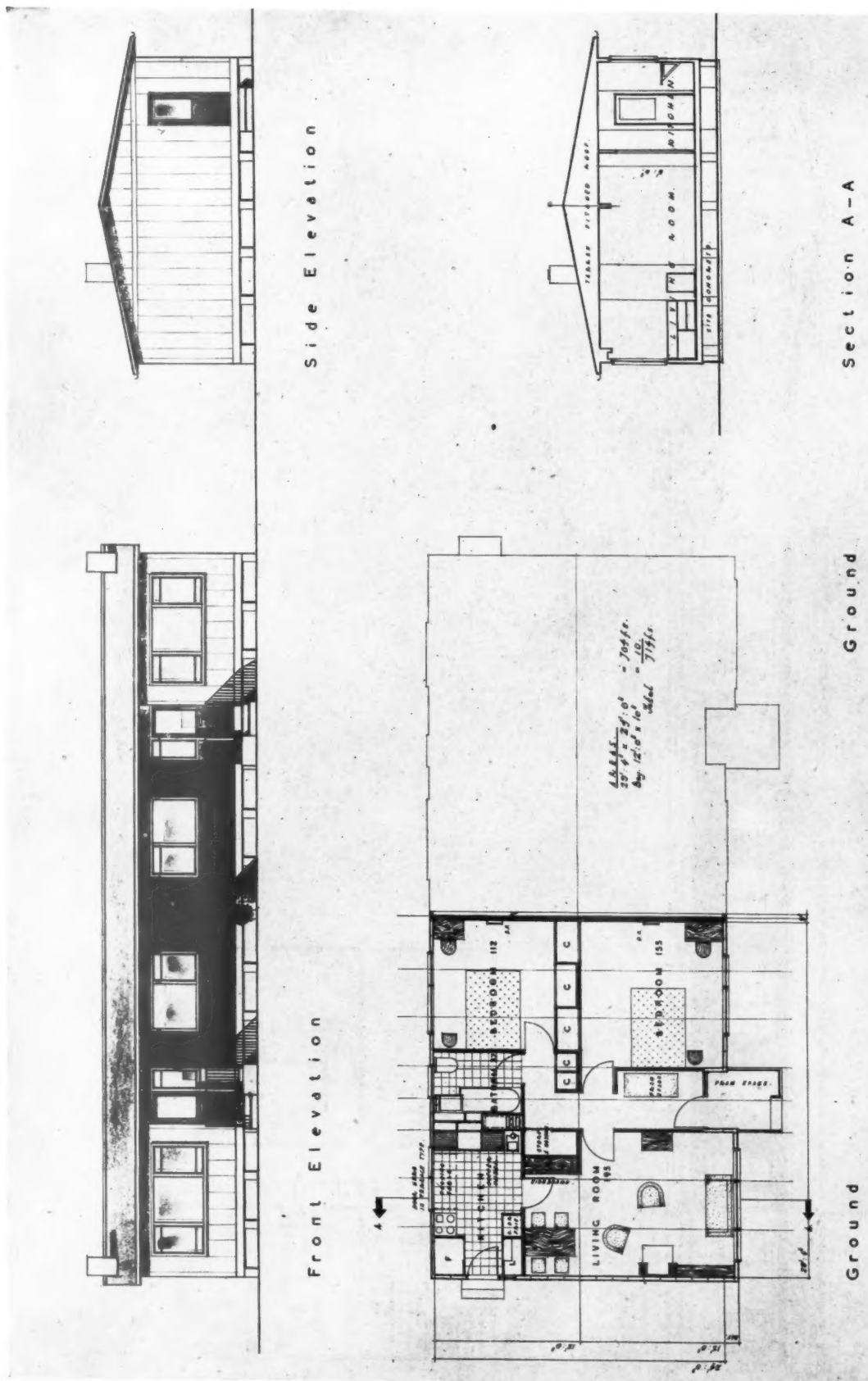


Second Prize : Type T/2/2, two bedroom, two storey. Messrs. Shapley and Davison, Chartered Architects.



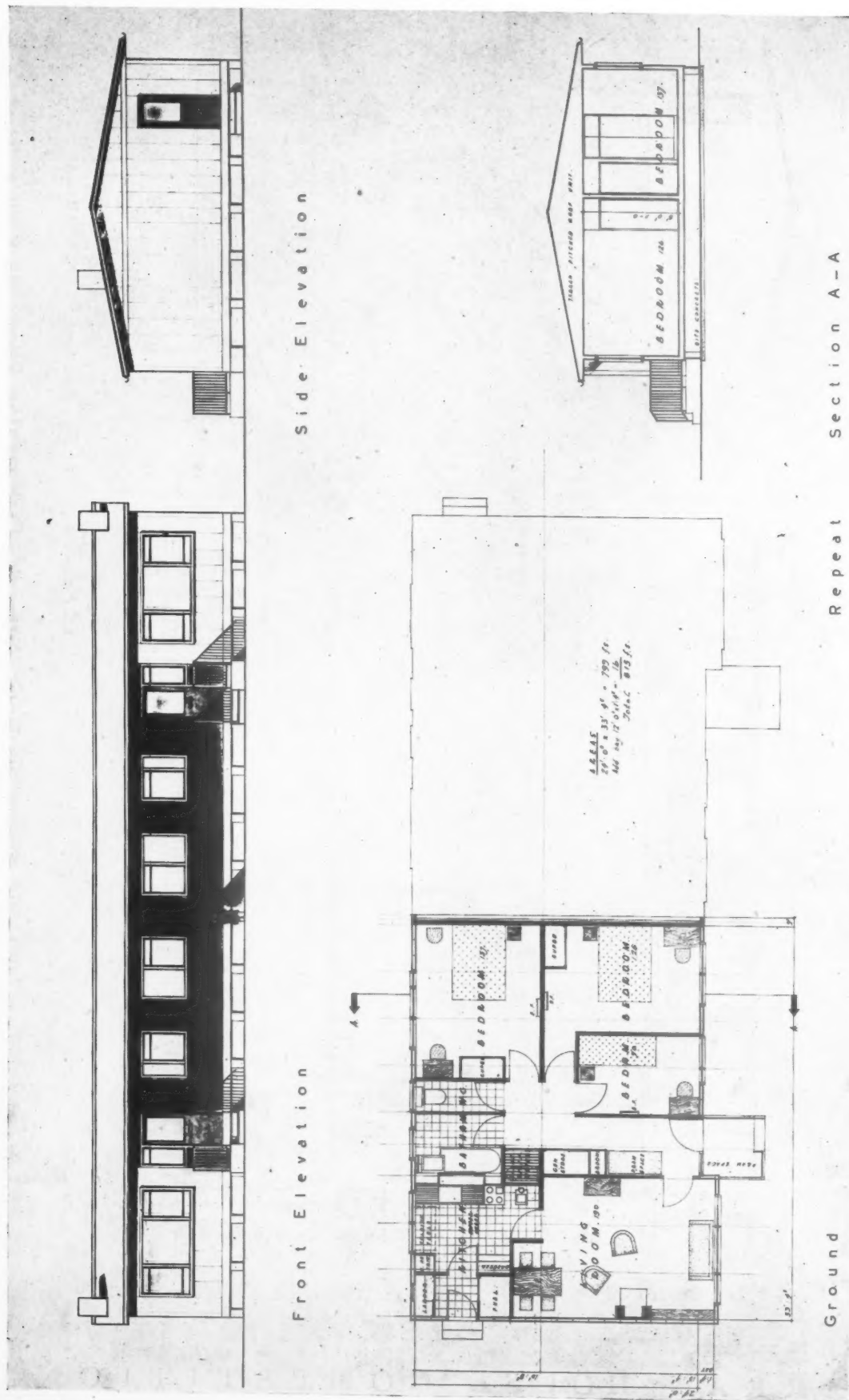
First Prize : Type T/2/1, two bedroom, one storey. Frederick Hill, A.R.I.B.A., A.M.T.P.I. (Sergt., R.A.F.)



