

# 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

## LETTERS

## PHYSICAL PLANNING

## CURRENT BUILDINGS

## INFORMATION

## CENTRE

Physical Planning      Lighting  
Structure      Heating & Ventilation  
Materials      Questions & Answers  
Acoustics & Sound Insulation

## INFORMATION SHEET

## SOCIETIES & INSTITUTIONS

## PRICES

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No. 2601] [VOL. 100  
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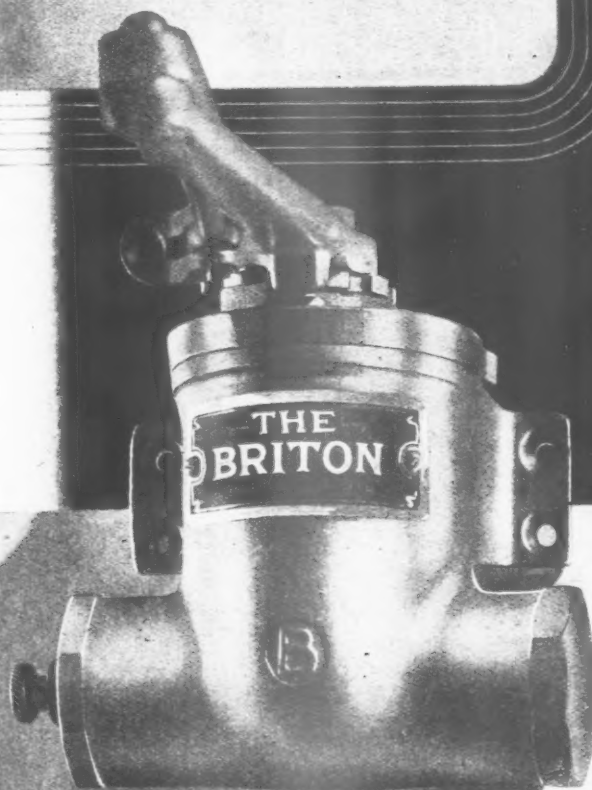
★ The war has both multiplied the number of Official Departments and encouraged Societies and Committees of all kinds to become more vocal. The result is a growing output of official and group propaganda. A glossary of abbreviations is now provided below, together with the full address and telephone 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. 34, 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 5721
BC	Building Centre. 23, Maddox Street, W.1.	Mayfair 2128
BCIRA	British Cast Iron Research Association. Alvechurch, Birmingham.	Redditch 716
BDA	British Door Association. Shobnall Road, Burton-on-Trent.	Burton-on-Trent 3350
BIA	British Ironfounder's Association. 145, Vincent Street, Glasgow, C.2.	Glasgow Central 2891
BIAE	British Institute of Adult Education. 29, Tavistock Square, W.C.1.	Euston 5385
BINC	Building Industries National Council. 11, Weymouth Street, W.1.	Langham 2785
BOT	Board of Trade. Millbank, S.W.1.	Whitehall 5140
BRB	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 2415
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
FAS	Faculty of Architects and Surveyors. 8, Buckingham Palace Gdns., S.W.1.	Sloane 2837
FMB	Federation of Master Builders. 23, Compton Terrace, Upper Street, N.1.	Canonbury 2041
FS (Eng.)	Faculty of Surveyors of England. 8, Buckingham Palace Gdns., S.W.1.	Sloane 2837
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
LIDC	Lead Industries Development Council. Eagle House, Jermyn Street, S.W.1.	Whitehall 7264
LMBA	London Master Builders' Association. 47, Bedford Square, W.C.1.	Museum 3767
MARS	Modern Architectural Research. 46, Sheffield Terrace, W.8.	Park 7678
MOA	Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. 55, Whitehall, S.W.1.	Whitehall 3400
MOE	Ministry of Education. Belgrave Square, S.W.1.	Sloane 4522
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's 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
NAMMC	Natural Asphalte Mine-Owners and Manufacturers Council. 94, Petty France, S.W.1.	Abbey 1010
NBR	National Buildings Record. 66, Portland Place, W.1.	Welbeck 1881
NFBTE	National Federation of Building Trades Employers. All Souls' College, Oxford.	Oxford 48809
NFBTO	National Federation of Building Trades Operatives. 82, New Cavendish Street, W.1.	Langham 4041
NFHS	National Federation of Housing Societies. 13, Suffolk St., S.W.1.	Whitehall 2881/2/3
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
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
SFMA	School Furniture Manufacturers' Association. 13, New Square, Lincoln's Inn, W.C.	Chancery 5313
SPAB	Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings. 55, Great Ormond Street, W.C.1.	Holborn 2646
TCPA	Town and Country Planning Association. 28, King Street, Covent Garden, W.C.2.	Temple Bar 5006
TDA	Timber Development Association. 75, Cannon Street, E.C.4.	City 6147
TPI	Town Planning Institute. 18, Ashley Place, S.W.1.	Victoria 8815

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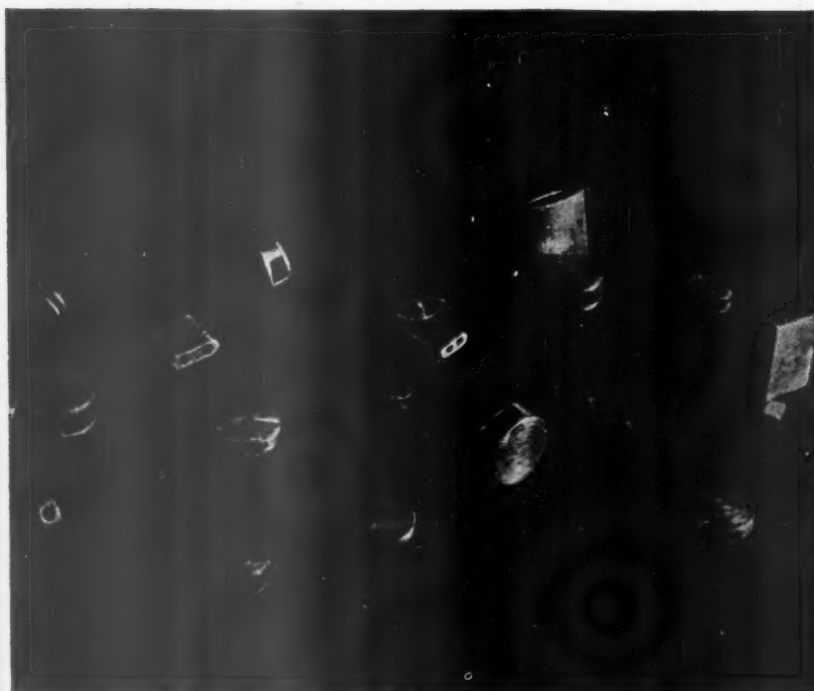


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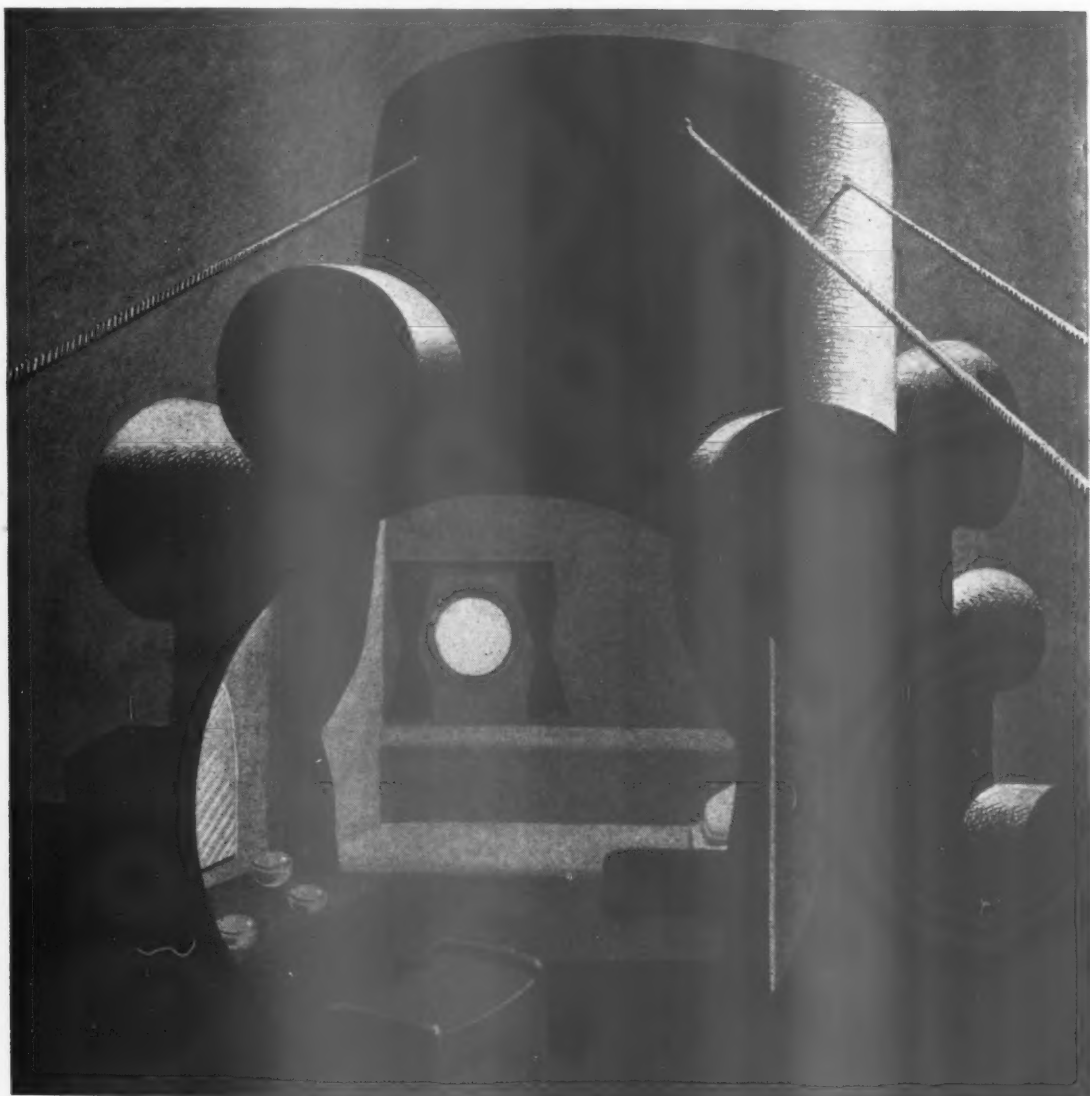


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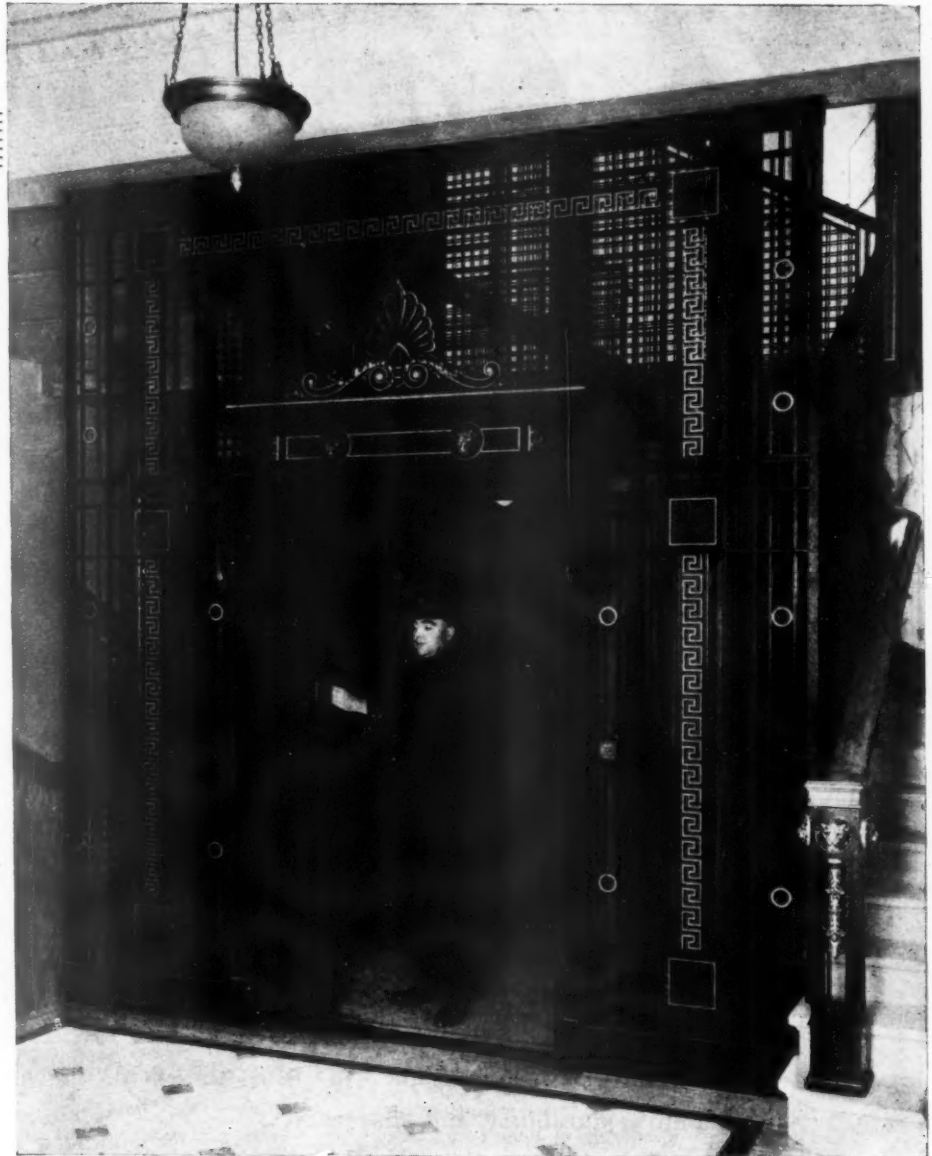
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**W**HAT part will plastics play in the future of Shipbuilding? It is unlikely that they will replace metal and timber to the extent prophesied by some enthusiasts. It is equally certain that many new and varied uses will be found for them by marine architects and constructors, particularly in the furnishings, communications and services of the vessels. Transparent panels, lighting fittings, cable insulation, mouldings and laminated parts are but a few of the practical uses for plastics. I.C.I. make many types of plastics including methyl methacrylate sheet, polyvinyl chloride and polythene for cable coverings, cements, glues, laminating resins, moulding powders and nylon for bristles. Information concerning all of them will be supplied on application to:



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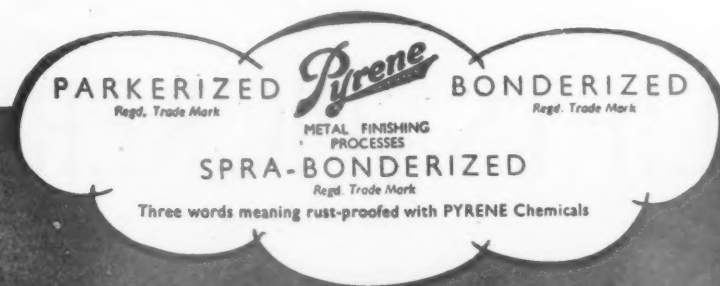
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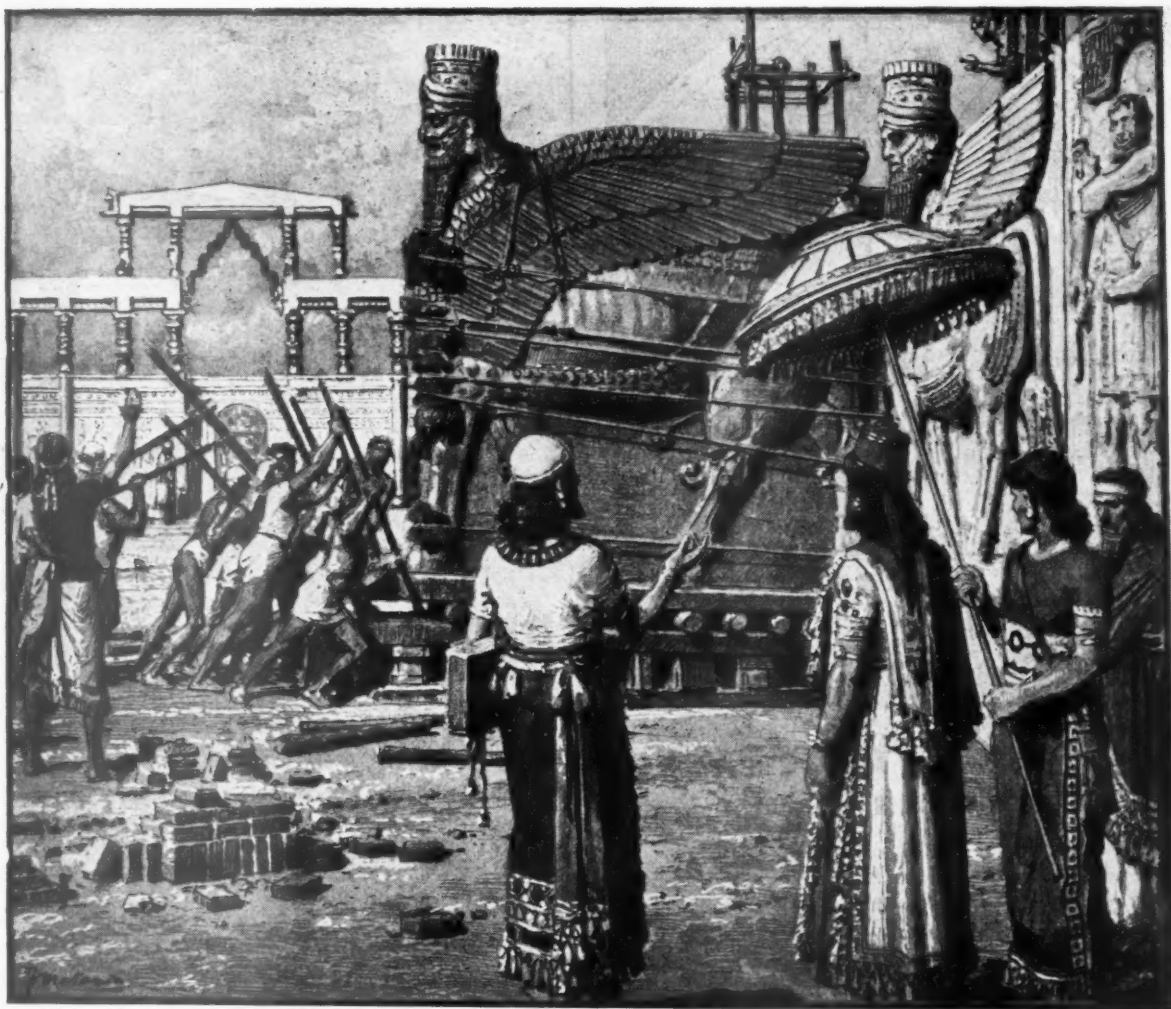
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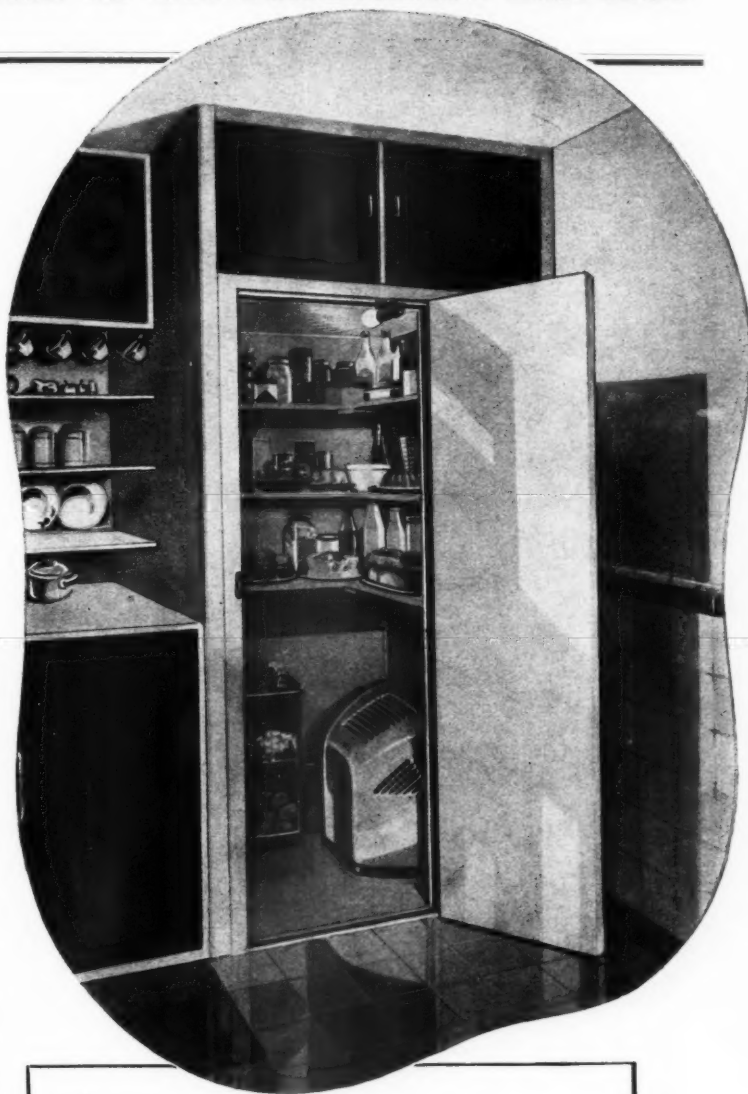
➔ Temperature will be maintained at under 50° F. all the year round — even if the larder is on a south wall.

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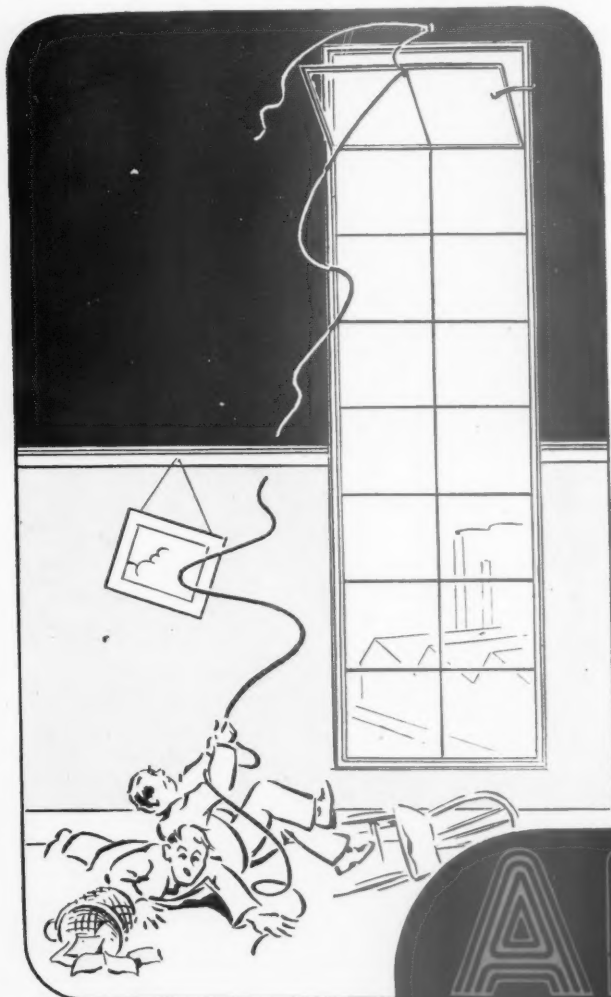
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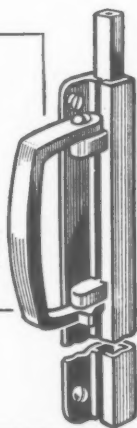
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W.3

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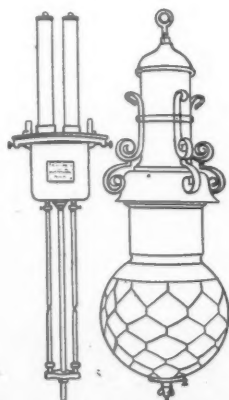
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5-127

## Pioneering

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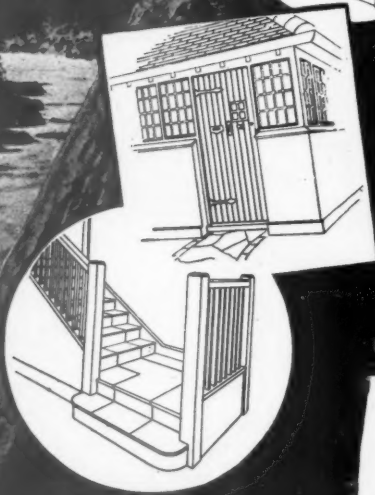
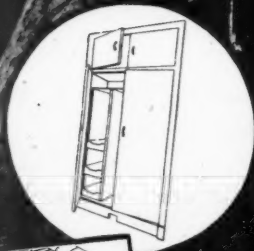
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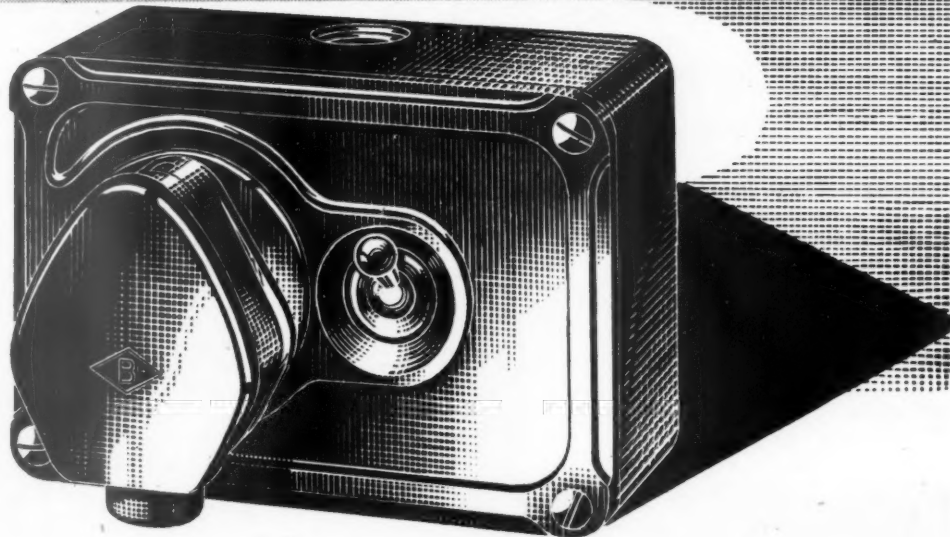
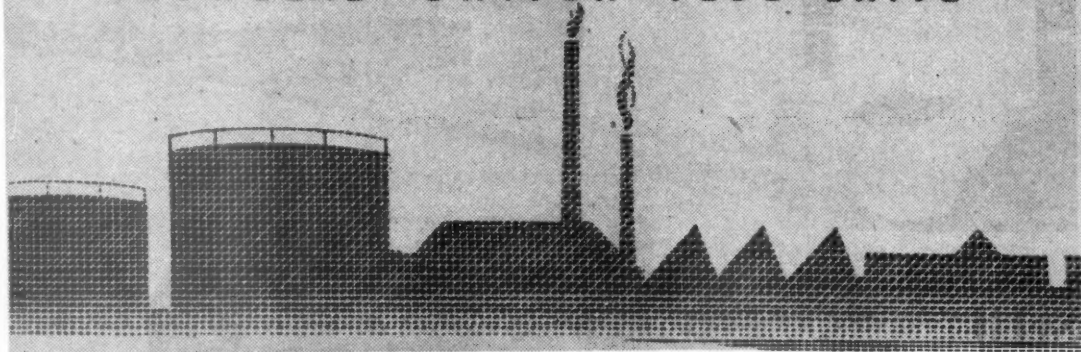
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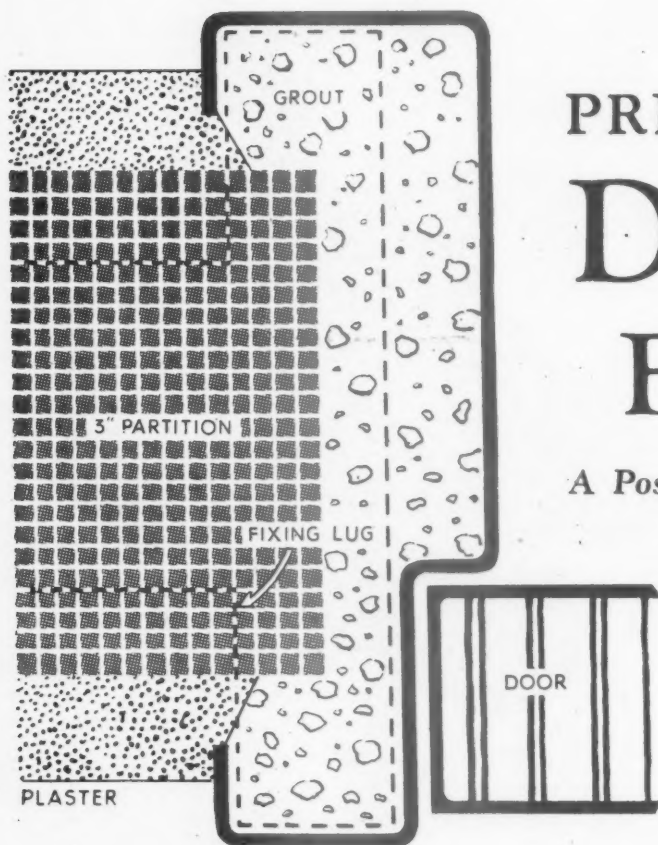
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## THOUGHTS ON REPLANNING



SECTION PS5.

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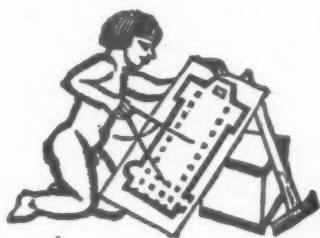
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In common with every other periodical this JOURNAL is rationed to a small part of its peacetime needs of paper. Thus a balance has to be struck between circulation and number of pages. We regret that unless a reader is a subscriber we cannot guarantee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

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# NEWS

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## DIARY FOR DECEMBER JANUARY AND FEBRUARY

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.

**BERWICK - ON - TWEED.** *When We Build Again.* Exhibition and Film. (Sponsor, TCPA, in collaboration with Messrs. Cadbury Bros.) The Town and Country Planning Association is holding a conference on the last day of the Exhibition. DEC. 9-16

**BRISTOL.** 1944 ArchSA Congress. Symposium. *The Architect's Contribution to Reconstruction.* Exhibition of work from Schools of Architecture in Great Britain. (Sponsor, ArchSA). DEC. 12-15

**LINCOLN.** Public inquiry, instituted by the Electricity Commissioners into the proposal to erect an electric power station at Lincoln. At Lincoln Guildhall. The scheme is being opposed because, it is claimed, the towers of the proposed power station will mar the view over the city. DEC. 5

**LONDON.** Lady Simon. *Local Government and Citizenship.* Discussion number seven in *Education for Householding* series. At 13, Suffolk Street, S.W.1. (Sponsor, HC). 1.15 p.m. DEC. 7

F. A. C. Maunder. *A Factual Basis for Reconstruction.* At Caxton Hall, Caxton Street, S.W.1. (Sponsor, Town Planning Institute). 6 p.m. DEC. 7

K. de B. Codrington. *The Art of Seeing.* At the Courtauld Institute of Art, 20, Portman Square, W.1. 1.15 p.m. DEC. 7

Town and Country Planning Association's Annual Conference. On Problems of Redevelopment, Overspill and Rural Planning. At the Waldorf Hotel, Aldwych, W.C.2. (Sponsor, TCPA). DEC. 8-9

T. P. Bennett. *The Architect and Organization of Post-War Building.* At the RIBA, 66, Portland Place, W.1. (Sponsor, RIBA). 5.30 p.m. DEC. 12

*The Insulation of Buildings, Domestic and Industrial.* Fifth paper in series on *Thermal Insulation.* At the Institution of Mechanical Engineers, Storeys Gate, S.W.1. 2.30 p.m. DEC. 13

J. C. Nicol. *Organization of Industrial Electrical Maintenance.* At Institution of Electrical Engineers, Savoy Place, Victoria Embankment, W.C.2. (Sponsor IEE). 5.30 p.m. DEC. 14

What is Modern Architecture? MARS Group (Modern Architectural Research) discussion, at which the public is invited to take part. At the RIBA, 66, Portland Place, W.1. Chairman: Professor Sir Charles Reilly. Speakers: John Summerston, E. Goldfinger, Prof. William Holford, Anthony M. Chitty, and M. Hartland Thomas. After the introductory speeches, the meeting will be open for general discussion. 6.30 p.m. DEC. 13

David Cushman Coyle. *The Tennessee Valley Authority.* At 2, Savoy Hill, W.C.2. (Sponsor, TCPA). 1.15 p.m. DEC. 14

Competition for the best Design for an International Airport for London. Promoters The Aeroplane, Bowling Green Lane, London, E.C.1. Assessors: Austin Blomfield, M.A., F.R.I.B.A.; H. Roxbee Cox, B.Sc.; Air Vice-Marshal D. C. T. Bennett, C.B.E., D.S.O.; W. R. Verdon Smith; and Dennis H. Handover. Prizes: 1st, £500; 2nd, £100; 3rd, £50. Closing date December 31, 1944. Overseas entries must arrive at the offices of *The Aeroplane* by February 16, 1945. DEC. 31

Discussion. *Lay-out of Road Intersections.* Introducer, A. J. H. Clayton. At the Institution of Civil Engineers, Great George Street, Westminster, S.W.1. (Sponsor, Institution of Civil Engineers). 5.30 p.m. JAN. 9

L. H. Keay. *Post-War Housing.* At 66, Portland Place, W.1. (Sponsor, RIBA). 6 p.m. JAN. 16

*Applications of Electricity to Water Supply.* Discussion. At the Institution of Electrical Engineers, Savoy Place, Victoria Embankment, W.C.2. (Sponsor, IEE). 5.30 p.m. JAN. 22

S. R. Raffety. *Rural Water Supplies.* At the Institution of Civil Engineers, Great George Street, Westminster, S.W.1. (Sponsor, Institution of Civil Engineers). 5.30 p.m. JAN. 23

OXFORD. *When We Build Again.* Exhibition. At the University. (Sponsor, TCPA). DEC. 2-3

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

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 unstarring 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.

### We regret to record the deaths of ARNOLD BIDLAKE MITCHELL AND SYDNEY PERKS.

Arnold Mitchell died at Lyme Regis, Dorset, Sydney Perks at Sevenoaks, Kent. Mitchell designed agricultural buildings for Cambridge University, and several schools and houses at home and abroad. Sydney Perks was formerly architect and surveyor to the City of London. He designed the memorials to the poet Gray in Cornhill and John Howard, the prison reformer at the Central Criminal Court, London.

### ★ The MOW Association of Architectural, Surveying & Civil Engineering Assistants announces a change of title to the MOW ASSOCIATION OF PROFESSIONAL ASSISTANTS.

As a constituent Association of the Institution of Professional Civil Servants, the Association will continue to promote the interests of the Ministry staff of drawing office grades in these professions, especially in regard to the problems which will arise on the conclusions of hostilities. Enquiries regarding membership will be welcomed from members of the staff serving with HM Forces, and should be addressed to the Hon. Secretary, APA, Ministry of Works, Room 631, Abell House, John Islip Street, London, S.W.1.



House at Esher, Surrey

Architects: Stanley Peach & Partners, FF.R.I.B.A.

## 'Putting the wood in the hole'

—the modern way

How to bring the garden into the house, that is a problem that architects have wrestled with since Roman days. And how to achieve this highly desirable effect on sunny summer days and reverse it at will when it rains is a problem peculiarly painful to the architect who builds in Britain. The ESAVIAN principle, in its simplest terms, allows an architect to toy with the delectable possibilities of a 'removable wall', for when closed ESAVIAN folding doors and windows are weatherproof, draughtproof and as incapable of rattling as a 4½" brick wall. When open, they are just not there.

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# From AN ARCHITECT'S Commonplace Book

**BLACKPOOL'S MOBILE BUILDINGS SET A STANDARD.** [*From Architecture Arising by Howard Robertson (Faber and Faber)*]. Blackpool approaches quite close to the industrial worker's dream of Paradise; it is full of places in which to occupy the leisure moments away from work. Everything there suggests amusement and recreation. The long sea frontages could be quite magnificent if their wide spaces were completed by buildings as modern in conception and as splendid in finish as the tram-cars which speed up and down on their paved runways. The trams are better than the buildings. They are popular mobile architecture; all that Blackpool requires is some good popular static architecture.

★  
**It was announced from 10 Downing Street on November 21, that LORD PORTAL, MINISTER OF WORKS, HAS RESIGNED and that Mr. Duncan Sandys, Joint Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Supply, has been appointed in his place.**

An exchange of letters shows that Mr. Churchill asked Lord Portal to resign so that an MP could take his place and be able to make statements direct to the House of Commons when housing and bomb damage questions are raised. The following exchange of letters took place between the Prime Minister and Lord Portal.