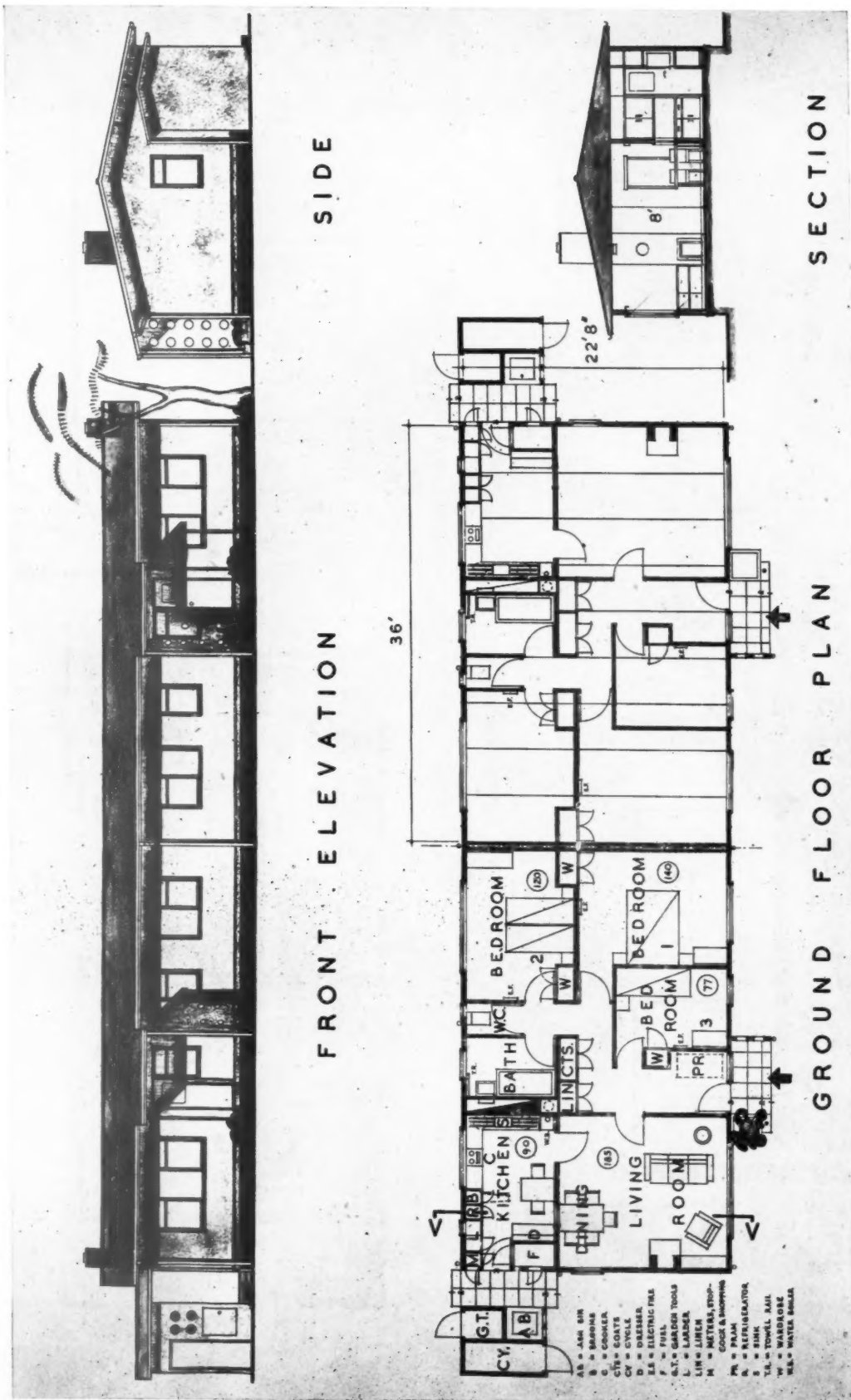


# TARRAN HOUSE COMPETITION

Second Prize : Type T/2/1, two bedroom, one storey. Arthur M. Foyle and Glyn Roberts, A.A.R.I.B.A.

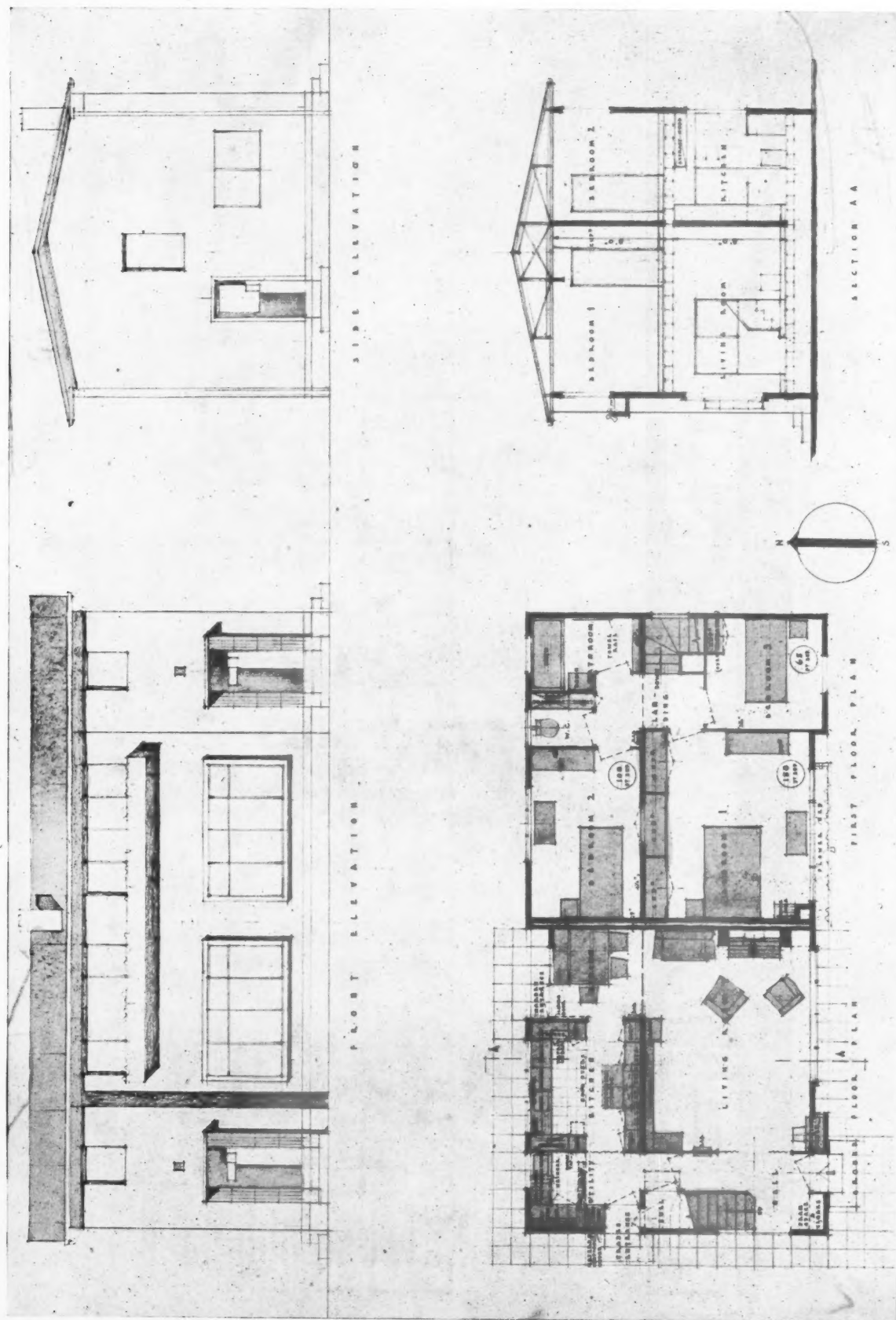


First Prize : Type T/3/1, three bedroom, one storey. Arthur M. Foyle and Glyn Roberts, A.A.R.I.B.A.