My dear Portal,—I have come to the conclusion that the office of Minister of Works must at this juncture be held by a Minister in the House of Commons. The housing situation in regard to prefabricated dwellings and bomb damage repairs is so important that the House will require to have the necessary statements and explanations made to them by a Minister in their midst who is actually responsible for having the work done. You have, as I know, felt the inconvenience of being unable either to expound or defend your policy yourself in the House, where so much interest is aroused. This being so, I feel that it would be better if you were to place your office at my disposal. I need scarcely say that I hope your separation from public work will be only temporary. The excellent manner in which you have discharged a number of heavy and important tasks during your four years' wartime service, starting at the Ministry of Supply with the supervision of the supply and distribution of raw materials, and the Raw Material Controls, is warmly recognized by his Majesty's Government and by the public, and I take this occasion to express to you my own personal thanks for all your help.—Yours very sincerely, Winston S. Churchill.

My dear Prime Minister.—Thank you very much for your letter of November 20. I am quite sure your view is right, and I will place my office at your disposal. Thank you also for what you say about me. It has been a great honour to serve in your Administration, and I leave it with a deep sense of obligation to you for your constant help and kindness to me during these last four memorable years.—Yours very sincerely, Wyndham Portal.

**Failure to link housing with industry has been THE MOST SERIOUS ERROR in general housing distribution policy during the inter-war years—Scottish Housing Advisory Committee.**

In *Distribution of New Houses in Scotland*, published as a White Paper (Cmd. 6552, Stationery Office, Edinburgh, 2s.), the Scottish Housing Advisory Committee state:

Failure to link housing with industry has been the most serious error in general housing distribution policy during the inter-war years. In cities and other large towns the most serious mistake has been to permit decentralization of housing unaccompanied by a corresponding decentralization of industry. Not enough has been done, moreover, to group rural housing in villages so that rural workers generally can have the benefits of community life and facilities.

**On January 1st, 1946, a revised syllabus and timetable for the RIBA SPECIAL FINAL EXAMINATION will come into operation.**

Under the revised scheme the syllabus, time-table and question papers for the Special Final Examination will be identical with those for the Final Examination, with

## THE LATE MR. W. P. KEEN



**It is with deep regret that we announce the death of Mr. W. P. Keen, an assistant editor of the ARCHITECTS' JOURNAL for the past eleven years, and a member of the editorial staff since 1929. He joined the Royal Artillery in 1941, but was invalided out of the army after a year's service, and though he returned to the Journal, he never completely recovered. He had a personality of immense energy and good nature, and his death, at the age of thirty-three, is a loss which is deeply felt by his colleagues.**

the exception of Subject F. (Thesis) in the Final Examination, which will not be included in the Special Final Examination. The revisions do not affect the application stage of the Special Final Examination; that is to say, applicants for admission to the Special Final Examination will continue to be required to submit examples of their work accompanied by a detailed report or reports. Applicants for admission to the Final Examination will continue to be required to gain approval for the usual four Testimonies of Study. Copies of the new form of application for admission to the Special Final Examination can be obtained from the RIBA, 66, Portland Place, W.1.

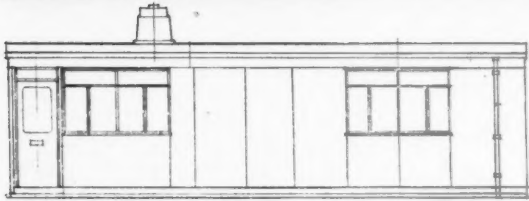
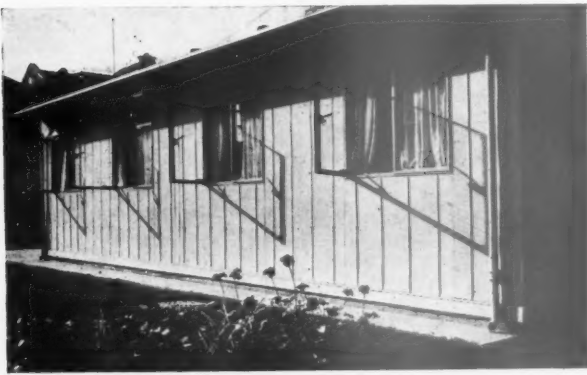
★  
**The Durham County Council has passed a resolution SUPPORTING THE DURHAM POWER STATION SCHEME.**

The Scheme, proposed by the North Eastern Electric Supply Company, is for the erection of a generating station costing £3,500,000 at Kepier, on the outskirts of Durham city. The resolution stated "that being of opinion that the erection of a generating station at Kepier will materially assist post-war employment in the County of Durham, help in attracting new industries, bring additional rateable value to the county, and have other advantages, the County Council hereby welcomes the proposal of the North Eastern Electric Supply Company provided that the company are placed under an obligation to take all such steps as may be practicable to prevent nuisance and to have due regard to amenities and natural beauty of the landscape."

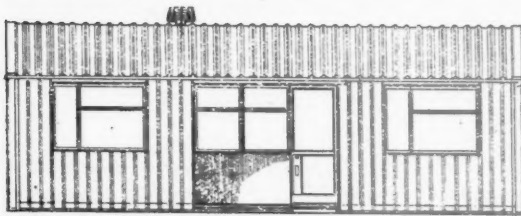
**An appeal is being made by Lord Horder for further donations and annual subscriptions to the PRINCESS TSAHAI MEMORIAL HOSPITAL FUND.**

The hospital, a memorial to Princess Tsa-hai of Ethiopia, who died in 1942, is at Addis Ababa, and work is now proceeding on the roof construction. Further considerable funds are required to equip and endow the hospital. Three wards will commemorate the service of British friends. The General Orde Wingate Ward is to be endowed in the name of the soldier who led the Emperor Haile Selassie's army to victory in 1940. The John Melly Ward will commemorate the doctor who raised and led the British Ambulance Service in Ethiopia when the Italian invasion began in 1935. The Davies Ward will bear the name of the late Chairman of the Memorial Council. Donations and annual subscriptions should be sent to Lord Horder, Hon. Treasurer and Chairman of the Medical Committee of the Princess Tsa-hai Memorial Hospital Fund, c/o Messrs. H. Reynolds & Co., Hon. Chartered Accountants, 1, Bloomsbury Square, High Holborn, W.C.1.





UNI-SECO



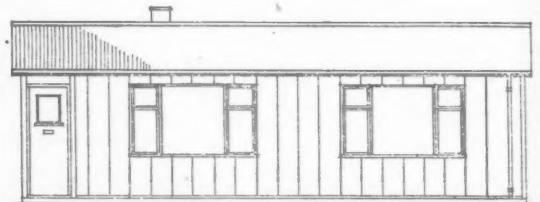
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## The Four Official

The Housing (Temporary Accommodation) Act became law on the 10th October, and a Memorandum, *Temporary Accommodation* (HMSO, 6d.) has been issued by the Ministries of Health and Works to guide local authorities in the practical application of the Act. It deals with the layout and siting, financing, management and maintenance of the temporary bungalows which have been officially approved. The four types of houses so far approved are described in the Memorandum and are illustrated above. They are: (i) MOW's own design in pressed steel (fully described in the JOURNAL for May 11 and June 15); (ii) the Uni-Seco with prefabricated wall and roof units of wood frame covered with asbestos sheeting and insulated with wood wool and cement (system described in JOURNAL for February 17); (iii) the Tarran, with wall units of resin bonded plywood framing, faced externally with 1½ in. thick



MINISTRY OF WORKS



TARRAN



## Temporary Houses

waterproof concrete infilling on waterproof paper backing, and roof units of timber frame covered with corrugated asbestos cement sheeting (system described in JOURNAL for July 27); (iv) the Arcon Mark V, of light rolled steel framework in sections, clad externally with two thicknesses of corrugated asbestos cement sheets, and internally with timber framed panels faced with building board backed with insulating material (described on pages 404 to 407 of this issue). The plans of the MOW, the Uni-Seco and the Tarran bungalows are almost identical, being the official Revised Version (see page 396). The plan of the Arcon bungalow is different, having a central entrance. The standard kitchen and cupboard units are in all cases the same. The houses will be provided and owned by the Government and erected on sites acquired and developed with necessary services by the local authorities.

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★ *The first prize of £125 in the National Housing & Town Planning Council Competition for Designs for Blocks of Terrace Houses Suitable for Erection in Towns has been WON BY G. K. FINDLAY, London.*

Five prizes of £30 each are awarded to the following:—Courtenay M. Crickmer, F.R.I.B.A., London; Captain J. R. Baxter, Blairgowrie, Perthshire; V. Collier, L.R.I.B.A., and R. Davies, A.R.I.B.A., Blackburn, Lancs.; F. W. Holder, B.A. (ARCH.), A.R.I.B.A., London; L. B. Elson, Nottingham. 38 designs were received for the competition. The assessor was Mr. Louis de Soissons, A.R.A., F.R.I.B.A.

### **On November 21 WATERLOO BRIDGE WAS OPENED TO SIX LINES OF TRAFFIC, its full width.**

From November 21, the new Waterloo Bridge was, for the first time, made available up to its full width for six lines of vehicular traffic (as compared with three lines on the old bridge). The new bridge was opened for two lines of traffic in August, 1942. It was not possible then to open the bridge for its full width because work was still proceeding at the ends of the bridge and part of the roadway was occupied by cranes and other plant required for removing the contractor's stagings and piles in the river and for the careful dismantling of the adjoining temporary bridge so that it could be used again elsewhere. From December, 1942, pedestrians were able to use the new Bridge, and also a new western stairway at the north end, leading to Victoria Embankment. A second stairway, adjoining Somerset House, has now come into use, with a subway under Lancaster Place connecting the two stairways. The building of the new bridge was begun in October, 1937, and has continued despite the difficulties caused by war conditions. While under construction the bridge had its share of "incidents," and its stonework bears many marks of bomb splinters. But for the war the bridge would probably have been completed in 1940. Small items of work still remain to be carried out during the next few weeks, and there is final clearance work to be done on the river bed. The present parapet railings along the bridge are only temporary, and will be replaced after the war by balustrading of a more suitable design.

### **Proposals for the immediate acquisition of sites FOR EDUCATIONAL PURPOSES required to meet urgent needs during the first two years after the end of the war in Europe may be submitted by local authorities to the Ministry of Education.**

Minimum sizes for sites for primary and secondary schools will be prescribed in the building regulations which will shortly be published by the Ministry of Education. For county colleges the Ministry suggests that a site of two acres would normally be needed for a college attended by 1,000 young people in all—by 200 a day, with playing fields of up to 10 acres.

## ORGANIZE CONTRACTS

THE need for efficiency in the Building Industry to enable it to cope with the immense tasks ahead, is such that the Report of the Central Council for Works and Buildings should be welcomed by all.\* The Committee, under the Chairmanship of Sir Ernest Simon, has considered procedure in relation to the present and the probable trend of development and has not allowed itself to be diverted from its task by the controversial nature of the subjects. Much of the Report is necessarily a reiteration of accepted principles, but it is also constructive and recommendations are made which should at least serve as a useful basis for further deliberation, even if they are not accepted by all sections of the Industry.

The main Report is based upon seven technical papers which are published with the Report and which are worth a close study. Inefficiencies are traced to one or other of the following causes:—(a) Insufficient pre-contract preparation of the particulars of the work to be carried out. (b) Extensive variation orders after the contract is placed. (c) Indiscriminate competition, tending to place work in the hands of those builders who adopt the lowest standards. (d) Indefinite relationship between the General Contractor and the various Sub-Contractors nominated by the architect.

Inadequate pre-contract preparation is a major cause of inefficiency and the building owner is largely to blame for this. Architects wishing to educate their clients should find useful such an official document from which to quote.

The recommendation of the orthodox Fixed Price Contract will be approved by the industry, but the Report rightly points out that Bills of Quantities prepared from inadequate data and requiring remeasurement are wasteful. Quantity Surveyors cannot be expected to endanger their practices by refusing to comply with the demands made upon their services, and it is for Architects to see that their own work is sufficiently advanced before the Bills are prepared.

Cost Reimbursement Contracts are seldom favoured, and if pre-contract preparations are likely to fall short of the required standard, despite recommendations to the contrary, the situation must be faced. Schedule Contracts have generally proved unpopular, but the distinction between Schedules with and without quantities have not been sufficiently emphasized. It may well be the Schedule with Quantities, as recently recommended by the Chartered Surveyors' Institution, may prove to be the best compromise for the immediate postwar era.

The Report recommends a simplified Bill of Quantities for Housing, and it is to be hoped that the Chartered Surveyors' Institution will consider the publication of a special Standard Method of Measurement for this class of work, as various war-time expedients have shown that unless the method of measurement is clearly laid down, endless trouble can result.

The desirability of limiting, by selection, the Contractors

\*The Placing and Management of Building Contracts. Ministry of Works (HMSO, 1s. 0d.)

tendering for any one job is widely appreciated, but Local Authorities have not conformed to this practice. The Report recommends that Local Authorities should, by advertisement, invite firms to apply for *permission* to tender and should then invite a limited number of firms of equal standing to tender. Invention and development lead to specialization, and both Architects and Contractors must become more and more, co-ordinators of specialized work and design. Already the General Contractor is frequently much more of an organizer than anything else and this change should be reflected in his own organization. He should be responsible for and have full control of all work upon the site, his staff should be trained for this particular type of management and variations and the Time and Progress Schedule should be rigidly controlled. The need to bind all parties—Architect, Building Owner, Contractor and Sub-Contractor—to a fixed programme before actual building begins is the most important recommendation of the Report. On it largely depends the efficiency, speed and economy of the post-war building programme.



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

### THE POSITION NOW

At least we now know the worst. The Government has issued its *Housing Manual* for the guidance of local authorities on permanent housing. Both the Planning Bill and the Temporary Housing Bill have become Acts. Churchill has spoken on the housing situation, and has provided the MOW bus with a new driver. The rebuilding programme for the immediate postwar period is set. The Worst could have been worse. It could have been far better. The buck has been passed to the local authorities, who will have to make the best of it with inadequate means.

The stop-gap Blitz-Blight-Compensation Planning Bill was no doubt

intended as a mere step in a series of future bills, part of a cunning game to force back the anti-planners step by step, for in the stealthy battle for planning, "bras dessus bras dessous, ils font des tours à pas de loup." But one can overdo the Machiavelli touch, and the danger is that future planning bills, which it is to be hoped will reach far nearer the goal of co-ordinated national planning, may arrive too late to make use of the grand opportunity the war has provided.

As Lord Balfour pointed out in his very sensible talk to the AA a month ago, "In the Bill there is no national planning; the whole thing is left to the local authorities. As to compensation and betterment the Uthwatt analysis has been accepted by the Government, but there is nothing in the Bill to overcome the difficulties inherent in the compensation and betterment problem. The Uthwatt analysis proves that, unless the conflict between public and private interest can be overcome, national planning is impossible."

He went on to explain that the Bill did not solve the vital problems of the decentralization and decongestion of the great cities, let alone the principles of "the preservation of agricultural land and the Barlow theme of balanced industrial development," to which the Government pays lip service, but provides no machinery for their application.

"As there is no prospect of getting an amending bill before the general election," went on Lord Balfour, "the prospect of getting adequate long-term planning is poor; but at the present time long-term planning is by far the most important social service we have to consider, because it will make or mar the housing policy of the Government. . . . *The Government has not realized that the whole fate of housing depends on long-term planning.*" (My italics.) If there is any vitality left in this battered old country after five years of blood, sweat, toil and tears, the question of national planning will be the king-pin of the next general election. If a few heads are broken on this question, it will be a better sign of the psychological health of the nation than a dull and defeated acceptance of the *status quo*. The danger is, of course, that by the time the election comes, it will be too late.

As to housing, we now know in broad outline the official attitude towards permanent building, and in surprisingly clearly defined terms that towards temporary accommodation through the new Memorandum issued by MOH and MOW. As was feared, the Revised Version of the Portal House with its inexcusably bad plan has been accepted, and the steel houses will start rolling off the belt early in the new year. Surely some notice could have been taken of the many excellent suggestions on revised plans which were published in the technical Press, and especially in the JOURNAL. That fine democratic gesture of inviting the public to comment on the first Authorized Version did not extend very far.

However, the nice equipment will do something towards compensating the daily irritations of living in a dull and cramped little shack in which to satisfy a Simple Need will mean repeating the same Grand Tour of the premises a thousand times a year, involving the opening and closing of doors some 4,000 unnecessary times per person per annum.

As to siting, some excellent proposals have been put forward in the Government's memorandum, which is no doubt the result of good staff work by MOTCP. If carried out adequately by the local authorities, they will



prevent the very real danger of the mushroom growth of thousands of squalid little mining-camp villages throughout the country. The avoidance of this danger will depend largely on as much imaginative planting as is possible, a fact of which the authors of the siting clauses in the memorandum are well aware, and the greatest possible use of existing trees.

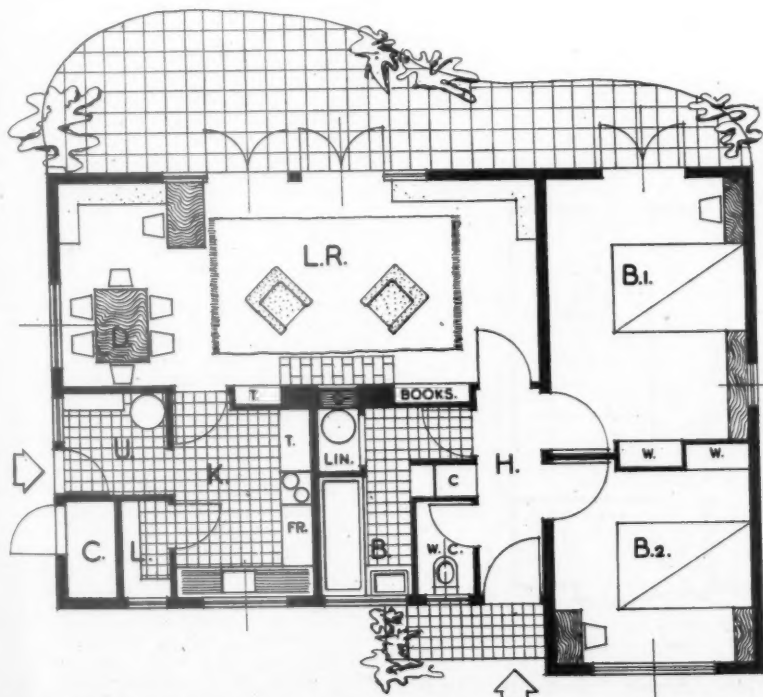
Luckily there is no fear of unpleasant piecemeal colour effects in the grouping of the temporary bungalows, for a restricted range of colours, from which the local authorities can choose, is being laid down by MOW—a significant and welcome move towards good standardization. Good colour and use of trees and planting will help this temporary housing programme enormously.

Apart from the Portal Palace, there is the question of the other types of temporary houses developed by private enterprise, of which three have so far been accepted. Of these the Arcon is so remarkably the best of the whole bunch, including the Palace itself, that the cynic will be asking what mysterious powers have caused its official acceptance. In general design, it shows real human and æsthetic feeling, but it is also a very practical job with an excellent plan—one that

really does work. It is interesting, incidentally, to compare it with the last of the many alternative plans for the Portal House published in the correspondence columns of the JOURNAL—that by Messrs. Lovatt and Falkus in the issue for November 16, for it is in its essentials identical in layout. (This plan is shown below, and the Arcon plan on page 405.)

Why, one wonders, did Messrs. Tarran and Messrs. Uni-Seco adhere to the official Revised Version plan? There could have been no practical need for this—the standard fittings have been incorporated in the Arcon house without any difficulty. One of the main advantages of obtaining different types of temporary house designed by private firms lies just in the possibility of obtaining alternative plans. That they would be reasonably good would be almost certainly guaranteed by the stimulus of competition in an affair of such national importance. Have the producers been compelled to adhere to the official plan, with all its faults? If they were not compelled to adhere to it, why have two of them done so? If they were, how have Messrs. Arcon escaped the ban and produced their admirable alternative? The thing's a mystery.

ASTRAGAL



Alternative plan for the Portal House by R. Lovatt and D. Falkus mentioned by Astragal.



## LETTERS

John Murdoch,  
(Burgh Surveyor of Buckie)

Norman C. Levie, P.A.S.I.

Arthur Wise, A.R.I.B.A.

F. J. Osborn,  
(Chairman of Executive, Town and  
Country Planning Association)

Thos. E. Scott,  
(Chairman, RIBA Demobilization  
Committee)

H. G. C. Spencely

### The Churchill House

SIR.—I again take the liberty of enclosing a plan showing another idea for the Churchill House. This is an improvement on my previous plan in that the living room is to the front of the house.

Again I would point out that the improvement is obtainable within the shell of the original design, i.e., only the internal partitions require re-arranging. I would also refer to the letter submitted by Mr. G. Goddard Watts, and point out that close grouping of water heating unit, bath, sink, tub, w.h.b. and w.c. is obtained in this plan, indeed the grouping is similar to the original Government plan (by "original" I mean plan as amended by MOW).

While agreeing that Astragal has achieved a fine layout for a temporary house, I would point out that all his claims for it cannot really be substantiated, e.g., by simply leaving a bedroom door open the area of that room does not necessarily equal the area of the house, or does it? That would mean that all the other apartments would also require to have their doors open. Also the living room, while giving a fine lengthy vista, is so much narrower than the official Churchill house that it would be like looking through a tunnel (granted a very light and airy tunnel by virtue of the

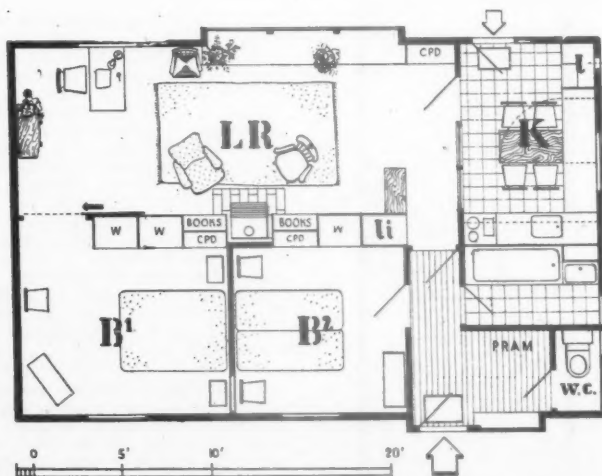
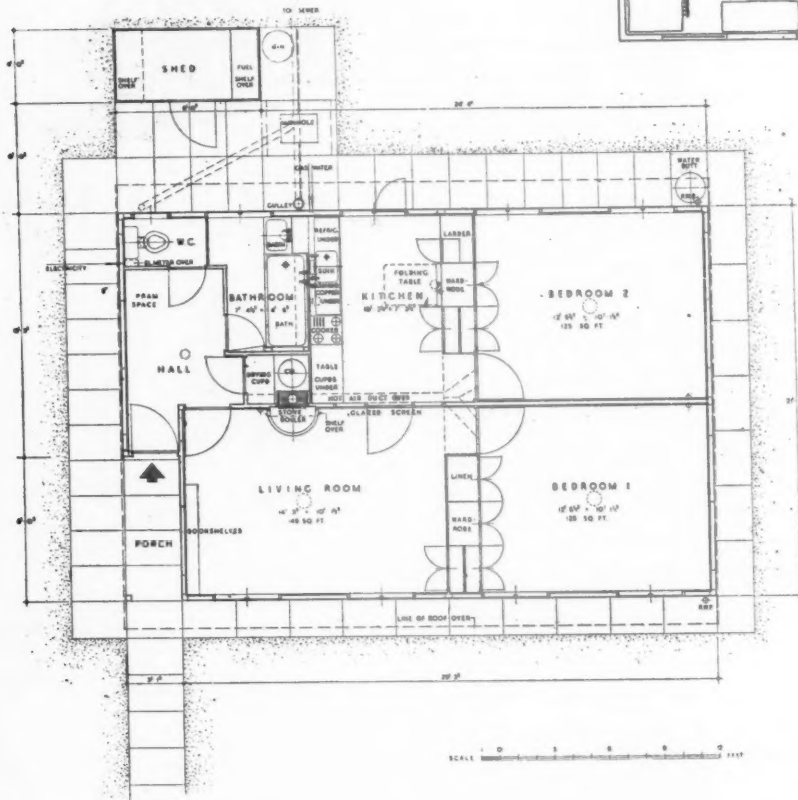
good window provision), and I think one is better with a little less length and another foot of width.

Another criticism of many of the plans submitted is that, while they are given as improved Churchill houses they are really new plans of temporary houses to be made instead of the Churchill type as the whole size, shape and main constructional features of the original Churchill house are abandoned.

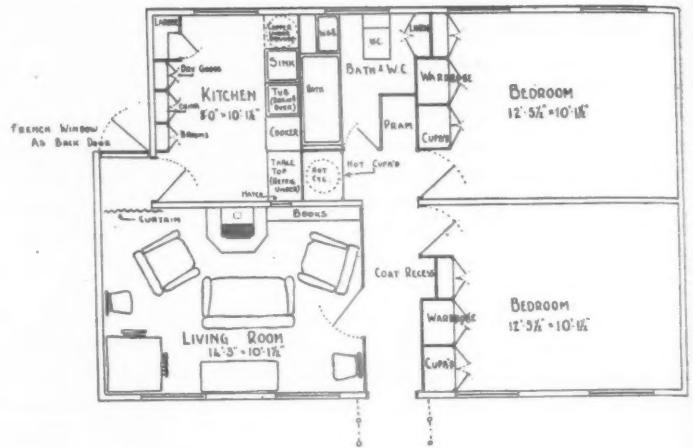
It seems that we are to get the Churchill house whether we like it or not, but let us hope that it is not too late for some improvement to be incorporated.

Buckie

JOHN MURDOCH



The Churchill House. Top, suggested plan by John Murdoch. Centre, the amended plan of the Ministry of Works. Bottom, suggested plan by Astragal.



SIR.—The Government Policy for its Post-War Housing Programme is to build the Churchill House only as a temporary expedient, with a probable life of about 10 years, but in my opinion, if conditions after the 1914-18 struggle are any criterion this house will have a considerably longer life. If this be the case, considering the criticisms levelled against the speculative builder between the Wars, the Churchill house both externally and internally will require considerable replanning, or it must be classed with the efforts of the speculative type of house. In the years prior to 1939, I saw the clearance of the last of the temporary dwellings erected during and after the last war, consisting of ex-Army hutments of wood construction built on a brick basecourse, which had a life of about 20 years, but through lack of maintenance and poor lay-out, had eventually to be condemned by the local authority and demolished. This colony of dwellings in the centre of a large city, could not be, by any stroke of imagination, classed as a holiday camp or garden city, but was in fact a slum settlement.

With this case in mind, I can visualize the erection of large numbers of the present design all over the country, which, if not properly sited and care taken with the landscaping, will be a permanent blot in any city, but it appears that those in authority plan only for the present and allow the future to take care of itself.

It seems possible that a Department such as the MOW, with probably some of the best brains in the architectural world in its ranks at the present moment, could have been more far sighted in its efforts towards a better solution of this problem and taken a leaf out of the books of some of the American designers of mass produced housing, who, I am sorry to say, are far in advance of this country in this respect, as some of the TVA and other efforts for War Establishments show.

In Scotland, where the building bye-laws are if anything more severe in their general requirements, than in the south, the internal planning and circulation of the Churchill House, would not have been tolerated under ordinary circumstances even in speculative construction prior to hostilities, and to put forward at this late day, even as a temporary measure, a scheme such as this, is a complete reversal of modern building policy and design.

The logical conclusion for a housing programme such as this, would have been for a house designed on a unit basis, so that variations of accommodation could have been provided to suit all requirements and site conditions, and in this respect it has been pointed out by several correspondents to the Journal, that the design contemplated is very wasteful in frontage area.



In this war the country has found, that from an agricultural point of view, the land available for food production is entirely inadequate for all requirements even at the present time, and as usually the better arable land falls to the house builder, it seems a great pity to waste what is left by bad planning, as no doubt, should world peace not run according to what the nations are endeavouring to secure, we can assume another "chaos" in 30 or 40 years time, when the country's need of the land will again assume "front line" proportions for feeding the nation, but in the future the available arable land will by that time have decreased so much, that an added strain will be put on our shipping. Therefore it is imperative that the number of houses per acre should be put at the maximum possible, so that no good arable land be wasted by grandiose schemes by the sheet metal industries.

The present design, except for certain points in planning, such as circulation, restricted storage accommodation and the treatment of the elevations, is on the whole a commendable effort, as far as it goes, but it does not go far enough, especially as it is a National Effort, and I enclose a tracing of an alternative plan, with proposals for elevational treatment, which, although not conforming to the MOW rectangular plan, follows the general dimensions except for the projecting bedroom wing.

In my opinion this plan has the following advantages over the published design, viz.:-

- (1) Better elevation treatment as a single terrace type of house, with long frontage to road.
- (2) Can be used as a semi-detached house with slight modification of bedroom window arrangement.
- (3) Can be used on a narrow site with living room gable frontage to road.
- (4) Better all round circulation without passing through kitchenette.
- (5) Views to back and front gardens from living room.
- (6) Good visibility from kitchenette to back and front doors.
- (7) Better cupboard accommodation for household articles such as trunks and cases, vacuum cleaner, and good internal recess for prams or cycles, off the general circulation area.
- (8) Larger windows.
- (9) Enhanced elevational treatment.
- (10) Covered front porch.

In place of the low pitched roof of the published design, I suggest a flat roof consisting of spot-welded cellular units in which the water and electrical services can be run, covered externally with various proprietary asphaltic compositions to suit requirements of site and surroundings. It is also suggested that the flat roof could be utilized as a sun deck with a screened area. The concrete slab foundation proposed has a raised curb or base-course all round, finished with coloured cement rendering.

It is to be hoped that before this house goes into general production it will be drastically replanned both from the working and aesthetic point of view, and alternate designs considered for inclusion in the main programme.

Edinburgh

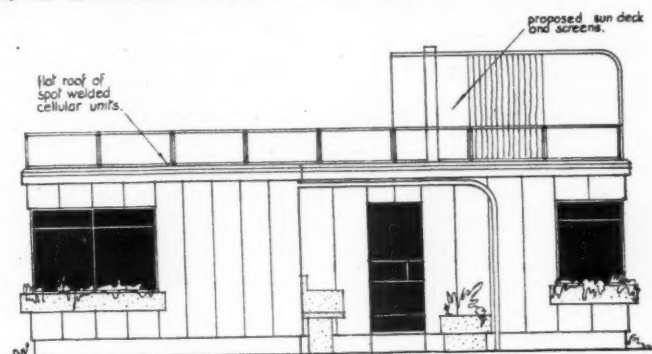
NORMAN C. LEVIE

SIR.—The best feature of the amended MOW plan is the exceedingly compact heat-plumbing arrangement, very well suited to factory production. In its elements you have a living room, a stove-boiler, and behind this an assemblage of equipment with a kitchen on one side and a bathroom on the other. Excellent! There remain two bedrooms, and the natural position for these is to one side or the other of this set-up. But why in the name of the Mother of the Arts are they put on the

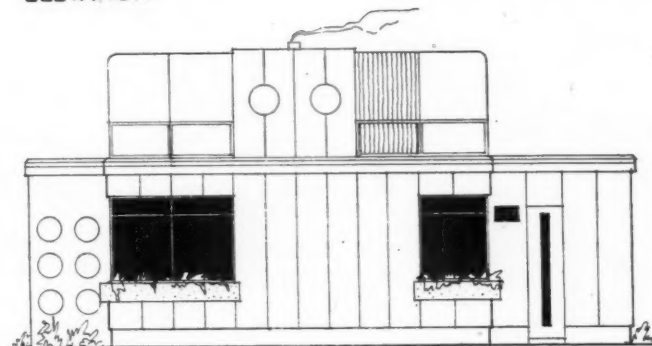
KITCHEN side? Why not on the bathroom side where one can get from bedroom to bathroom without having to traverse the house from one end to the other?

One would have thought, too, that in designing a house for mass-production some effort would have been made to produce a plan which would more or less suit any site irrespective of orientation. Not so the

MOW's. Not so Astragal's. Such a plan would probably need an entrance in the side, and I suspect that the British public believes, for all I know quite rightly, that side doors possess a regrettable aura of jug-and-bottle furtiveness. The remaining alternative is a plan which can be adapted to orientation by means of relatively minor modifications.



ELEVATION.



ELEVATION. — GABLE —



PLAN.

The Churchill House. Suggested plan and elevations by Norman C. Levie.

Again, the two doors flanking the stove ruin what ought to be a comfortable place to sit in. The main thoroughfare of the house coincides exactly with space normally occupied by fireside armchairs.

It seems to me symbolic that Astragal's great improvements in the plan should have been made, as Mr. G. Goddard Watts points out, at the expense of splitting up the heat-plumbing assembly. He reverted part way at least to our old habit of strewing pipes anywhere and everywhere to suit our own convenience. It is symbolic because in terms of hard post-war cash we have yet to persuade (a) ourselves, and (b) our clients that the so far undetermined economy of centralized factory-made plumbing and so on is worth the serious planning restrictions entailed. We have yet, in fact, to decide who is going to be boss, the Architect or the Pipe.

My suggested plan herewith is essentially the MOW amended plan with the bedrooms set on the other side. Alternative north and south entrances are indicated. Adjustments of floor areas are to suit my own taste and I have tried to include some of the most attractive features of Astragal's plan. Incidentally I am much less impressed by his "interior landscape" in November than I was in the balmy days of summer.

Launceston, Cornwall

ARTHUR WISE

## What London Needs

SIR,—Heaven save planning from the "demographic approach" if it is represented by Dr. Block's painstaking collection of the all-too-familiar Census figures. What does he show? That English families are getting smaller and more aged; that in London they are smaller and older than the English average; and that in Holborn and Westminster they are smaller and older than in London County as a whole. Pointing proudly to his estimate that in 1931 Westminster had 75 per cent. of childless households, he says that if only he had some later figures he might prove that in 1944 that fortunate City is still less encumbered with the young. Yet even without this "more exact information, it is safe to say that the claim of the TCPA that "at least 80 per cent. of London's 'families' should be provided with houses and gardens has little foundation in actual population facts."

From such a mass of scientific data, what an incredibly inept conclusion. Let me

comment briefly:

1. The "claim" of the TCPA was not based on these obvious Census figures, which tell us only what dwellings people have, but on practical experience of what people want, supported by the extensive house-to-house enquiries made in the last few years. About 9 of 10 London households tell us they want houses with gardens. Dr. Block answers the Londoner with a Census return. "You can't have what you want—you are too old. You haven't any children under 10, and every year you are less likely to have any. Your family is too small—why, there are only a miserable three of you now, and by the Census of 1951 one of you may be dead." How would the Londoner react? Touch his cap and say: "You're right, gunvor, I been too ambitious; take me measure for a flat"? Or go away muttering: "Damn 'is statistics; I want a house and garden"? Being a Londoner and knowing Londoners, I could make a fair estimate of the percentage responses.

2. Amazingly, Dr. Block omits the demographic trend of most significance; the fall in births. In round figures, our nation is producing four-fifths of the children needed to maintain it. The local figures Dr. Block cites suggest that the shortage of births in central London is greater still. Do we accept this as satisfactory? If so, the central London population will in the not distant future decline more rapidly than the total population, apart from outward migration, or its numbers must be made up relatively by drafts from elsewhere. If we don't accept it, then we must replan London so that its balance of housing accommodation suits a self-reproducing London population.

3. As against the Pickwickian science of Dr. Block, I uphold the human and sociological approach of the Forshaw-Abercrombie Plan. That Plan does not "treat housing as a mechanical relation of human beings to space." Its conception is imaginative and essentially sound. The TCPA criticism of it is on the two specific points that it does not sufficiently take into account the possibilities of national planning and the dispersal of industry and business, and that it compromises at an undesirable and impracticable point on the housing density standard—a matter on which it can be, and we believe will be, radically revised. Londoners will see to that.

F. J. OSBORN,

Chairman of Executive, Town and Country Planning Association.

## Technical Information for Demobilized Architects

SIR,—Architects serving with the Forces have expressed their concern about the many difficulties likely to be encountered when they resume their professional activities. Among these difficulties is that of acquiring as quickly as possible all available information about materials, equipment and services at present available or likely to become available as soon as circumstances permit.

Most pre-war catalogues will be out of date—if not already disposed of as salvage—and the process of building up an adequate library of trade catalogues and publications is likely to be long and tedious.

Much time and trouble will be saved if manufacturers are prepared to circulate their publications to architects as and when they return to their professional work, but a period must of necessity elapse before the RIBA *Kalendar* or other publications can be brought up to date with the names and addresses of those who have been serving overseas or elsewhere.

I shall, therefore, be glad to hear from those firms who would undertake to help demobilized architects in this way, and if the response so warrants, to arrange for the publication, either weekly or monthly, of a list of the names and addresses of members desiring this service immediately the Institute is notified of their return from the Forces.

Two other matters are referred to in letters from serving members, viz., the desirability of some form of standardization in the preparation of catalogues and information sheets to facilitate filing, and the greater value of drawing office data, fixing details, and other technical information by comparison with the more usual photographs of executed work.

The first of these matters is at present under consideration by the British Standards Institution at the request of the RIBA; the second is recommended to the serious consideration of manufacturers.

THOS. E. SCOTT,  
Chairman,

London RIBA Demobilization Committee.

## Protective Architecture

SIR,—Will some of Mr. Gloag's many friends take him out to give him a drink?

Nothing but a deep depression can account for the poisonous doctrine which he advocates in his article on *Protective Architecture*.

The deep shelter experts were right—technically—and very wrong psychologically; hence the Government's wise ban on deep shelters for the public.

An underground people might survive for a limited time as moles: sooner or later they would have to come up to fight as men—if they could. The Germans' underground town near Laon didn't do them much good, did it?

Clients in general are not likely to double or treble the sums allocated for new buildings in order to make them proof against future weapons.