TARRAN HOUSE COMPETITION

Second Prize : Type T/3/1, three bedroom, one storey. A. I. Richards, A.I.A.A.S. (Major, D.C.R.E.)



TARRAN HOUSE COMPETITION

Second Prize : Type T<sub>1/3/2</sub>, three bedroom, two story. E. H. Lockton, A.R.I.B.A. (The First Prize winner's design is shown on page 157.)



# 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.

## MATERIALS

1579

### Strength of Wood

TEMPERATURE EFFECTS ON THE STRENGTH OF WOOD. (Engineering, June 16, 1944, p. 478; short account of Reprint No. 83, issued by the Division of Forest Products.) Investigation to determine the effect of variations of temperature on strength properties of wood, plywood and glued joints at various moisture contents.

The object of the investigation (carried out at the Forest Products Research Laboratory, Princes Risborough) is to ascertain how far the temperature factor should be taken into account when designing structural work and in routine testing. The work indicates that it is desirable to adopt a standard temperature for assessing and expressing strength properties of wood, plywood and glued joints.

Tests so far completed have been made at a moisture content of 15 per cent. only. The temperature varied between  $-10^{\circ}$  and  $60^{\circ}$  C. It has been found that temperature has a marked effect on all properties so far examined. In all the species, every property, except toughness and deflection at failure in bending, decreases with increasing temperature. Deflection at failure in static bending increases very considerably with an increase in temperature and the increases in toughness are considered to be probably due to this effect, the increase in plasticity more than compensating for decreasing strength. The effect of temperature on the maximum crushing strength and modulus of rupture has been found to be linear over the temperature range examined.

The following figures illustrate the variations for a certain type of plywood: Taking the value 100 to represent the crushing strength at  $20^{\circ}$  C., when the load was parallel to the grain, the strength was 126 at  $-10^{\circ}$  C. and 71 at  $50^{\circ}$  C.

1580

### Reinforced Concrete

SIMPLE EXAMPLES OF REINFORCED CONCRETE DESIGN. Oscar Faber. (Third Edition. Oxford University Press. London, Humphrey Milford, 84 p. 6s.) Design of simple structures. Computation of stresses and details of construction.

The examples illustrate the practical application of the principles discussed in *Reinforced Concrete Simply Explained* by the same author. They are intended to assist a beginner in reinforced concrete design and do not represent the most economical arrangement of the structures dealt with. As the author points out, "a structure of any magnitude or importance ought always to be designed and constructed under the supervision of a really competent and experienced man, whose fees are saved many

times over by the greater economy of his design and the certainty that the result will be a lasting success."

The "Examples" have been revised in the third edition in the same way as *Reinforced Concrete Simply Explained*. (See the following item.)

1581

### Reinforced Concrete

REINFORCED CONCRETE SIMPLY EXPLAINED. Oscar Faber. (Third Edition. Oxford University Press. London, Humphrey Milford, 80 p., 6s.) Elementary explanation of basic features of reinforced concrete and principles of design.

This book, now in its third edition, is well known to students. It explains the fundamentals of reinforced concrete design in a simple language and has been revised to conform with the L.C.C. regulations, 1938.

## LIGHTING

1582

### Plastics Equipment

PLASTICS FOR LIGHTING EQUIPMENT. W. H. MacHale. (Lighting and Lamps, January, 1944, p. 20.) Characteristics of plastics and their suitability for lighting equipment.

The main characteristics of thermoplastics and thermosets relative to their use for light fixtures are discussed. Thermoplastics have optical advantages in that they can offer higher transparencies, but their low softening point involves a serious risk of "creep" and ultimate distortion in large units. Those are the most significant differences.

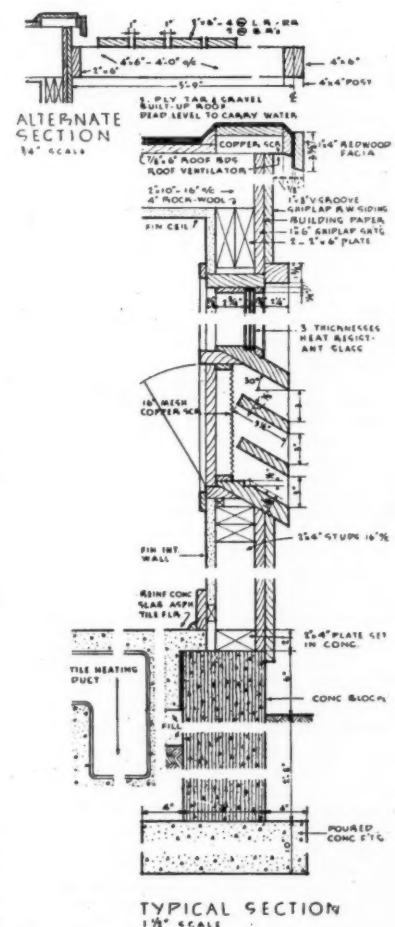
Within the range of thermosetting plastics two particular products—the urea and the melamine plastics—are described in some detail. The latter differs from the former in having superior resistance to abrasion, ability to withstand higher temperatures, and its tolerance for alkaline fillers (which considerably extends the range, including, for instance, glass fibre, and cloth).

1583

### Insulation

SUNLIGHT HOUSES. (Pencil Points, February, 1944, p. 77, and Architectural Forum, March, 1944, p. 35.) Description of houses designed by G. F. Keck for optimum sunlighting.

In essence the designs go back to the familiar but oft-forgotten idea of south-facing windows, with a canopy projecting far enough to keep out the summer sunshine without interfering with the low-angle rays of the winter sun. The houses are built in Chicago, where the winter sun is at about  $25^{\circ}$  altitude at its highest, compared



Solar house designed by G. F. Keck, near Chicago. Above, section through a wall showing the redwood ventilation louvers and three thicknesses of heat-resistant glazing. The roof can be flooded for summer cooling. The alternate section shows a roof sunshade whose slats can be removed according to the season and angle of the sun. Ceiling and walls have gins. of mineral wool insulation. A radiant floor heating system uses forced warm air distributed through glazed tile ducts. Top, a child's bedroom with low door open. See No. 1583.

with 15° in this country.

The interesting part of the article contains one owner's reactions. He is evidently a man of some scientific competence and his observations and measurements appear to justify serious attention.

The first reaction concerned visual comfort, and he notes both a subjective relief on the part of his family, and a concrete piece of evidence in that his wife has been able to give up wearing glasses. One example of the relief afforded illustrates a general principle. There is a continuous bank of windows affording contrast-free lighting in the living-room, and therefore giving the eyes good working conditions. This is compared with the glare sensation caused when individual windows perforate an otherwise unlighted wall. The two conditions are illustrated in photographs, the one giving the normal condition in this house, and the other an imitation of orthodox practice—using the same windows, but with each alternate one blacked and the others mullioned. The photographs give a very good representation of what the eye actually experiences.