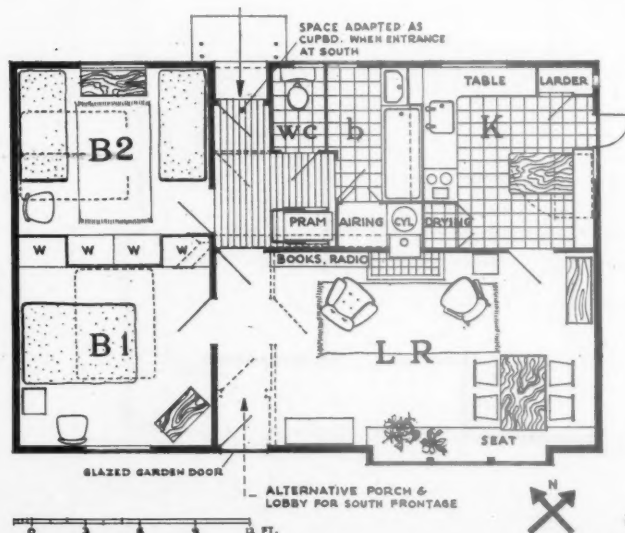
We must, as Mr. Gloag writes, "address our attention to the study and practice of fortification." But we want no more Maginot Lines or Singapores.

Fortifications depend ultimately on MEN, and it is in men, not concrete, that our efforts and money must be invested.

Let's hope that there is a bottle of something left to help Mr. Gloag think again.

Edenbridge, Kent

H. G. C. SPENCLEY



The Churchill House. Suggested plan by Arthur Wise.

# PHYSICAL PLANNING SUPPLEMENT



## SITING the temporary house

The layout and siting of the Government's temporary bungalows present to the planner problems which are controlled by two factors—first, the standard design of the house, which allows no variation in plan or structure, and, second, its need for a wider frontage than that taken up by a normal Local Authority House. The Memorandum on Temporary Accommodation\* issued by the Ministry of Health and Works, from which extracts are given below, is intended to give guidance to Local Authorities in the solution of these problems. The fifteen diagrams showing suggested layouts which are included in the Memorandum, are reproduced on the following pages. In addition, three models are illustrated which form part of an exhibition—on view at 32, St. James's Square, S.W.1, until December 2nd—prepared by the Research Division of the Ministry of Town and Country Planning for the Ministry of Health. The exhibition deals with such subjects as desirable spacing, density, access, aspect and planting.

### INTRODUCTION

The Government's immediate post-war housing programme consists of two parts, namely, permanent and temporary accommodation. Guidance to local authorities as to the lines on which they should frame their proposals for permanent accommodation has already been issued in "Housing Manual, 1944" (H.M. Stationery Office, price 2s., by post 2s. 2d.), and the Minister has requested local authorities to submit applications for approval to layouts and house plans in order that the way may be clear for the building of houses as soon as authority can be given. The purpose of the present memorandum is to give similar assistance as to the lines on which proposals to provide temporary accommodation should be framed.

It is essential that temporary accommodation should not be considered in isolation, but in relation to the whole housing

programme of the authority. The use of temporary accommodation will, the Government believe, make it possible approximately to double the number of dwellings which could otherwise be provided with the limited amount of skilled labour available in the first year after building can be resumed. The types of temporary factory-made houses approved by the Government have been specially selected on account of the small proportion of ordinary building labour required for their erection. The temporary scheme must not be allowed to stand in the way of the permanent scheme, and it will be for each authority to whom temporary houses are allotted to ensure that both sections of their programme can proceed side by side without stultifying one another.

### TYPES OF TEMPORARY ACCOMMODATION AVAILABLE

The Government have so far approved the following types of temporary accommodation for the purposes of the Act.

- The Pressed steel house.
- The Arcon Mark V house.
- The Uni-Seco house.
- The Tarran house.

All these types are generally similar, except that the Arcon Mark V has a central hall. All are bungalows and all will contain the kitchen and cupboard units incorporated in the pressed steel house.

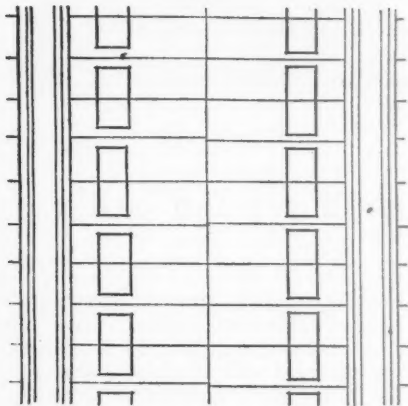
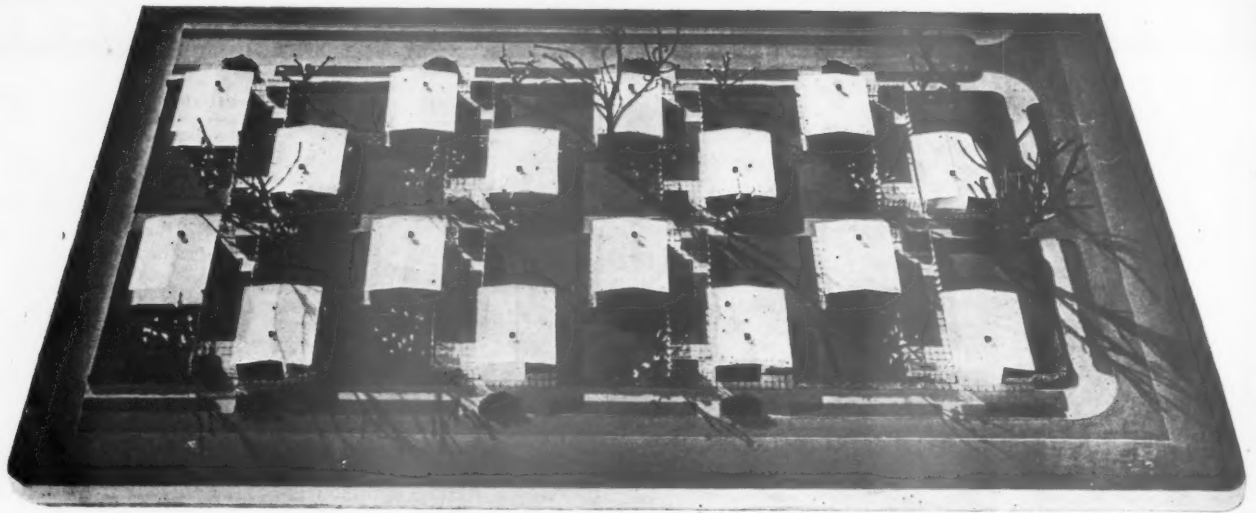
### SELECTION AND ACQUISITION OF SITES

The bungalows may be built on either:

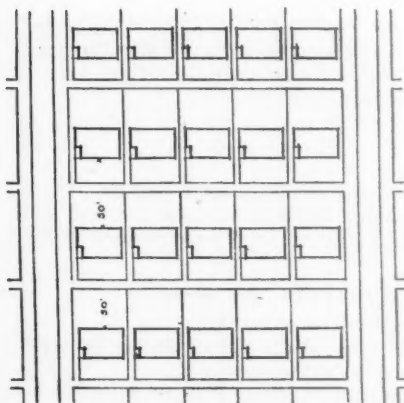
- (i) sites or parts of sites which will ultimately be used for the erection of permanent houses;
- (ii) parts of housing sites on which it is not intended to build permanent structures, e.g., the temporary use of part of an open space on such a site which is not likely to be required for playing fields or recreational purposes during the ten-year period;
- (iii) land intended by the authority to be used ultimately for some purpose other than housing, including sites in devastated areas; or

\* Temporary Accommodation: Memorandum for the Guidance of Local Authorities, November, 1944. Ministry of Health, Ministry of Works, HMSO. 6d.



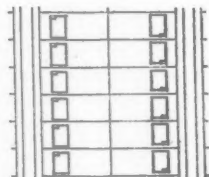


1. PERMANENT ROADS RUNNING NORTH AND SOUTH. TYPICAL LAYOUT OF PERMANENT HOUSES. DENSITY 13 TO THE ACRE

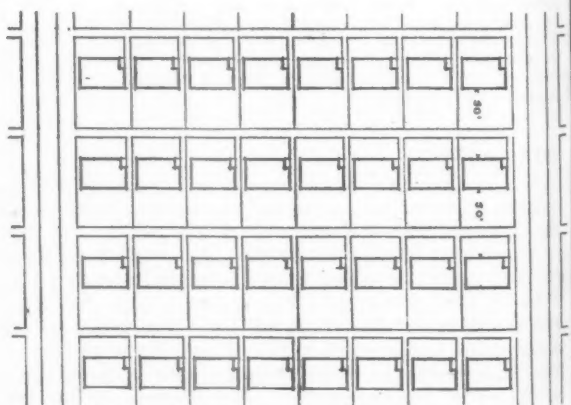


2. PERMANENT ROADS AS IN 1. LAYOUT OF HOUSES FACING SOUTH. THIS LAYOUT WOULD GIVE A SOUTHERLY ASPECT WITH ROADS IN ANY DIRECTION EXCEPT DUE EAST-WEST. DENSITY 13

SCALE OF FEET  
0 100 200



3. THIS DIAGRAM SHOWS ROADS AS IN 1, WITH THE HOUSES ALONG THE ROAD FRONTAGE. DENSITY 9½



4. TEMPORARY ROADS. THE LENGTH OF FOOTPATH TO THE MOST DISTANT HOUSES SHOULD NOT EXCEED 150 FEET. THE ROADS CAN THEREFORE BE ABOUT 300 FEET APART. LAYOUT OF HOUSES SIMILAR TO 3. DENSITY 14

Above is a model made by MOTCP's Modelling Unit to illustrate one of their suggested layouts for the temporary bungalows. These designs and models are all based on the pressed steel type of house. But the other types of temporary bungalow at present contemplated are identical in size, and the suggested layouts (with slight modification in one case) are applicable to all four types. In the scheme illustrated by the model on the preceding page, the houses are approached by footpaths leading off the main access road. Although the front gardens are open and semi-public in character, a feeling of privacy is obtained by setting each house back from its neighbour and at an angle to the access footpath, and by the careful placing of trees. In the scheme illustrated by the model above, the houses are placed end on to the approach roads. Although the spacing is compact, mutual overlooking is avoided by arranging the houses in chequer board pattern and individual privacy is further ensured by the trellis screens. The diagram on the left and those below and on the following pages are reproduced from the Ministry of Health and Works' Memorandum on Temporary Accommodation.

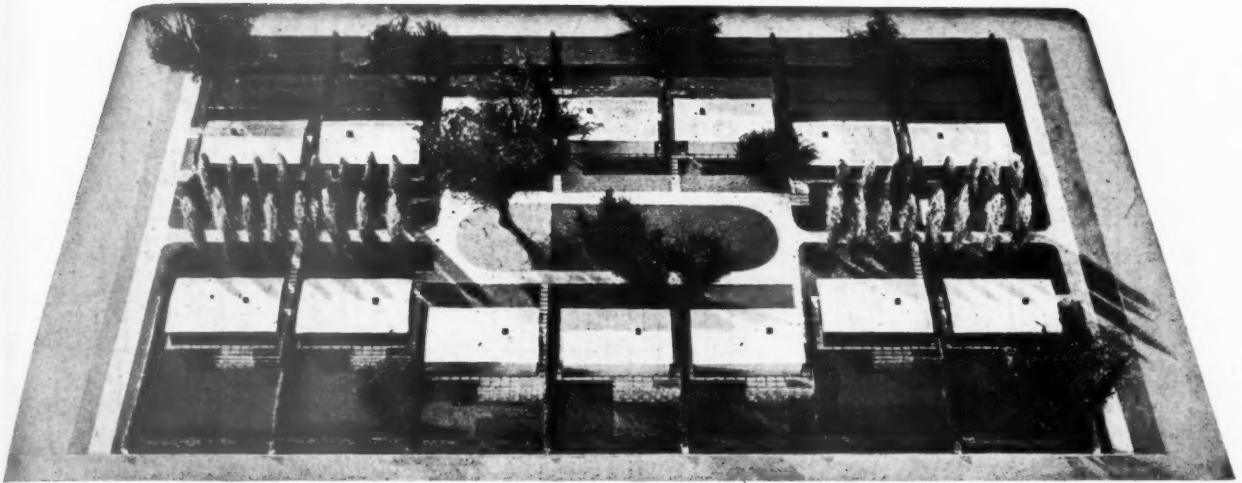
(iv) undeveloped land such as marginal strips of agricultural land adjacent to existing housing, or war-time sites which may be relinquished by the Services.

It will be open to the authority to use for the erection of bungalows land which has already been acquired under the Housing Acts for the erection of permanent houses, but care should be taken to avoid the use of land which is likely to be required for this purpose in the early stages of the building programme. Similarly in considering the use of land which is intended to be redeveloped, care must be taken to ensure that proposals for redevelopment are not obstructed by the

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Above is another model made by MOTCP's Modelling Unit. In this scheme a group of houses is arranged round a close designed for pedestrian access only. A portion of the centre plot is gravelled over to provide a small all-weather play space for children. The Ministry particularly emphasises the following points when preparing designs : 1. Prior consideration for any useful natural features, such as trees, hillocks or streams, a feeling for the lie of the land, and a fully thought-out scheme of planting. 2. The importance of a well-designed and carefully maintained estate layout in establishing among residents a pride in their neighbourhood and respect for its amenities. 3. In order to avoid wasteful development of roads and services, layouts must be designed in relation to existing and impending development in the neighbourhood, and also to the future redevelopment of the same site with permanent houses if this be required. 4. Facilities, such as playgrounds, shops and garages, within easy walking distance of every house, are elements as essential in a temporary housing estate as in any more permanent development. 5. The considered external use of colour will greatly enliven the appearance of an estate of temporary bungalows. [A range of six colour combinations is suggested by MOTCP for the pressed steel type of house; it includes red, white, pink and grey]

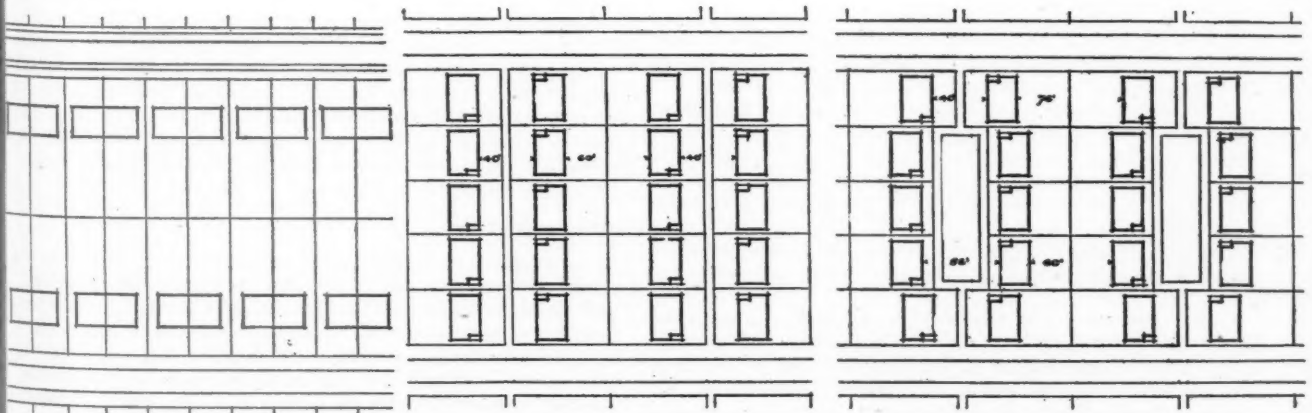
erection of buildings which it must be assumed will ordinarily remain for a period of some ten years.

In many of the older urban areas, for example, slum clearance was in progress before the war, and sites exist which are wholly or partially cleared of buildings. The only parts of these sites (and also of those which have been cleared by war damage), which should be considered for the erection of bungalows, are the parts which are certain, under any practical redevelopment scheme, to form integral sites for buildings, uninterrupted by roads. In the case of war damage, sites of houses which are eligible for cost of works payments should not be considered. Furthermore, in districts where cleared sites represent the only possible way of making this provision, as may be the case in some Metropolitan Boroughs, advantage would lie in grouping the bungalows

in areas where the need for redevelopment is less urgent rather than in scattering them throughout the Borough and thus obstructing redevelopment generally.

It is appreciated that in areas which are already fully developed, such as many of the Metropolitan Boroughs, the provision, which can be made is largely dominated by this fact. But where the use of undeveloped land which is *prima facie* suitable for housing is possible the Minister is of opinion that such land should be selected for the erection of bungalows, both on financial and on planning grounds. It is possible that the actual form of development carried out for the bungalows will need to be reconsidered at a later date when permanent development takes place, but it appears to the Minister that such unremunerative expenditure as may be involved on this account will be much less than is involved

SCALE OF FEET 100 200 300 400 500

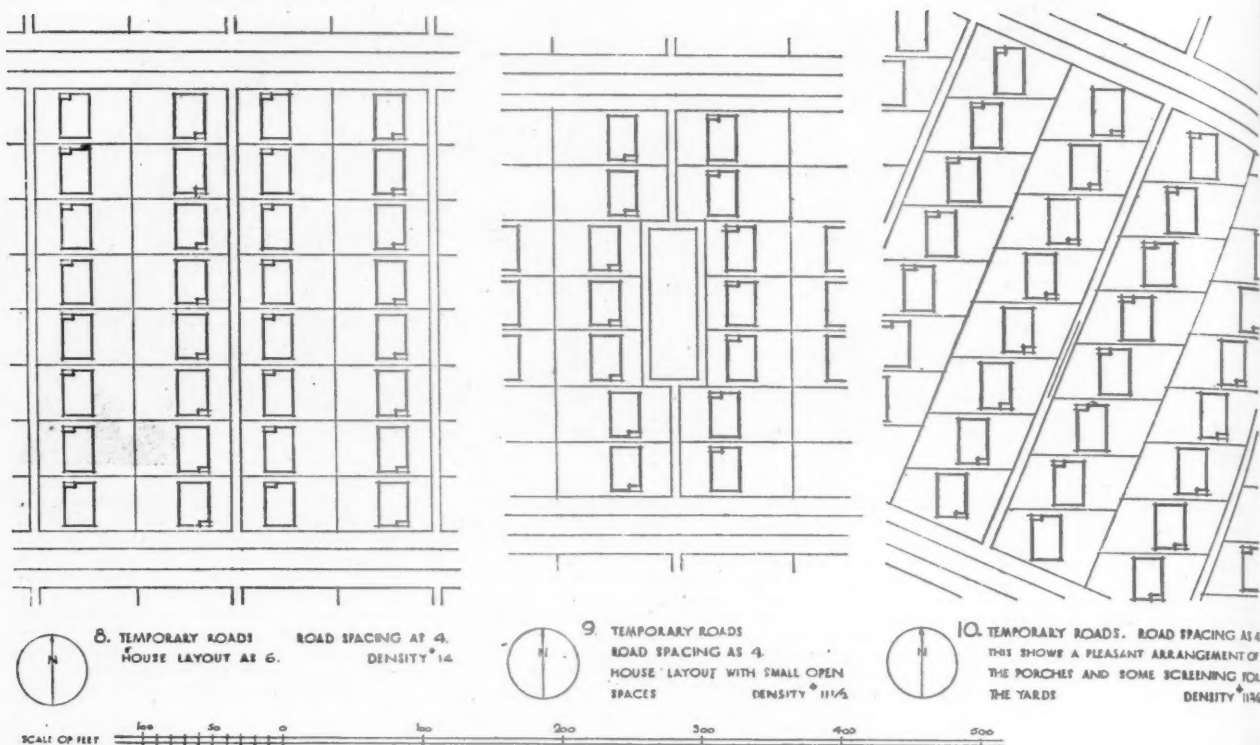


5. PERMANENT ROADS RUNNING EAST AND WEST  
TYPICAL LAYOUT OF PERMANENT HOUSES  
DENSITY 13

6. PERMANENT ROADS AS 5. ALTHOUGH THIS  
LAYOUT IS MORE ECONOMICAL IN FOOTPATHS  
THAN 5, IT CAN ONLY BE USED WHERE THE ROADS  
LIE ROUGHLY EAST AND WEST DENSITY 13

7. PERMANENT ROADS AS 5.  
AS 6 BUT WITH SMALL OPEN SPACES ADDED.  
HOUSE, LAYOUT  
DENSITY 12





by the use of developed land of high value which is likely to be ill adapted to the erection of wide fronted houses and which in any case may well be required within a decade for other more suitable forms of development.