The second reaction on comfort was the relief afforded every time one looked up from work. To obtain relief from close work the eyes should be able to focus at least 15-20 ft. away, and this they can always do through the big unbroken windows. In ordinary houses with individual mullioned windows the same relief is not generally afforded; eyes focus involuntarily on a contrast, and the mullions, seen against outdoor brightness, provide a sufficient contrast to be a considerable barrier.

The sun's heat provides a marked relief of fuel bills. It is remarked that "... day after day the temperature reaches 75° and 76°", relieving the furnace for 8 to 10 hours at a time, even in extremely cold weather." The estimated fuel bill for a house of this size (Supply Company's assessment) was 220 dollars, and the actual bill was 136 dollars for a winter, 6 per cent. colder than normal. This can be compared with the Building Research Station's experience in this country that north-facing rooms require between 15 and 20 per cent. more heat than south-facing rooms with only average sunlight.

The house is otherwise heated by warm air forced through hollow tiles in a concrete floor, and this owner is enthusiastic, as have been so many others.

It is interesting to see the development of this form of experiment by American architects, who are achieving some outstanding results.

#### 1584 Principles

**PRINCIPLES OF GOOD LIGHTING.** (*Illuminating Engineering Society, London, 1944.*) Pamphlet on vision and essential points of lighting technique.

This pamphlet—one of a series now being published by the IES—is admirably direct and well designed. The reasons for good lighting are set out, the process of vision is briefly described, and essential points of technique are itemized.

The outstanding point in the pamphlet is a neat analogy. We are reminded of a common phrase in sport—"Bad light stopped play"—and the question is asked, "How often does bad light stop work?" One hardly doubts the answer.

#### 1585 Fluorescent Lamps

**PORTABLE LAMP DESIGN WITH CIRCULAR FLUORESCENT LAMPS.** *E. W. Commy.* (*Lighting and Lamps, January, 1944, p. 16.*) Discussion of new possibilities in portable lamps with circular fluorescent tubes.

The General Electric Co. of America has

announced that it intends to produce circular fluorescent tubes of 8½ in., 12½ in. and 16 in. diameter. This has prompted the present study of portable lamp design. Several interesting possibilities emerge, based upon the fact that the three sizes of lamp can nest in one plane, and also upon the fact that the ring arrangement enables very shallow shades and louvers to be employed.

## QUESTIONS and Answers

**THE** Information Centre answers any question about architecture, building, or the professions and trades within the building industry. It does so free of charge, and its help is available to any member of the industry. Answers are sent direct to enquirers as soon as they have been prepared. The service is confidential, and in no case is the identity of an enquirer disclosed to a third party. Questions should be sent to: **THE ARCHITECTS' JOURNAL, The Avenue, Cheam, Surrey.**

#### 1586 Health Centres

**Q** I am working on a proposed Health Centre and would be glad of any names of books or periodicals dealing with the subject, in particular, Finsbury Health Centre.

**A** We are indebted to the RIBA Librarian for the following list.

Articles on the Health Centre and offices at Finsbury (Architects: Tecton), appeared in the following:

*Architects' Journal*, October 20, 1938, pp. 632-3, and January 12, 1939, p. 48.  
*Architectural Review*, January 5, 1939.  
*Architect and Building News*, January 13, 1939, p. 65.  
*Architectural Design and Construction*, March, 1943, pp. 59-63.

In addition, this Health Centre is discussed in an article entitled *Health Centres after the War in the Planning and Reconstruction Year Book*, 1943, pp. 84-91, and in *Architectural Design and Construction*, March, 1943, pp. 59-63.

The following other articles have been published on this subject:

Hackney Wick Clinic (Architects: Adshead and Ramsey)—*Architect and Building News*, October 14, 1927, pp. 603-4.

Leck Clinic (Longden and Venables)—*Builder*, December 28, 1928, p. 1055, and *Architect and Building News*, September 6, 1929.

Maternity and Child Welfare Centre, Finsbury (E. T. and E. S. Hall)—*Architect and Building News*, November 22, 1929.

Proposed Medical Clinic, Bermondsey (E. E. Davis)—*Builder*, April 3, 1931, p. 619-621.

School Clinic and Infant Welfare Centre, Nuneaton (R. C. Moore and M. A. Shute)—*Builder*, February 17, 1933.

Municipal Clinic and Infant Welfare Centre, Worthing (C. Cowles-Voysey)—*Building*, May, 1933.

Alfred Eicholz Clinic, Great-Portland Street (J. Emberton)—*Architects' Journal*, August 16, 1934, p. 226-7.

Pioneer Health Centre, Peckham (Sir O. E. Williams)—*Architect and Building News*, March 29, 1935; *Architects' Journal*, April 4, 1935; *Builder*, April 12, 1935; and *Architectural Record* (New York), June, 1935.

Instruction Rooms, Welfare Centre and School Clinic (L. Reeves)—*Builder*, April 26, 1935.

Los Angeles County: Unified Health and Welfare Centres—*Architectural Record* (New York), June, 1935.

Maternity and Child Welfare Centre, Eastbourne (L. Roseveare)—*Builder*, October 4, 1935.

Infant Welfare and School Clinic, Margate

(W. R. H. Gardner)—*Builder*, January 31, 1936.

Maternity and Child Welfare Centre, Horsham (F. G. Troup)—*Architect and Building News*, July 17, 1936.

Clinic, North Hull (D. Harvey)—*Builder*, November 6, 1936, pp. 895-7.

Shoreham School Clinic (C. G. Stillman)—*Builder*, December 4, 1936.

Council Clinic, Shirehampton, Bristol (F. W. Bowden)—*Architecture Illustrated*, December, 1936, p. 189.

Bilston: Central Health Clinic (Lyons, Israel and Elsom)—*Architects' Journal*, June 3, 1937, p. 946, and March 14, 1940, p. 277; *Builder*, June 4, 1937, p. 1183; and *Architectural Review*, April, 1940, p. 139.

Erith: Health Centre, etc. (J. H. Clayton)—*Architect and Building News*, January 28, 1938. Health Centres for Preventive Medicine, Recreation and Education (F. K. Stafford)—*Architectural Record*, February, 1938, p. 66.

Bristol Health Centre (C. F. W. Denning)—*Journal of the Institution of Municipal and County Engineers*, May 10, 1938, p. 2010; and *Hospital and Nursing Home Management*, October, 1940.

Bedminster: Health Centre (H. E. Todd)—*Architects' Journal*, June 23, 1938; and *Builder*, June 24, 1938.

Branch Health Centre, Southall (Thomson and Venton)—*Builder*, July 1, 1938.

Brentford: Health Clinic, etc. (L. A. Cooper)—*Builder*, July 22, 1938; *Architect and Building News*, September 30, 1938.

Coatsbridge: Clinic, Health Offices, etc. (J. Davidson & Son)—*Scottish Architect*, December-January, 1938-39.

Hounslow: Health Clinic, Health Offices, etc. (J. G. Carey and G. H. Jackson)—*Architect and Building News*, March 3, 1939, p. 269.

County Clinic, Cambridge (S. E. Unwin)—*Architect and Building News*, May 12, 1939, p. 154.

Medical Centre, Tottenham (H. E. Askey and V. A. Jolley)—*Hospital and Nursing Home Management*, June, 1940, p. 112; *Architects' Journal*, November 14, 1940, p. 401; *Builder*, July 25, 1941, p. 76.

Health Centres—*Architectural Record* (New York), September, 1940; *Pencil Points* (New York), November, 1940.

The Smaller Community Health Centre in the New Hospitals in the New World Series (ii)—*Architectural Design and Construction*, January, 1941.

Cumberland Standard Clinic (Cumberland County Council) (J. Haughen)—*Official Architect*, January, 1941, p. 24.

Clinics, etc., 1891-1941—*Architectural Record* (New York), February, 1941.

Clinic in Municipal Architecture at Blackpool (J. C. Robinson)—*Official Architect*, May, 1941, p. 228.

Welfare Island, N.Y., Clinic in the New Hospitals in the New World Series (iv); (Louis Jallade)—*Architectural Design and Construction*, 1941, p. 3.

Red Wing, Minneapolis: Inter-state Clinic (Close and Sheu, with H. H. Swanson)—*Architectural Forum* (N.Y.), February, 1942, pp. 129-133.

Public Health Centres (Medical Centres): Building type study: also time-saver standards—*Architectural Record* (N.Y.), July, 1942, pp. 63-72/73-78.

Health Centres in the United States (Review of the U.S. Public Health Service Report)—*Architect and Building News*, October 30, 1942, pp. 81-3.

The Edgar Allen Physical Treatment Centre, Sheffield—*Architectural Design and Construction*, March, 1943, pp. 59-63.

McLaughlin Heights, Washington: Community Centre, including Clinic—*California Arts and Architecture* (Los Angeles), August, 1943, pp. 45-66; *Pencil Points* (New York), August, 1943, pp. 51-57.

The Central Health Clinic, Southampton (J. S. Fowler)—*Hospital and Nursing Home Management*, September, 1943, p. 276.

Maternity and Infant Welfare Centres (Saxon Hall Prize Report)—*RIBA Journal*, November, 1943.



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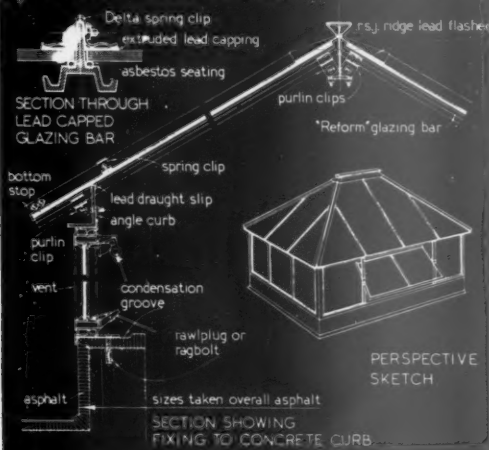
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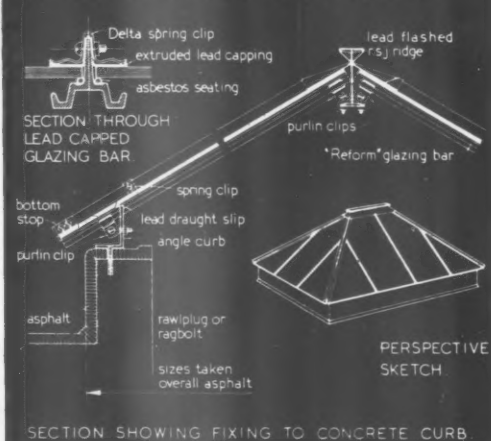
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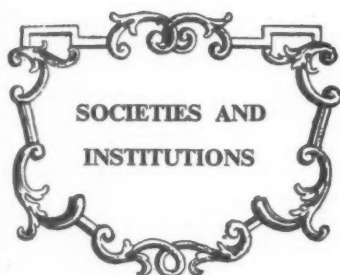
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*Speeches and lectures delivered before societies, as well as reports of their activities, are dealt with under this title, which includes trade associations, Government departments, Parliament and professional societies. To economize space the bodies 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.*

HC

## F. J. Osborn

July 18, at 13, Suffolk Street, S.W.1. Meeting of the Housing Centre. Talk on THE PLANNING BILL AND WHITE PAPER, by F. J. Osborn. Chairman: Miss E. E. Halton.

**F. J. Osborn:** Now that decisions are being taken mistakes made by town planners may prejudice the chance of getting the reconstruction of cities started on right lines. The campaign for a new and better type of town development after the war has not been successful yet. The public want certain ends but does not understand what must be done to achieve them, while the politicians neither appreciate the ends which the public desire nor have any idea of the means of achievement. If the campaign fails it will be partly for these reasons and partly because the planning movement has not concentrated sufficiently on the ends that really matter to the public. Lately it has begun to do so, but at one time sections of the movement cared more about purging the landscape of pink tiled bungalows than of enabling overcrowded people to have pleasant and private family homes and gardens. Propaganda in favour of accepting existing cities and trying to tidy them up and rationalize the congestion by means of towering flats with lifts, Garchy shoots and balconies has been labelled town planning. This has caused confusion, and people are beginning to react to the point of view that the practical thing is to take a house in a new suburb, putting up with a tube journey for the sake of a human home for wife and family. The LCC are following that pattern with

housing schemes which do not differ in any essential from those pre-war.

In the light of these external circumstances the Government's policy as indicated by the Planning Bill and White Paper should be judged. The Government has accepted the main ideas of the Barlow Report for de-congestion of cities and redistribution of industry and population; but if we are going to decentralize congested cities two big questions arise. First, where are the decentralized people and industries to go? Second, what is to be done about the reduced land values caused by the reduction of density in the congested areas? The Bill provides for the acquisition of land, but no indication is given that the overspill will not continue to go to the suburbs of the de-congested cities. No indication is given either as to the standards of density in redistribution, or the standard of public open space which local authorities should observe. Further, while the Bill provides for State grants towards the cost of acquiring properties in blitzed areas, local authorities are not told that they will be supported by State grants towards compensation for reduction of land value caused by de-congestion and displacement. This is implied in the whole philosophy of the National Compensation Fund proposed in the White Paper, but implication is not enough. The Ministry should have stated that it was its intention to prescribe national standards of density in redevelopment, and to cover local authorities for a large percentage of the depreciation of land values caused by the application of those standards. It is by the application of standards and insistence on them that central policy can be reconciled with local autonomy. Unless there are standards every particular case has to be settled on its merits. This leads to minor central officials overriding the judgment of skilled town planners, and to a Dutch auction of inconsistent standards under which the areas most in need of de-congestion gets least. It is unrealistic to expect local authorities, with finance committees watching the rates, to set good standards for themselves; and it is equally unrealistic to expect a National Compensation Fund to insist on right standards if it knows that each case has to be bargained in detail. The Ministry must set standards of density and open space for all redevelopment, and these must be applied by the officers of the Ministry in their consideration of local planning schemes without regard to their financial aspect in individual cases.

The White Paper accepts the complete public control of land use recommended in the Uthwatt Report, and it underlines the point that whenever development is refused, and compensation fairly payable in consequence, the value displaced from that land will be transferred elsewhere, and that therefore betterment should equal compensation. It accepts the view that fair compensation should be paid for losses of value due to planning, with correction for floating value on undeveloped land; but its solution of the undeveloped land problem is not any less difficult than the Uthwatt solution. If the Uthwatt proposal for State purchase of undeveloped land on development was politically impracticable, it should be possible to pursue the Uthwatt principle of global valuation of compensation, and immediate payment as soon as the valuation is settled. I cannot see what is gained by the five years waiting period. The chief difficulty of valuation seems to be the elimination of floating value, but the White Paper does not get over this difficulty.