The advance acquisition and preparation of sites for at any rate the first instalment of the bungalows is, therefore, of the first importance. It appears unlikely that in general the preparation of the layout and the actual work of development can be done in less than six months, and larger sites will no doubt take longer. On this assumption the authority should aim at ensuring that they have in their possession not later than the end of this year enough land at any rate for a first instalment of the bungalows, and the Minister suggests that where possible they should at the outset acquire enough land for the whole of their programme.

#### LAYOUT PLANNING

The layout of a site for a single standardized type of house, and that a bungalow, cannot provide the same opportunities for architectural treatment as for permanent houses of a variety of types and sizes. Nevertheless, as the bungalows may have a life of ten years, every effort must be made to ensure that their surroundings are as pleasant as possible. The layout of the bungalows and their colour scheme will require even more skill and care than with permanent buildings.

As with a layout of permanent houses, the roads should be designed to discourage traffic not connected with the dwellings.

Where sites are to be used which will not ultimately be needed for permanent housing, local authorities will particularly wish to economize to the maximum extent in works of development. Existing roads may provide frontage for all the bungalows. Where new temporary roads are required they should be of the most economical design and construction suitable to their use as purely short-lived service roads. The construction to be adopted for the carriageway will be determined in the light of local conditions, but kerbs and channels and footpaths might be omitted provided there are grass margins as in many country roads.

It will be more than ever important to preserve and incor-

porate in the layout every existing landscape feature which at present adds attractiveness to the site and where necessary additional planting should be arranged, especially if it can be permanent.

The maintenance of the immediate surroundings should be ensured. Open spaces and sites for communal facilities should be provided where required. Such open spaces and the road margins will need to be well kept. Tenants should be required to keep their gardens in satisfactory condition. Any failure in this is bound to have more effect than usual on the appearance of the neighbourhood.

In the arrangement of the bungalows on the site a sunny aspect for the living room should be secured.

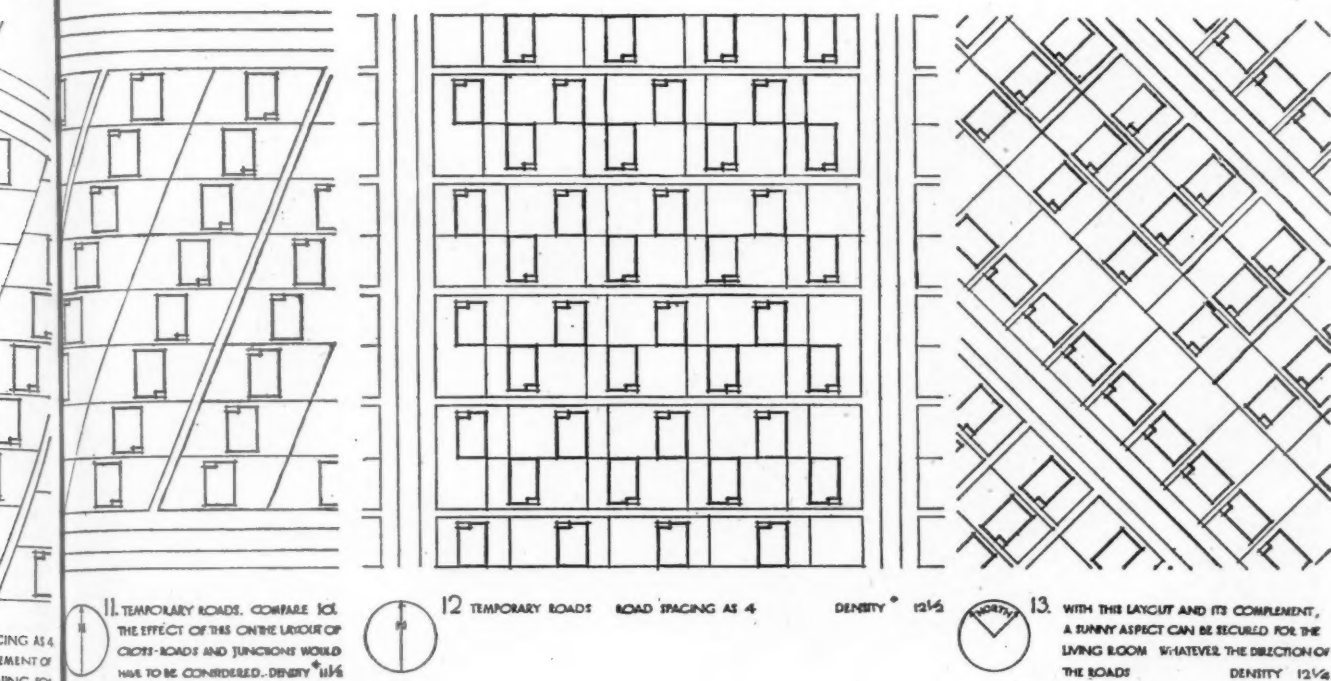
Sites in this country are too varied for more specific suggestions for their treatment than are shown in the sketch layouts. These should be looked upon as diagrams only, illustrating certain standards. Their application will and should be controlled by the various natural characteristics of each site. It will be a question of balancing the advantages of a relatively high density comparable with that normally adopted for two-storey houses against the advantages of a lower density which will enable as much as possible of the site works to be preserved when the bungalows come to be replaced. This will depend largely on such factors as the price of the land and the nature of the site.

#### SITE PLANNING

The bungalows may be erected on either temporary sites or permanent housing sites. On the temporary sites the land will revert to its present use or will be used later for other than housing purposes. The development works may then have no permanent value and will in most cases have to be demolished. Where the site is to be used for permanent housing in the future, the development works will have been designed or should now be designed to have permanent value.

#### standards

In considering layouts for the bungalows local authorities will need to lay down certain standards, and the following are suggested as a general guide.



#### footpath access

Owing to the length of the frontage of the bungalows the provision of normal road frontage would be very costly. It is therefore suggested that on temporary sites the maximum use should be made of footpath access. Similar footpath access from permanent roads may be used to provide additional frontage. The greatest distance by footpath from a carriageway to the front gate of any bungalow should be about 150 ft. The paved footpath should be about 6 ft. wide.

#### spacing between fronts and backs of bungalows

The standard for this depends not so much on light and air for these one-storey buildings as on the need for quietness and privacy. It is suggested that this would be obtained by a distance of 40 ft. between the fronts of the bungalows and 60 ft. between the backs, which would give an average spacing of 50 ft., although some local authorities may feel it necessary to modify these distances according to local circumstances and site conditions.

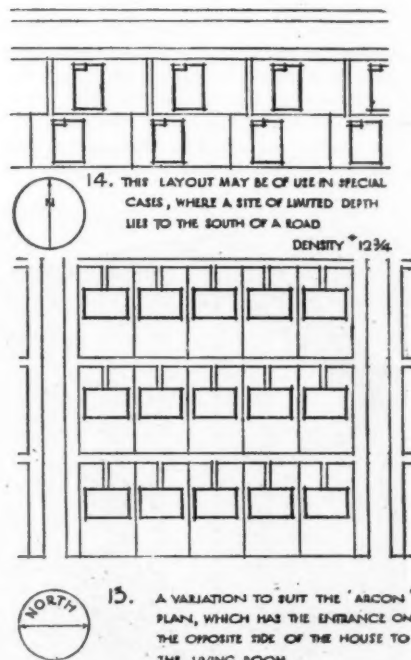
#### spacing between gable ends

The spacing between gable ends will depend largely upon the site, but it is suggested that 7 ft. or thereabouts would be a reasonable distance on a level site. In order to take up any difference in levels between adjoining bungalows, it will probably be cheaper to form slopes than to build retaining walls, and on hilly sites it may be necessary to exceed the 7 ft. spacing to allow for this.

#### general

Owing to the wide frontage of the bungalows, it will be advisable to site them as nearly as possible parallel to the contours to reduce excavations on rising ground to a minimum.

It should be noted that there can be no departure from the standard plans, e.g., the plan cannot be "handed." It will also be observed that the living room in the Pressed Steel, Uni-Seco and Tarran types is on the same side of the house as the entrance, whereas in the Arcon type it is on the opposite side. This will affect the arrangement of access paths and branch services.



Figures 1—15 show suggested layouts for temporary bungalows. The densities given on the drawings take into account half the roads shown, and on an average site will be reduced by two or three houses to the acre for cross roads and irregularities of site. These drawings form part of Appendix III to the Ministry of Health and Works' Memorandum for the Guidance of Local Authorities on Temporary Accommodation.



Above, general view of the main entrance front. The canopies over the doors are of painted asbestos cement. On the left of the main entrance is a unit of steel framework, extending from floor to eaves; the panels, which are not glazed, are of insulated sheet steel. Below, a view during construction, showing the angle unit and the inner asbestos cement skin.



# TEMPORARY HOUSE DESIGNED BY ARCON

**GENERAL**—This house is one of the four temporary houses so far officially approved under the Housing (Temporary Accommodation) Act (see page 392) and developed by Arcon, Chartered Architects.

**THE SYSTEM**—The Arcon Temporary House, Mark V, represents a system of complete house construction, designed to fulfil a given set of requirements. It is not based upon an adaptation of all-purpose units for universal application. All components of the house are manufactured independently at various factories, for transmission, through a central agency, to the site at which the whole of the assembly takes place. Preliminary interchange of components between one factory and another, for sub-assembly, has been eliminated.

**ASSEMBLY**—The assembly of the house does not call for the use of specialist or highly skilled labour. Numerous devices have been incorporated to ensure accuracy in levelling and alignment and to master the tolerances which are

inevitable in all manufacturing and erecting processes. The house can be erected by the ordinary builder, using semi-skilled general labour.

**CONSTRUCTION**—The structure consists of a light steel frame of rolled sections with welded tubular steel roof trusses. The exterior is clad with a double layer of asbestos cement sheeting, similar sheeting being employed for the roof, but single layer only. The walls are lined with storey-height panels, 3 feet wide, consisting of  $\frac{3}{8}$ -inch plasterboard or building board, backed by insulating material to the equivalent of  $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch wood wool and bonded on to light timber frames. The thermal insulation value of this construction is equal to that of 11-inch cavity brick. Internal partitions are in panels of similar dimensions and construction, but without insulating material and faced on both sides with plasterboard or building board. Ceiling panels are formed with  $\frac{3}{8}$ -inch plasterboard or building board, bonded to light wood frames which

are suspended from the trusses and mutually located by a simple system of T-section steel bearers.

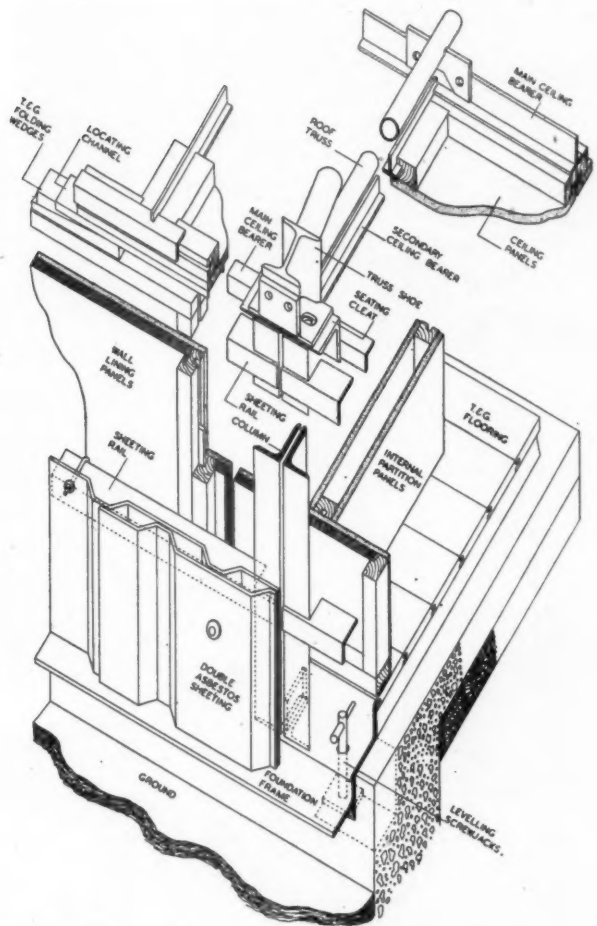
The floor comprises impregnated battens set in 1-inch cement screed on site concrete, the whole being covered with a layer of pitch and tar, to receive  $\frac{3}{4}$ -inch T and G boarding.

**DOORS, WINDOWS, TRIMS**—Internal doors and frames are of wood. External doors and windows are steel, of standard sections and set in steel linings. Skirtings, picture rails, etc., are of steel.

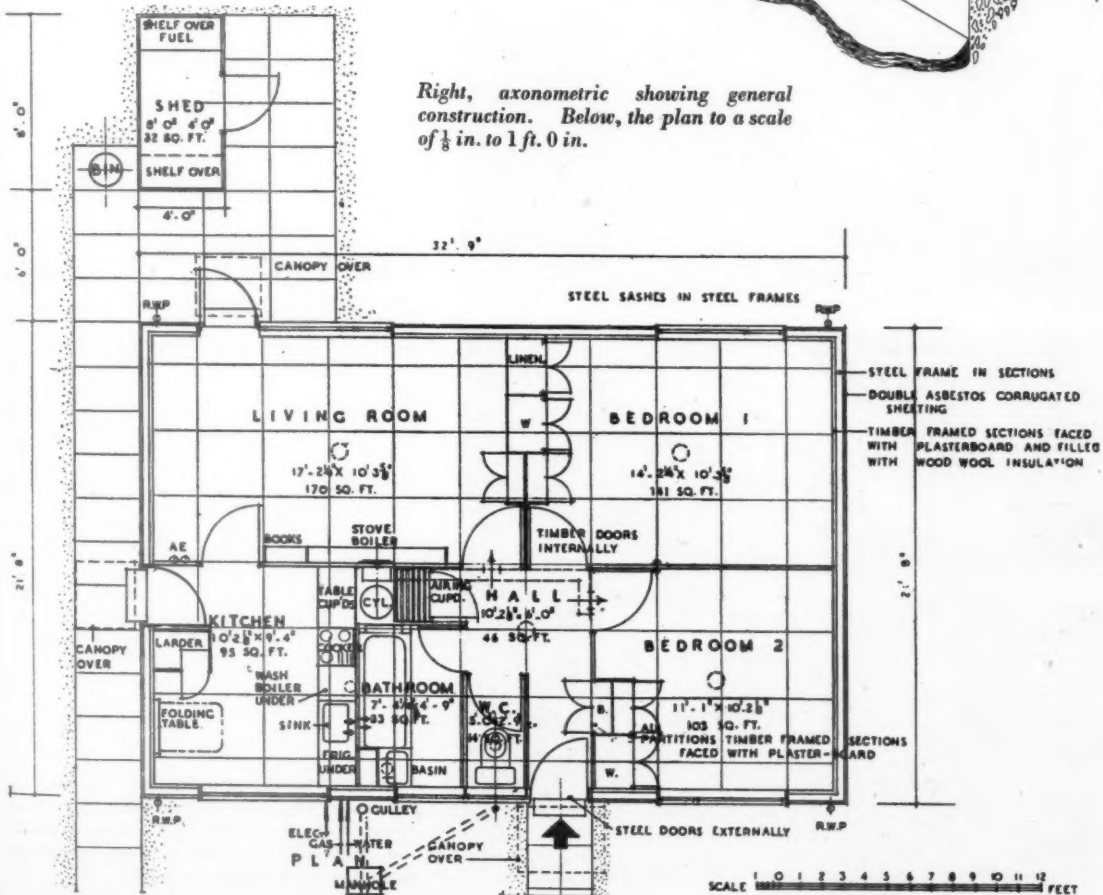
**EQUIPMENT**—Kitchen fittings and appliances, furnishings and sanitary ware are those adopted as standard by MOW. The MOW Service Unit is incorporated.

**HEATING, HOT WATER**—A slow-combustion stove, with back boiler and convector jacket, is installed in the living-room. Warm air is conveyed by ducts to both bedrooms.

**ELECTRICAL INSTALLATION**—All wiring is in the roof space, with ceiling pull switches. Drops to socket outlets are in the wall panels.



Right, axonometric showing general construction. Below, the plan to a scale of  $\frac{1}{8}$  in. to 1 ft. 0 in.