As to betterment, where the Uthwatt Report proposes to collect 75 per cent. of increase of value of any land everywhere, with a valuation every five years, the White Paper proposes a betterment charge of 80 per cent. of the increased value only in the case of, and

at the time of, permission to change the use of land. This leaves out a great part of the increment of value due to planning and shifting of population escape. It is likely that the increases of site value of land which continues in the same use are greater in total amount than those due to change of use. At Letchworth in 1905 shop sites were leased for 99 years at the rate of £10 per acre per annum; in 1919 new sites in similar positions were leased for £90 per acre per annum. At Welwyn, at an earlier stage, land was leased for the central stores at nearly £300 per acre per annum. In both cases the true annual values of the same sites are now far higher. In the long run the community cannot collect increases of value due to betterment unless it assumes responsibility for worsement, including chance declines of value as well as planned reductions. Why not pay all owners 80 per cent. of any genuine decline in value and collect 80 per cent. of any increase?

As to the Bill, I would like to see it amended in the direction of less restricted powers to the local authorities, but subject to Ministerial control, and without so much restriction of the Minister in matters of detail. Thus, if the Minister thought an authority sufficiently grown up to build and let shops and factories he should let it have power to do so. Next, there should be removed from the Bill the assumption that all overspill would necessarily go to land in the ownership of the authority for the blitzed or blighted area under redevelopment. The Minister should have power to authorize the authority of a country town to take land and develop it for the overspill of another town if good planning pointed to that course.

## TCPA

## R. L. Reiss

July 6, at 2, Savoy Hill, W.C.2. Lunchtime meeting of the Town and Country Planning Association. Talk on THE FUTURE OF THE COUNTRY TOWN, by R. L. Reiss, Vice-Chairman, Executive Committee, TCPA. Chairman: G. N. C. Swift, Deputy Clerk to the Hertfordshire County Council and Chairman of the Country Towns Advisory Committee.

**R. L. Reiss:** As a result of the Industrial Revolution, some of our country towns grew as industrial centres, for example, Nottingham, Preston, and Gloucester. But most of them received little increase in population.

Between the wars those small country towns which had not become industrial, only received an access of population and industry if they were in the London region, such as Bedford and Guildford. Those whose location was away from the big conurbations, if anything, tended to lose population. There are three main reasons why the small country towns should play an important part in post-war national planning:—

1. For the sake of the big towns. If these are to be planned aright, a proportion of their industry and population should be decentralized. While in some cases this might be done by the creation of new towns, in the majority of cases it can best be achieved by the development of existing small towns, which already have public services and various amenities.
2. For the sake of the countryside. One of the principal causes of rural depopulation in recent years has been the lack of opportunity for social life and also

for alternative employment in the villages. Whilst this could be partly corrected by the development of social facilities in the villages, their population is too small to provide all that its inhabitants want. The villagers are in great measure dependent upon the nearby towns.

3. For the sake of the small country towns themselves. Many are at present too small and have too few opportunities for employment to keep the younger and more ambitious members of their population.

The thesis I want to put before you to-day is that the small country towns which at present have\* from 2,000 to 5,000 population should, where suitably placed, be encouraged to grow to 10 or 15 thousand, and the towns of 10 to 15 thousand to 30 thousand or more.

There are some small towns whose railway and road communications are such as to make them unsuitable for the location of industry, but there are hundreds with good communications. Owing to the development of road-borne goods traffic, a large proportion of light industries such as radio, and of assembly industries such as aircraft and motor, could be located in any small town with good communications. As to whether they will be located there, depends upon two main factors:—

(a) As to whether it is part of the national plan that they should be located in small towns, and

(b) To whether the council of the small town is prepared to take the necessary steps to encourage its development.

The Barlow Commission and many other committees have urged that, for the reasons mentioned at the beginning of this address, the Government should encourage the movement of existing industries and the location of new ones into the smaller towns. It is generally agreed that the continuous spread of the large towns is a menace to social life, and as we have seen during the war, is a strategic danger. If it is part of the national plan to encourage the development of the small town, then the Board of Trade should include them in the areas to which industry should be encouraged to go, the Ministry of Health should be prepared to sanction housing schemes in the small towns in advance of immediate requirements, and the Ministry of Town and Country Planning should assist the small towns in the preparation of development plans providing for all those things which are necessary in order to secure and provide for the development of industry. This means not merely the satisfactory selection of industrial areas, but also the planning of well-planned neighbourhood units supplying in addition to houses, all those buildings, recreation grounds and shops necessary to enable the workers to live the fullest possible life.

The further continuous development of towns of over a quarter of a million population should be discouraged and the growth of the small towns encouraged. So far as possible development should be in the quite small towns, rather than in the medium-sized towns between 50,000 and a quarter of a million.

May I illustrate my suggestions by two examples?

The counties of Gloucestershire and Worcestershire stretch from Bristol to Birmingham. Between the wars, the Birmingham conurbation was extending rapidly, and the largest increase in Worcestershire's population took place on the outskirts of the Black Country, and the urban and rural districts immediately contiguous to it.

In Gloucestershire the main increase in population occurred in Bristol. Between Birmingham and Bristol are three medium-

sized towns, Worcester, Gloucester, and Cheltenham. On the outskirts of these three towns there was a substantial increase in population.

But if you leave out the outskirts of the five towns mentioned, practically all the rural districts show declines, as did many of the small boroughs and urban districts. Many of these latter might well be developed with additional industry and population. Most of them have populations of between 2,000 and 10,000. It is sometimes argued that the charm of these old country towns would be destroyed if they became industrial, and their population expanded. But this is entirely a matter of planning. In some cases the development would take place outside the existing town, on a site which is better served by rail and road. For example, the main Birmingham-Bristol railway does not run through Tewkesbury, but just outside. The extension of Tewkesbury, therefore, could most suitably take place at Ashchurch on the main line, about a mile and a half outside the old town. Incidentally, some of those at present living in the courts off the main streets of Tewkesbury could be rehoused in the newly developed area, and, as a result, Tewkesbury could be cleaned up, its shum dwellings removed, and its amenities increased, rather than spoilt.

The factories themselves, which in the main would provide for light industries, need not be architecturally ugly. It was not Rowntree's Works which spoilt the amenities of York, but the uncontrolled speculative building of the last hundred years. Nor has the presence of Crittall's Works spoilt the amenities of Braintree or Witham.

Again, take Bedfordshire. The total population of that county, which is just outside the London region, grew from about 200,000 to about 250,000 between the wars, but practically all this increase occurred in Luton and Bedford which, particularly between 1930 and 1939, grew rapidly. The total acreage of the county is 300,000. Nearly two-thirds of its population live within the 10,000 acres occupied by Luton and Bedford. The small towns of Bedfordshire, such as Leighton Buzzard, Biggleswade, Sandy and Ampthill, all have good rail and road communications, as have some other large villages. Bedfordshire after the war could well receive an additional population of 200,000, thereby contributing to the decentralization from Greater London. Its overall density would still be only 1.5 persons per acre. But I suggest that most of this increase should go to the small towns and possibly some of the villages located on main railways, and capable of becoming new towns, rather than to Luton or Bedford. Luton already has a population of 100,000, and is connected with Dunstable by a ribbon development gradually widening. Existing Luton and Bedford should be surrounded by green belts.

It may be argued that we cannot afford to take additional land away from agriculture, but the real issue is whether this land shall be taken on the fringes of the existing big towns, or by the development of small towns. Some has got to be taken in any case, and the LCC is planning to take it. It is easier to make a choice between a number of small towns and villages, and other things being equal, to choose those in the neighbourhood of which the land is of only medium or poor quality, than it is to make selections on the outskirts of a big town. In any case, if ten small towns and villages in Bedfordshire were selected for development and they increased by the average of 20,000 people each, the total land required for each would be about 1,150 acres, or 11,000 acres in all, only 3 per cent. of the land in Bedfordshire. And it should be remembered that a considerable proportion of this land would remain

in intensive cultivation as gardens and allotments.

HC

## Sir A. Hobhouse

July 11, at 13, Suffolk Street, S.W.1. Meeting of the Housing Centre. Talk on RURAL HOUSING, by Sir Arthur Hobhouse, Chairman of the Rural Housing Sub-Committee of the Central Housing Advisory Committee, in which he summarized the report recently issued by his sub-committee (*Rural Housing*, HMSO, 1s.). Chairman: Ambrose Appleby.

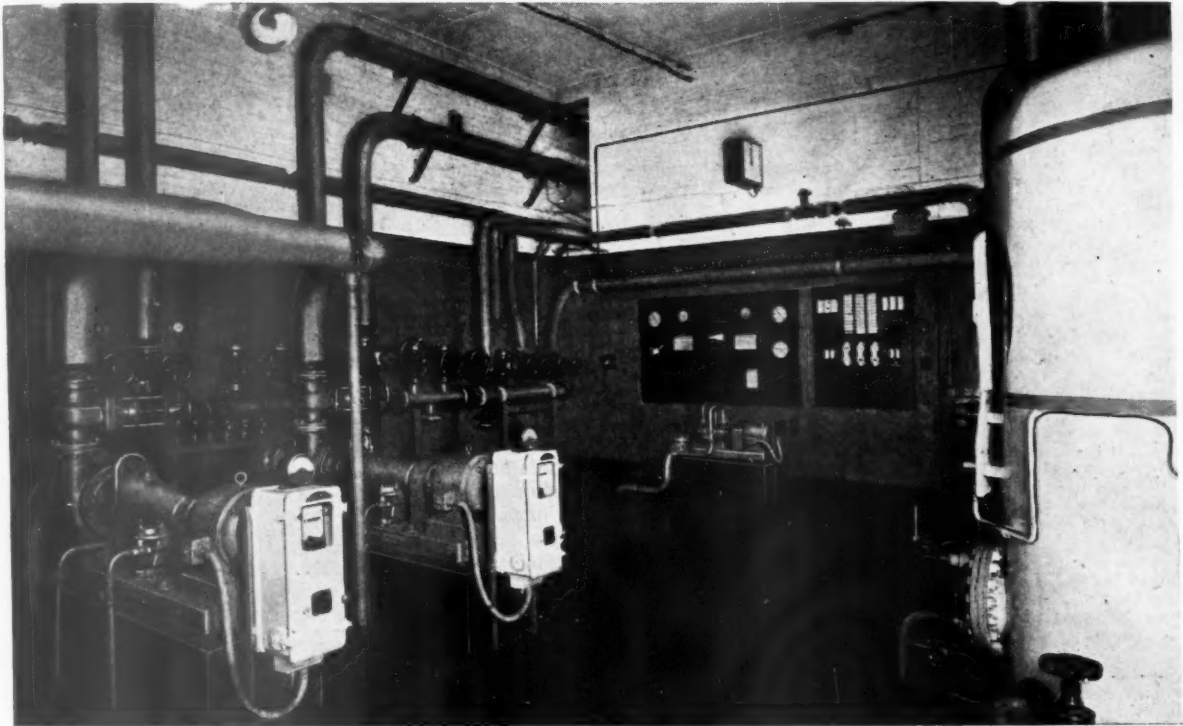
**Sir A. Hobhouse:** My Report deals with rural housing, and in particular under the rural district councils, but it contains many things which apply equally to housing under some other authorities. It does not deal with design, but I believe there will shortly be a Report on this from another Sub-Committee. The Sub-Committee, of which I am Chairman, has tried to review the whole subject of rural housing, especially in relation to the changes caused by the war, and in its Report endeavours to show the present situation in rural areas, assessing the performance of the different authorities responsible and suggesting means to overcome shortcomings. It has arrived at certain main conclusions. One of these is that there is great inequality both in the standard of existing housing and in the supply in the different areas of England and Wales. A second main conclusion is that there is need of administrative measures to provide combined action between different authorities. A third is that at the earliest possible date a complete survey and classification of existing housing should be undertaken, and a fourth that new legislation will be required on financial matters.

Among other matters the Sub-Committee has dealt with the question of rent restriction and the variety of rents charged for similar accommodation in the same village. Differences here are even greater than in urban districts. It suggests a grading of rents according to accommodation and services provided. The rural householder should have the same benefits of modern services as exist in urban areas.

The authorities concerned with rural housing are, first, the Ministry of Health, and this Department appreciated the difficulties of rural life to a far greater extent than any other, but it should do more to stimulate local authorities. It should adopt modern methods of publicity. Its officials going out inspecting should have closer contact with local authorities concerned, so that when they come to sanction plans they will know what are the real difficulties and objections of those local authorities. The second authority with some responsibility for housing is the county council. In some cases county councils have been active; for example, in Northamptonshire a survey of the county has been carried out; but in general they do not operate their powers to the full. They have a definite duty to pay constant regard to rural housing, and power to assist financially not only water and sewage schemes but housing also. Under the Reconditioning Act they are the main authorities for giving financial assistance. They should be more active and co-operate more with the rural district councils.

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The rural district councils carry out housing in the country. There is an immense variation in size, population and financial resources of rural districts. Taking the extreme figures population varies from 1,200 to 80,000, acreage from 2,000 to 280,000, and the produce of a penny rate from £17 to £1,500. If there are not enough houses to provide working class accommodation it is the definite duty of the rural district council to provide them. Some have kept the standard of existing houses under constant observation, and through their officers exercise their powers of serving notices in respect of repairs and demolition to the full; but others have fallen short.

With a view to getting a close combination of all the authorities responsible for rural housing, the Report suggests that after the war there should be set up in each county a joint housing committee with representatives of the rural districts and the county council, and these committees should lay down the general policy for the county. The main point is to get a wider area for housing than that of one rural district, and it is to be hoped that by appointing these joint committees a minimum standard of fitness, accommodation and amenities will be adopted. There must be local variations because of differences of local conditions and traditions, but there should be a general standard for such matters as floor space, ventilation, absence of damp, and the existence of those services which in towns are regarded as necessities. The same committee should see there is sufficient housing provided throughout the county area.

A main proposal of the Report is that there should be a post-war survey of all housing in rural England. Within twelve months of the cessation of the European war each district council should carry out a survey of all houses, classifying them on

the basis of the action needed; and local influence or local apathy should not be allowed to hinder the clearing away of unfit or unhealthy dwellings. Such a survey, if achieved within a reasonable time, should go far to raise the standard of housing.

The Sub-Committee has spent a considerable time discussing what the rent of the rural cottage should be. On this will depend the amount of subsidy. Assuming higher building costs, and taking account of the great increase in rural wages, a rent is suggested of 7s. or 8s. a week, plus 2s. 6d. or 3s. rates. The Sub-Committee recommends that an architect, "the right type of architect," should be employed in new building by local authorities.

HC

## Edward Newman

July 25, at 13, Suffolk Street, S.W.1. Address to the Housing Centre on EDUCATING THE HOUSEHOLDER, by Edward Newman, editor of *Ideal Homes*. The address introduced the course of lectures to be held at the Centre, beginning in September, whose object will be the instruction of householders in their rights, duties, etc., an idea originated by Mr. Newman.