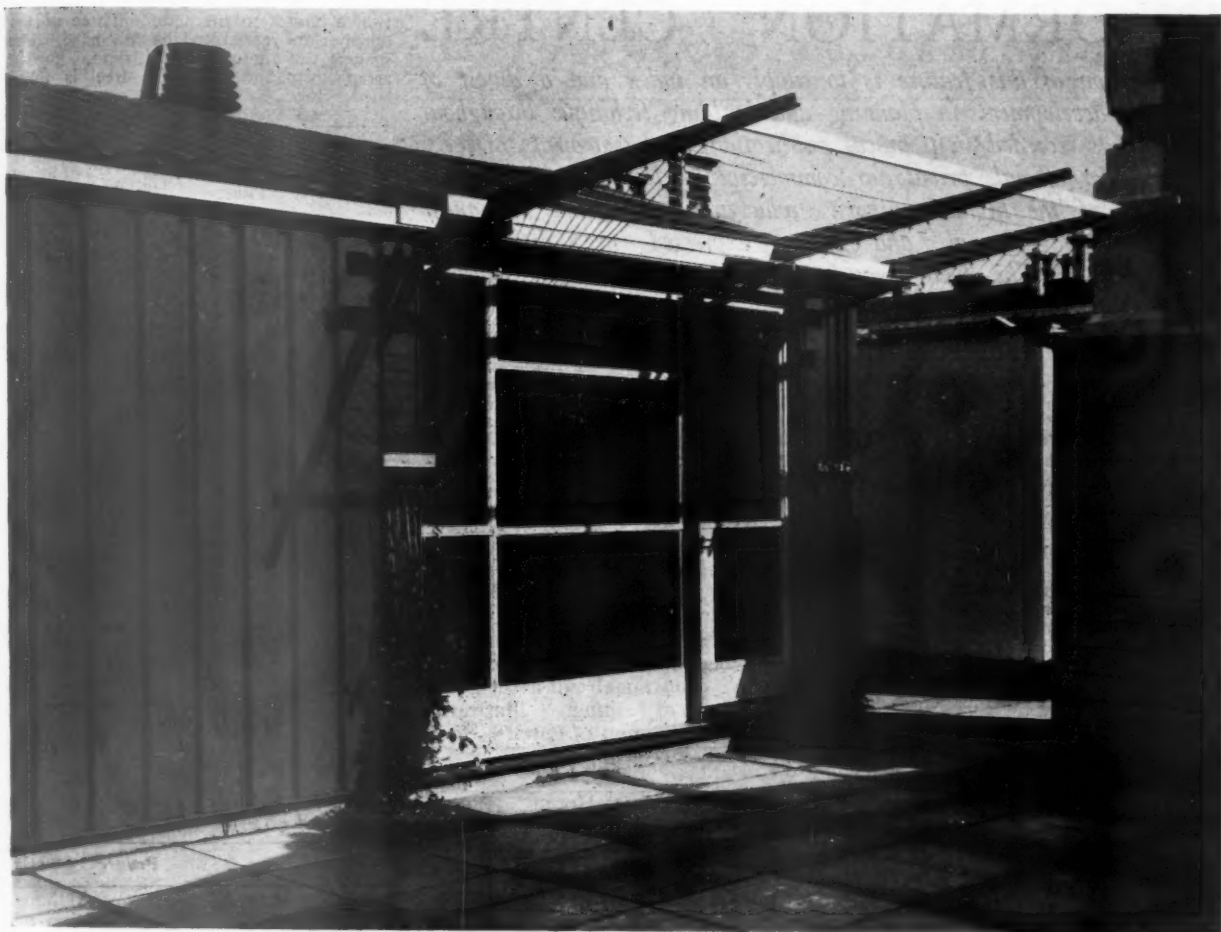
*Left above, detail of steel foundation frame. Before concreting, the frame is levelled by means of screw-jacks which are integral with the steelwork. The shanks of the jacks can be seen projecting. Right above, detail of zinc gable flashing and eaves flashing. The gutter is integral with the flashing.*



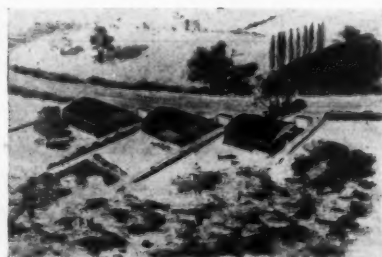
*The steel framework during erection. The steel windows and surrounds are made as part of the framework. A steel unit forms the outside wall of the bathroom and w.c.*



*Interior view during erection. The ceiling panels are being fitted into position, being suspended from the trusses by a system of main and secondary T-section steel bearers which makes for quick erection.*



*Above, the french windows of the living room at the rear. The canopy is of timber and string, along which foliage can be trained. Below left, the living room with its slow combustion stove, surrounded with aluminium. Below right, a perspective of suggested lay-out by Rodney Thomas.*



# ARCON TEMPORARY HOUSE

# 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.

1691

## Atmospheric Pollution

**RAPID SURVEYS OF ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION.** (Circular from Department of Scientific and Industrial Research.) Kinds of pollution. Methods of measurement. Of interest to town planners.

This circular has been prepared in view of increasing public interest in atmospheric pollution, and with a view to enabling Local Authorities and others to have the information necessary to enable them to carry out comparatively simple and rapid surveys.

Pollution, in general, consists of:—

(1) Relatively coarse solid matter, such as ash or grit, which is usually deposited fairly quickly near to its place of origin.

(2) Fine solid matter, such as smoke, which remains suspended in the air for a relatively long time.

(3) Gases, such as sulphur dioxide, emitted from domestic or industrial chimneys, engines, etc.

A very simple method of measurement for (1) is described. A fairly simple method for (2) is also given. For (3) there is no simple method available for rapid measurement, although a survey can be made over

a period of a few months, and reference is given to a full description of the now well established Lead Peroxide method for measuring sulphur dioxide concentration.

This note should be of interest to all town planners, and will be of direct help to those carrying out surveys.

1692

## Siting Factory-made Houses

**SITING THE FACTORY-MADE HOUSE.** Tom Mellor (*Architects' Journal*, August 3, 1944, pp. 81-84). Dangers of uncontrolled prefabrication. Call for control of design and siting of factory-made houses by architects and planners. Functional and aesthetic requirements of siting. Illustrated suggestions for layout of Portal houses.

1693

## Siting Portal Houses

**SITING THE PORTAL HOUSE.** Walter Segal. (*Building*, September, 1944.) Straight row siting is banal and means frontages of 30 to 40 ft., according to which side faces road. Suggestions for grouped siting, which is pleasanter, and can reduce road frontage.

In all the lay-outs suggested siting is at twelve houses to the acre. Three of the schemes are reproduced on this page. The spacing of houses, plot size, garden arrangement and length of street is tabulated below:—

Space between Houses.	Sizes of Plots.		Common Garden.	Length of Street per house
	ft.	ft. in.		
8-9 ft.	30 by	110 0	No	ft. in. 30 0
12 ft. 8 in.	45 by	51 3	Yes	22 6
7 ft. 8 in.	61 by	40 0	Yes	14 0

1694

## Surveys

**TWO-DAY STUDY OF A VILLAGE.** Architectural Association School. (*Architectural Association Journal*, July-August, 1944.) Study organized in conjunction with course of town planning lectures to illustrate principles of town planning surveys.

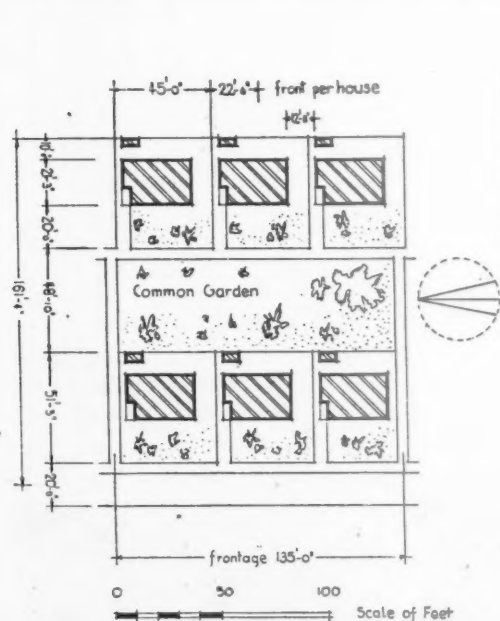
One day is spent on site-work, the second on the preparation of reports and explanatory maps. The students work in groups, each group studying a particular aspect of the community: shopping facilities, social services, physical services, and an architectural and historical survey.

# STRUCTURE

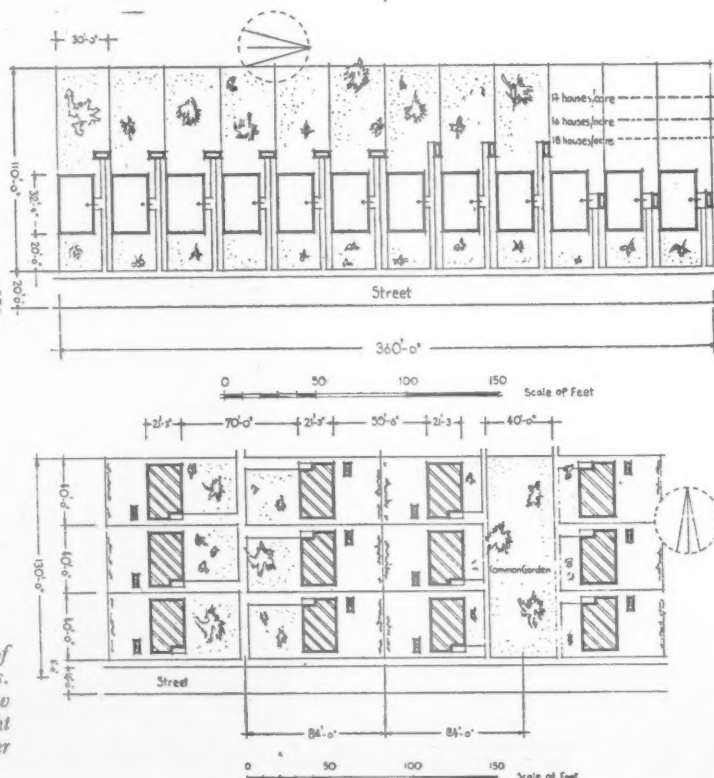
1695

## Progress Charts

**PROGRAMME AND PROGRESS.** A Pamphlet dealing with the Preparation of Charts for Civil Engineering and



Suggested lay-outs for the Portal House at a density of 12 to the acre. Above, lay-out with communal gardens. Top right, usual method of sideways lay-out of narrow frontage type. Bottom right, lay-out of rows at right angles to street with common garden on right; larger individual plots on left. See No. 1693.



## FACTS ABOUT GLASS FOR ARCHITECTURAL STUDENTS

## SPECIFICATION FOR GLASS IN A LARGE STORE (1)

(The numbers in brackets correspond to the key numbers in the drawing.)

**ROOF CAFÉ:** *Roof (1):* Reinforced concrete with Rough Cast Domes.

*Windows (2):*  $\frac{1}{4}$ " Polished Plate Glass from floor to transom.

*Balustrade (3):* Georgian Wired Cast Glass.

**EXTERIOR GLAZING:** *(4):*  $\frac{1}{4}$ " Figured Rolled Glass for light diffusion and privacy, and  $\frac{1}{4}$ " Polished Plate Glass for windows where clear vision is desired.

**ESCALATOR HALL:** *Side panels to escalators (5):* Georgian Wired Cast Glass with white acid line treatment.

*Panel Walls (6):* Insulight hollow Glass Bricks set in concrete mullions.

**GROUND FLOOR CAFÉ:** *Roof (7):* Concrete with  $\frac{7}{8}$ " "ARMOURLIGHT" Toughened Lenses.

**BEAUTY PARLOUR IN BASEMENT:** *Walls (8):* "VITROLITE" with pink mirror insets.

**VESTIBULE:** *Walls (9):* "VITROLITE" in ashlar sizes,  $14" \times 21"$ .

**SHOP FRONT:** *Clerestory lighting (10):* Above canopy to display. Prismatic Glass.

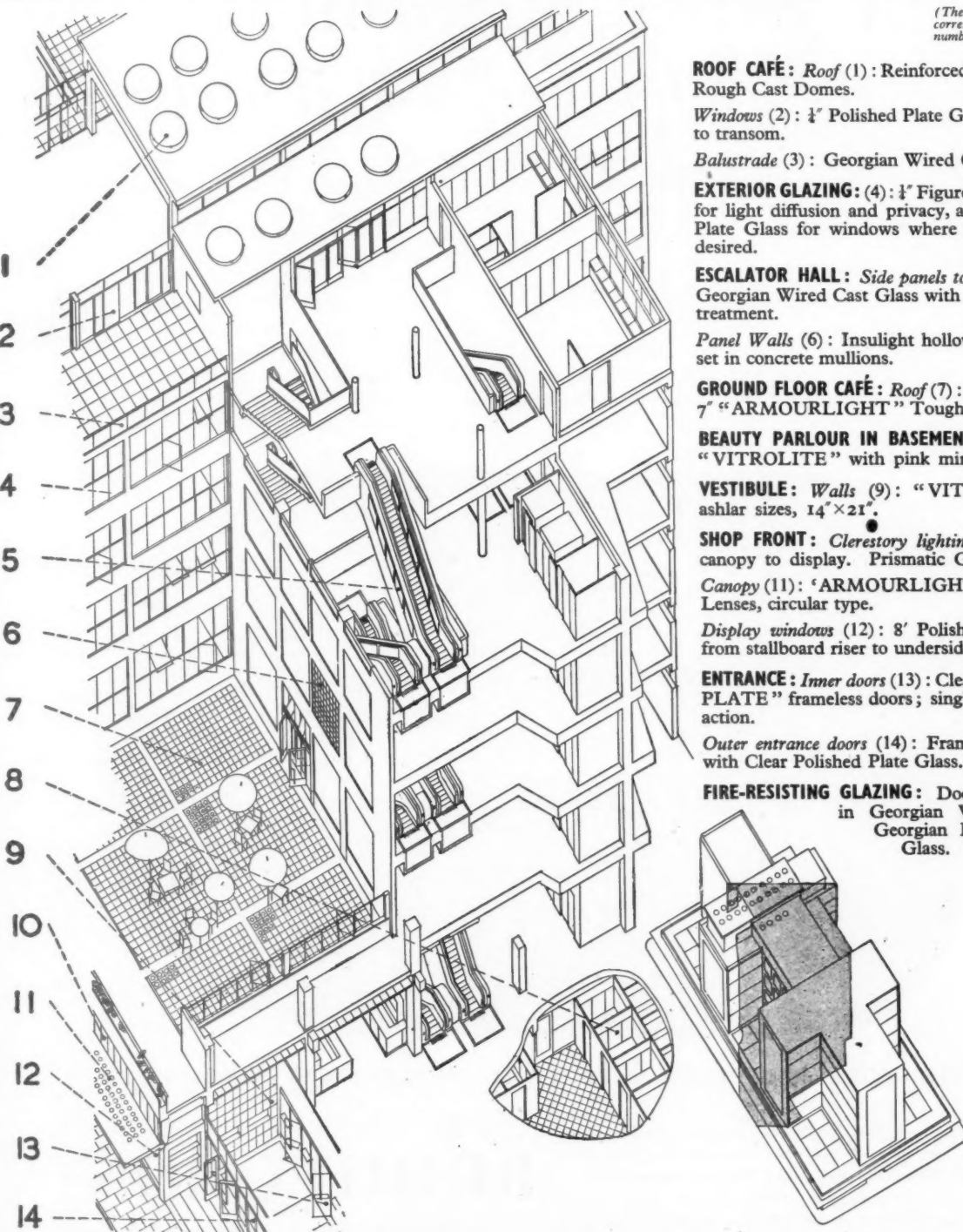
*Canopy (11):* "ARMOURLIGHT" Toughened Lenses, circular type.

*Display windows (12):* 8' Polished Plate Glass from stallboard riser to underside of canopy.

**ENTRANCE:** *Inner doors (13):* Clear "ARMOUR-PLATE" frameless doors; single doors, double action.

*Outer entrance doors (14):* Framed, and glazed with Clear Polished Plate Glass.

**FIRE-RESISTING GLAZING:** Doors or windows in Georgian Wired Cast or Georgian Polished Wired Glass.



This is published by Pilkington Brothers Limited of St. Helens, Lancashire, whose Technical Department is always available for consultation regarding the properties and uses of glass in architecture.

LONDON OFFICE & SHOWROOMS AT 63 PICCADILLY, W.1 . TELEPHONE: REGENT 4281

where architectural students may get advice and information on all questions relating to the properties of glass and its use in building.

"ARMOURLIGHT," "ARMOURPLATE" and "VITROLITE" are the registered trade marks of Pilkington Brothers Limited.



# A Brave Send-off...

## *but how will it arrive?*



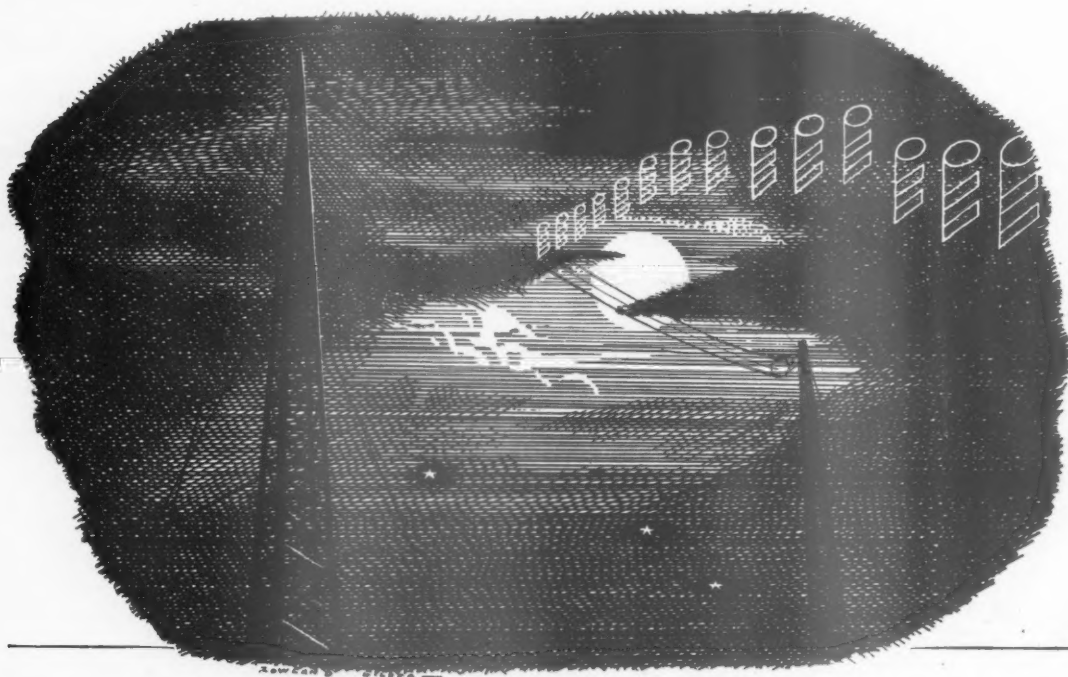
When the broadcast programme leaves the microphone it is a virtually perfect translation of sound waves into electrical impulses: an "engineer's job."

And what then?

From the transmitter onwards the wireless waves begin their adventurous journey. During that Odyssey much may happen. Too often they arrive like a spent and breathless messenger. How many listeners ever really *hear* the programme as true to tone as when it left the Studio?

Rediffusion listeners do. Rediffusion provides direct wire connection with the B.B.C. and receives the world's broadcasts by specially designed reception stations manned by their own radio engineers. Programmes reproduced in the home have the same quality that they had at the outset. Rediffusion cuts out the hazards of their journey to the listener's loudspeaker.

Broadcasts are turned on or off at will from a wall switch—it's as simple as that and as certain. It means reception without the receiver and without the worries. All the worries are dealt with *before* they can reach the listener.