*E. Newman*: Neither planning nor housing is an end in itself, but I have received the impression that planners are concerned with providing

better living conditions rather than the better living for which they are planning those conditions, and without which the better conditions will be wasted. Any young couple, provided they have enough money, and perhaps the means to give references, can accommodate themselves to householding, family life and citizenship without knowing anything about it. The result is unfortunate.

Such a course as that to be given at the Housing Centre in September should seek to teach the householder the advisability of knowing something about the neighbourhood he proposes to move into, its possibilities, its advantages and its disadvantages, its local authority and the necessity of taking one's share of the responsibilities and pleasures of the neighbourhood as one of its citizens. It should teach him what to look for in a lease, what is leasehold, what is freehold, what is a repairing lease, a mortgage, what are rates and taxes, what is ratable value, whether any change in it, or the rates, can affect the outgoings.

It should teach him enough about the design, construction and materials of building to enable him to know whether it is a good house he is thinking of taking. Ignorance makes many purchasers of smart looking but badly built houses. It should teach him and his wife how to know whether the house could be equipped and maintained by them on the money they have saved for the purpose and the money they earn, and whether or not the house is too big for her to manage without being overtired or overtied. It should teach them how to budget. It should teach them enough about furniture to prevent them buying shoddy stuff. It should teach them enough about gardening to enable them to know if they will be able to manage their plot—something of the soil, of the work involved, the time it takes, and the necessary garden equipment.

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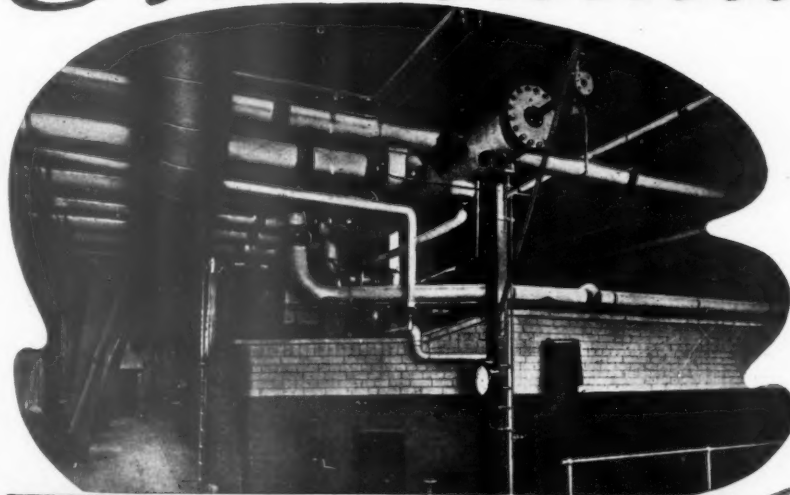


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Applications, endorsed Borough Architect, should reach the undersigned not later than the 11th September, 1944.

SAMUEL PROCTER,  
Town Clerk.

Town Hall,  
Huddersfield.  
3rd August, 1944.

729

## COUNTY OF CUMBERLAND.

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Applications are invited for the post of Assistant Planning Officer at a salary at the rate of £700 per annum (inclusive of the allowance for extended office hours and War Bonus), plus travelling allowance in accordance with Grade "D" of the County Council's scale, and expenses for subsistence.

Applicants should be members, or associate members, of the Town Planning Institute, and qualifications in engineering and/or architecture will also be an advantage.

The appointment will be subject to the provisions of the Local Government Superannuation Act, 1937, and the successful candidate will be required to pass a medical examination. The appointment will be subject to three months' notice on either side.

Applications stating age, qualifications and experience, together with copies of three recent testimonials, must be received by the undersigned not later than the 4th September, 1944.

Dated 14th August, 1944.  
G. ANDREW WHEATLEY,  
Clerk of the County Council.

The Courts,  
Carlisle.

736

## DENBIGHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL.

## COUNTY ARCHITECT'S DEPARTMENT (WREXHAM).

Applications are invited for the appointment of Temporary Senior Architectural Assistant in the County Architect's Department. The salary attached to the appointment will be £450 per annum.

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Applications endorsed "Senior Architectural Assistant," stating age, qualifications, previous experience and position in regard to Military and National Service, together with copies of three recent testimonials, should reach the undersigned not later than 7th September, 1944.

WILLIAM ROBERTS,  
Deputy Clerk of the County Council.  
40, Well Street, Ruthin.  
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741

## CITY AND COUNTY OF BRISTOL.

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744

## COUNTY BOROUGH OF BURNLEY.

## APPOINTMENT OF CHIEF ARCHITECTURAL ASSISTANT.

Applications are invited from Associates of the Royal Institute of British Architects for the appointment of Chief Architectural Assistant in the Borough Engineer and Surveyor's Department. Salary—Administrative Grade E Provincial Whitley Council Scale (£420, rising to £460 per annum, plus £49 10s. 9d. per annum bonus).

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Forms of Application and Conditions of Appointment may be obtained from the Borough Engineer and Surveyor, Town Hall, Burnley, to whom applications must be returned not later than Monday, 18th September, 1944.

ARCHIBALD GLEN.

Town Clerk.

745

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(b) Town Planning Assistant, at a salary of £350 per annum, plus war bonus.

Applicants for position (a) must have a wide practical experience in the preparation of Schemes under the Town and County Planning Acts, preferably with a County Council or Joint Planning Committee, in the administration of the General Interim Development Orders, and have had experience in the organisation of a Regional Planning Office and the control of Staff.

Preference will be given to applicants who are members by examination of the Town Planning Institute, and who hold an additional qualification.

Applicants for position (b) must have had previous experience in the preparation of Town and County Planning Schemes, have a good knowledge of surveying and levelling, and be a neat draughtsman.

The appointments will be subject to the provisions of the Local Government Superannuation Act, 1937.

Applications, stating age, qualifications and experience, accompanied by two recent testimonials and endorsed "Deputy Planning Officer" or "Town Planning Assistant," as the case may be, should reach the undersigned not later than the 4th September, 1944.

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750

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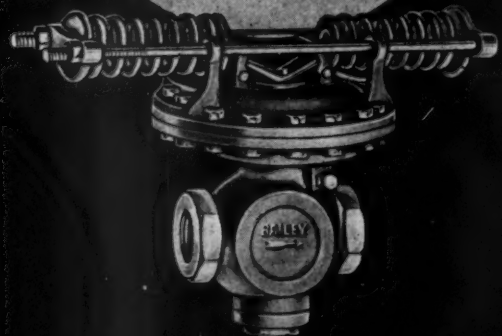
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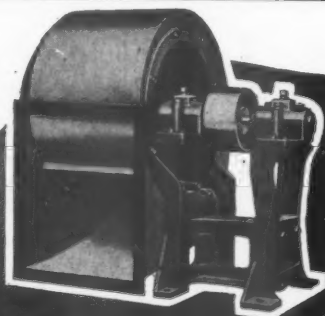
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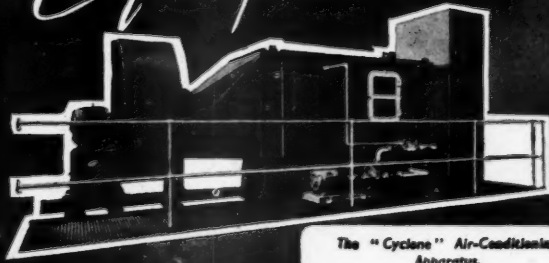


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