PRIVATE WIRE RECEPTION SEES EVERY PROGRAMME THROUGH...

In all areas wired for Rediffusion the service is available for private housing, public buildings, schools, factories, hospitals, civic institutions and open spaces. Full information will be gladly given in response to enquiries addressed to the headquarters of Rediffusion at the address at the foot of this page.



**Building Contracts.** (HMSO, 9d.) Clear and simple explanation of preparation and use of programme and progress charts with illustrations of typical examples.

Probably nothing affects the speed and economy of a job so much as smooth progress from drawing office to completion. As a generalization this is probably well recognized but, in spite of this, good planning to achieve this result is too often missing. The pamphlet issued by MOW explains the method of preparing and using such charts to the best advantage and gives some very useful advice. It deals with simple charts for programme and progress, and then elaborates to include for quantity of work and then further to bring in labour, plant, preparation of drawings, quantities and placing of contracts. Figure 3 is a simple example of programme and progress. Figure 6 shows programme and progress with a time line added and quantities included. Figure 10 is a combined chart giving full information. It is pointed out that a chart such as shown in Figure 10 is only a master chart, and that for the sake of reasonable simplicity much detail has to be omitted. More detailed charts for each part of the work are required in addition, and if these are kept simple they can be of value not only to foremen but generally in stimulating interest and activity.

## HEATING and Ventilation

1696

Ceramic Heaters

**PITTSBURGH HOUSING AUTHORITY DESIGNS AND INSTALLS 296 CERAMIC HEATERS IN BROADHEATH MANOR.** *M. Rosenauer (New Pencil Points, June, 1944, p. 85.)* Article on the coal-fired ceramic stove for heating 2-roomed house. History of the ceramic tile heater.

The article describes a coal-fired ceramic stove, designed for heating a 2-bedroom house in America. The construction is illustrated on this page. Heating is effected by radiation and convection from the ceramic tile surfaces of the stove and the flue: no ducts are used. Test results are given.

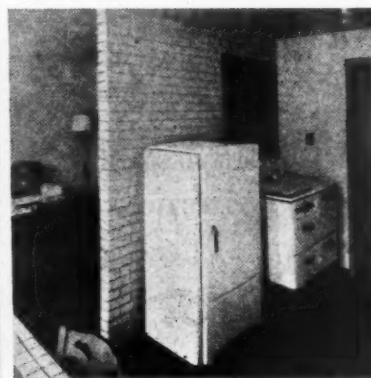
1697

Domestic Heating

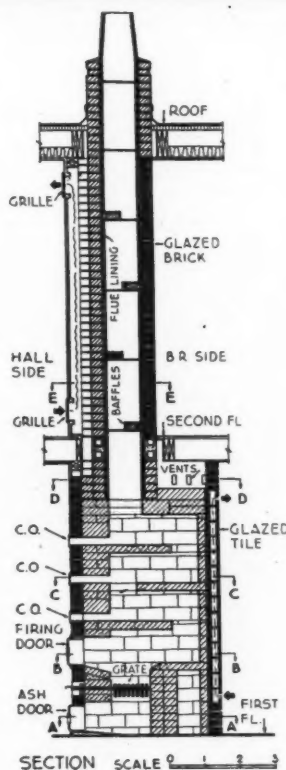
**HEATING, COOKING AND HOT WATER SUPPLIES FOR THE HOUSE.** (Report of the Women's Advisory Committee on Solid Fuel.) General discussion of problem with recommendations intended to lead to economy in fuel and labour.

This Report follows the lines of development which have become reasonably well defined in the last year or so. Emphasis is laid on the need for economy in labour as well as fuel. Background warming throughout the house is advocated. Built-in ranges are considered less suitable than free standing types. The need for higher quality apparatus is stressed, and the extra initial cost justified by saving in running costs. Attention is drawn to the need for reduction in atmospheric pollution.

The weakness of the report is in the nature of the Committee's terms of reference, which really limit the report to a consideration of solid fuel appliances, whereas



The Broadheath Manor ceramic heater. Top left, view from living room. Top right, from dining space. Left, section. See No. 1696.



the problems should in fact be considered so far as possible without bias towards any particular type of fuel. Within this limitation the report serves a useful purpose in giving the views of a private committee on this all-important question.

1698

Industrial Ventilation

**INDUSTRIAL EXHAUST VENTILATION IN INDUSTRIAL HYGIENE.** *A. D. Brandt. (Heating, Piping and Air Conditioning, July, 1944, p. 428.)* Possible methods of removing air pollutants (such as powdered products and industrial solvents) from air of workrooms.

The author considers that where the pollution arises from scattered sources, or is only small in quantity, general ventilation of the room offers the best solution. On the other hand, where the source of contamination gives rise to large quantities, or where the nature of the contaminating substance is such as to be highly dangerous even in small concentrations, local exhaust ventilation is recommended. The various types of local exhaust hoods are discussed.

## QUESTIONS and Answers

**THE Information Centre answers any question about architecture, building, or the professions and trades within the building industry. It does so free of charge, and its help is available to any member of the industry. Answers are sent direct to enquirers as soon as they have been prepared. The service is confidential, and in no case is the identity of an enquirer disclosed to a third party. Questions should be sent to: THE ARCHITECTS' JOURNAL, 45, The Avenue, Cheam, Surrey.**

1699

Builder's Business

**Q** 1. After the war I intend to start up in business as a Joiner and Building Contractor; must I register now? If so, to whom do I apply?

Can you supply me with a list of books dealing with Jobbing Builders Estimating and Costs and a reliable system of office routine?

**A** 1. We quote extracts from a reply to questions, made by the Ministry of Works, as published in *The Builder* for September 3, 1943:

"The registration of builders was carried out in September, 1941, under Defence Regulation 56 A.B. as a war-time measure. . . . Since that time it has been the policy of the Department not to register any new firms or individuals that were not operating as building firms or principals prior to October 1, 1941. . . . Any firm or individual not registered, which carries out any building or civil engineering work in the course of an undertaking carried on by them is acting illegally."

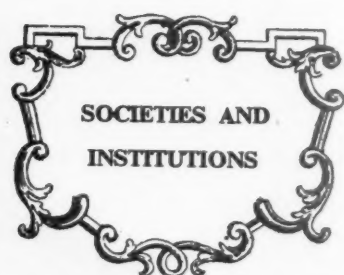
"The possibility of continuance of registration after the war has been referred to in the Government White Paper on Training for the Building Industry in the following terms:—The Government would . . . and if requested would consider favourably the continuance at least during the immediate post-war period of the present statutory provisions controlling registered building and civil engineering undertakings. . . ."

2. We suggest the following books on estimating and office routine:—*Estimating*, by J. T. Rea. Published by Batsford.

*Builders' Estimates and Pricing Data*, by H. A. Macken. Published by Chapman and Hall.

*Estimating*, by B. Price Davies. Published by the Building Estimator Publications, Western Mail Office, St. Mary Street, Cardiff.

*Office Organization and Management*, by Dicksee and Blain. Published by Pitman.



*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.*

## TCPA

### Herbert Read

November 2, at 2, Savoy Hill, W.C.2. Lunch-time meeting of the Town and Country Planning Association. Talk on DECENTRALIZATION OF ART, by Dr. Herbert Read. Chairman: F. J. Osborn.

**H. Read:** Among the forces making for social integration, art, in my opinion, is supreme. If we recognize the re-vitalization of our whole mode of living as the real problem, we need not quarrel about the priority or supreme importance, of one sphere or another. It is the life itself that is to be renewed, and all manifestations of this life, spiritual or material, will take on new form and colour. If we keep this statement of fact—for it is simply a fact, biological rather than merely historical—if we keep this fact clearly before us, we shall find that it will considerably modify our approach to the problems covered by the phrase—the decentralization of the arts.

The attempts so far made, with State aid and under official direction to decentralize the arts, proceed on the principle of diffusion. They accept, as a bounty, the concentration of artists and works of art in metropolitan centres, and they aim to give from this bounty such crumbs as the starving provinces are content to receive. As an expedient, directed to the desperate state of aesthetic devitalization which exists in the provinces, the policy of a body like the Council for the Encouragement of Music and the Arts may be accepted. The starving towns and villages of England

should be grateful for the crumbs and even substantial crusts, that CEMA has thrown to them. But what these towns and villages require is that they should be enabled to earn the bread of art by the labour of their own hands. The people who live in our towns and villages should be artists in their own right, and not merely passive receivers, or even active appreciators, of a metropolitan culture. To ensure decentralization of art in this sense, something far more drastic than a policy of diffusion is necessary.

For one reason or another the centralization of the arts in a city like London or Paris creates an ambience or an atmosphere which exercises an irresistible attraction on the young artist or poet. Who among us, blessed or it may be cursed with creative aspirations but born in the provinces, does not remember a sick and desperate yearning to get to "the centre of things"? Here in London, we imagined, was the only arena in which we could gain fame, the only gladiators against whom we could measure our own skill. This state of mind may well be an illusion. In a metropolis we may, indeed, sharpen our wits and polish our manners, but we may lose more than our innocence. Before I explain what I mean I would like to glance at a few artists who by exception matured their genius away from metropolitan centres of culture and who yet, by general consent, were great artists. I will keep to the nineteenth century, which is far away enough to ensure objectivity and yet near enough to exhibit all the features of centralization.

In drama there is the outstanding figure of Ibsen. He had no equal in the nineteenth century. Ibsen's genius was matured in one of the smallest and poorest countries of Europe, and even then not in its capital city, but in the provincial town of Bergen.

In painting, I would ask you to consider the case of Cézanne. Cézanne was never drawn into the centralized intellectual life of Paris. He was born and remained a provincial. I might quote many other instances of geniuses who have matured in complete isolation—a particularly interesting example is Emily Brontë. But I do not wish to give the impression that I am defending what is called *provincialism*. A great artist is always universal and transcends the petty limitations of his immediate circle. He may still speak with a provincial accent, but he speaks with the gods. The examples quoted show there is no necessary connection between great art and metropolitan centralization.

We are dealing with a sociological issue, namely, whether art in general is best fostered by a centralized and metropolitan culture, or whether it grows deeper and stronger roots in a regional soil. Historically, the answer is clear: the greatest artists have arisen in an overwhelming majority in situations or under social conditions which we should now consider regional. The two greatest epochs of art—Greek art and Gothic art—drew their vitality from confined and relatively isolated localities. Sociologically, centralization spells devitalization, and that devitalization of the material forces of a country means a devitalization of spiritual forces. No one would look for a vigorous school of architecture in the depopulated Highlands, nor expect a great dramatist to be born in the American Dust Bowl. But the provincial reality is not such extremes: it is rather thriving cities like Liverpool and Birmingham, Middlesbrough and Leeds. Why are these cities, culturally speaking, no better than the dust bowl or the Sahara? Why is no Ibsen born in Hull? There is a Bridie from Glasgow and all honour to him, but Glasgow does not support him: his fortune must be made in the West End. The failure of cities like Glasgow and Liverpool, Birmingham and Manchester, to

support their own dramatists is not primarily economic: there is plenty of money in such places, but it is spent on entertainment, not on art. These cities fill their Odeons and Majestics to overflowing; their citizens flock to mass spectacles like Football Finals and Greyhound Racing; they give less certain support to the touring companies which bring them secondhand drama from London. But they have no indigenous art, no creative spontaneity of any kind. Art languishes in mouldy art galleries and empty echoing museums, to the smell of mothballs and floor polish. The only mummies that preside in such places are the mummies, and they have been dead these five thousand years.

Vitality will only return with a revolution which humanizes industry at the same time as it disperses industry: which has given the worker responsibility for the work he does and a deep satisfaction in the place of his work, so that when his work is done, he does not seek to escape from that place, but stays there in joy and pride. The modern proletariat has no roots: it is Mobile Labour drifting like cattle over the land, seeking nourishment where it may be found. But art is born in stillness, in contemplation, at rest: it is the still pool that reflects its environment, not the running stream. The first thing to construct, therefore, is a centre of stability, an anchor in this restless flood of industry. Such centres will be a natural expression of the new society we imagine and work for—as natural as the church was the centre of mediæval art. If it is argued that we cannot anticipate the spontaneous evolution of such centres and must work first for the social revolution, I for one shall not press the case for partial and unco-ordinated action in this sphere of art. But an attitude of ever attending on the revolution that is to come is the best way of ensuring that it never will come. I believe rather, that we can and should take action on our isolated front. I believe, in short, that we should attempt, even now, to create active centres of art in the provinces.

The theatre is the best medium through which to effect the decentralization of the arts. It is an art which calls for the living human co-operation of many persons within a community; not only for its acting or presentation, but for its appreciation and growth. We must have regional and local theatres, fed by local talent, appealing to local tastes. The dramatic instinct is latent in the people: it is the one art which has not been wholly destroyed by false education: it has not suffered the regimentation and pedagogic dehydration which painting and literature have suffered. The British Drama League and other institutions of the kind will bear witness to the wealth of local talent that even now exists in this branch of art. Establish, therefore, regional and local theatres, but on a basis, and with an equipment, which will enable them to become the agents of that wider process of revitalization which we recognize to be necessary. Let them have attached to them concert halls for music, studios for painters, film studios and projectors, exhibition galleries and workshops. Let the artists inhabit them, as active practitioners and exponents of their arts. Let the people come and go freely among these artists, as they did in the Middle Ages and in the Free Republics of the Renaissance. There should be no barriers between the people and the artists, for every man is potentially an artist, liable to be inspired by the sight of another artist working, in a way in which he never would be inspired by the divorced product of that work. Then I think the blood would slowly return to the exhausted arteries, the body of the nation would recover its vitality, and art would flourish once again in the land.



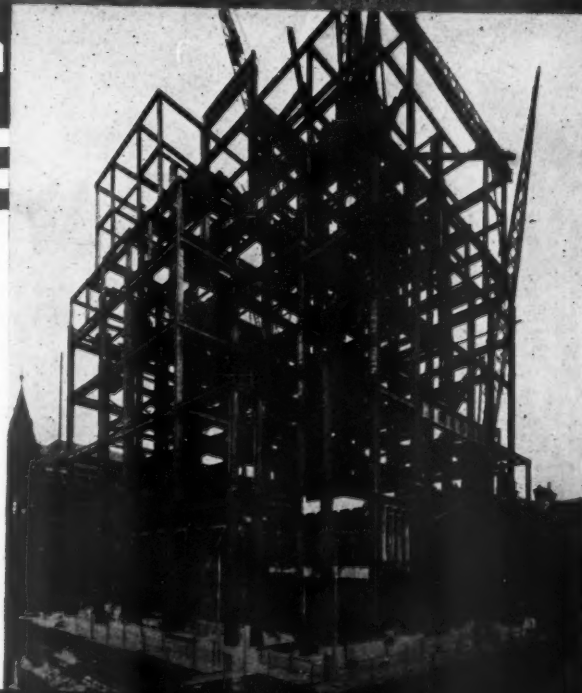
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## MOH

## Circular

A circular on HOUSING—EMPLOYMENT OF ARCHITECTS has been sent to all Housing Authorities and County Councils by the Assistant Secretary of the Ministry of Health. An extract is given below.

In order to assist Local Authorities the Royal Institute of British Architects is prepared on request to put Authorities in touch with Architects ready to undertake the preparation of lay-outs for sites required either for the provision of temporary bungalows or of permanent houses and of house plans required for permanent houses. Requests for the names of suitable architects should be addressed to the Honorary Secretaries of the Local Allied Societies in England and Wales whose names and addresses may be obtained direct from the Secretary to the Royal Institute of British Architects at 66, Portland Place, London, W.1.

## RIBA

## Education

The following Memorandum on EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES FOR STUDENTS OF ARCHITECTURE RETURNING FROM NATIONAL SERVICE has been issued by Everard Haynes, Secretary to the Board of Architectural Education of the RIBA.

Facilities for full-time training in architecture exist at the following Schools of Architecture which are recognized for exemption from the Intermediate Examination or the Intermediate and Final Examinations of the Royal Institute of British Architects:—The Aberdeen School of Architecture, Robert Gordon's Technical College, Aberdeen; The Birmingham School of Architecture, The College of Arts and Crafts, Margaret Street, Birmingham, 3; The RWA School of Architecture, 25, Great George Street, Park Street, Bristol, 1; The School of Architecture, University of Cambridge, 1, 2 & 3, Scroope Terrace, Cambridge; The Welsh School of Architecture, The Technical College, Cardiff; The School of Architecture, The College of Art, Dundee; The School of Architecture, Edinburgh College of Art, Lauriston Place, Edinburgh, 3; The Glasgow School of Architecture, The Royal Technical College, George Street, Glasgow, C.1; The School of Architecture, Hull College of Art and Crafts, Anlaby Road, Hull; The Leeds School of Architecture, Woodhouse Lane, Leeds, 2; The School of Architecture, The College of Art, Leicester; The Liverpool School of Architecture, University of Liverpool, Liverpool, 7; The School of Architecture, The Architectural Association, 34-36, Bedford Square, London, W.C.1 (wartime address: The Mount House, Hadley Common, Herts); The Bartlett School of Architecture, University of London, University College, Gower Street, London, W.C.1 (wartime address: at St. Catharine's College, Cambridge); The School of Architecture, The Polytechnic, Regent Street, London, W.1; The Department of Architecture, The Northern Polytechnic, Holloway, London, N.7; The School of Architecture, University of Manchester, 244, Oxford Road, Manchester, 13; The School of Architecture, King's College (University of Durham), Newcastle-upon-Tyne, 2; The School of Architecture, The College of Art, Waverley Street, Nottingham; The School of Archi-

ture, Oxford School of Art & Crafts, Church Street, St. Ebbe's, Oxford; The School of Architecture, Southern College of Art, Portsmouth Centre (war-time address: at the School of Art, Winchester); The Department of Architecture, The University, Sheffield, 10; The School of Architecture, The Municipal College, Southend-on-Sea.

All students are advised whenever possible either to take a full-time course at a Recognized School of Architecture with a view to qualifying for exemption from the RIBA examinations, or, if they have already been in attendance at a Recognized School of Architecture, to return there to complete their course.

The attention of students is drawn to the Government's Further Education and Training Scheme, particulars of which, and the necessary form of application, may be obtained direct from the Appointments Department of the Ministry of Labour and National Service, Sardinia Street, London, W.C.2.

If students cannot for any reason either attend or return to a Recognized School of Architecture to undertake or complete a course, but have to take the RIBA Intermediate Final, or Special Final Examinations externally, they should get into touch with the Headmaster of the nearest Recognized School of Architecture. The Headmaster of the Recognized School will give such students guidance and advice about the educational facilities available for part-time or evening study, either in his own School or in other institutions in the locality.

## CORRECTION

We regret that through a printer's error in Messrs. L. & C. Hardtmuth's advertisement in the ARCHITECTS' JOURNAL for October 26 (page xlv) the price of celluloid set squares, 8", 45°, was stated to be 2d. each. The correct price is, of course, 2s. 2d. each.



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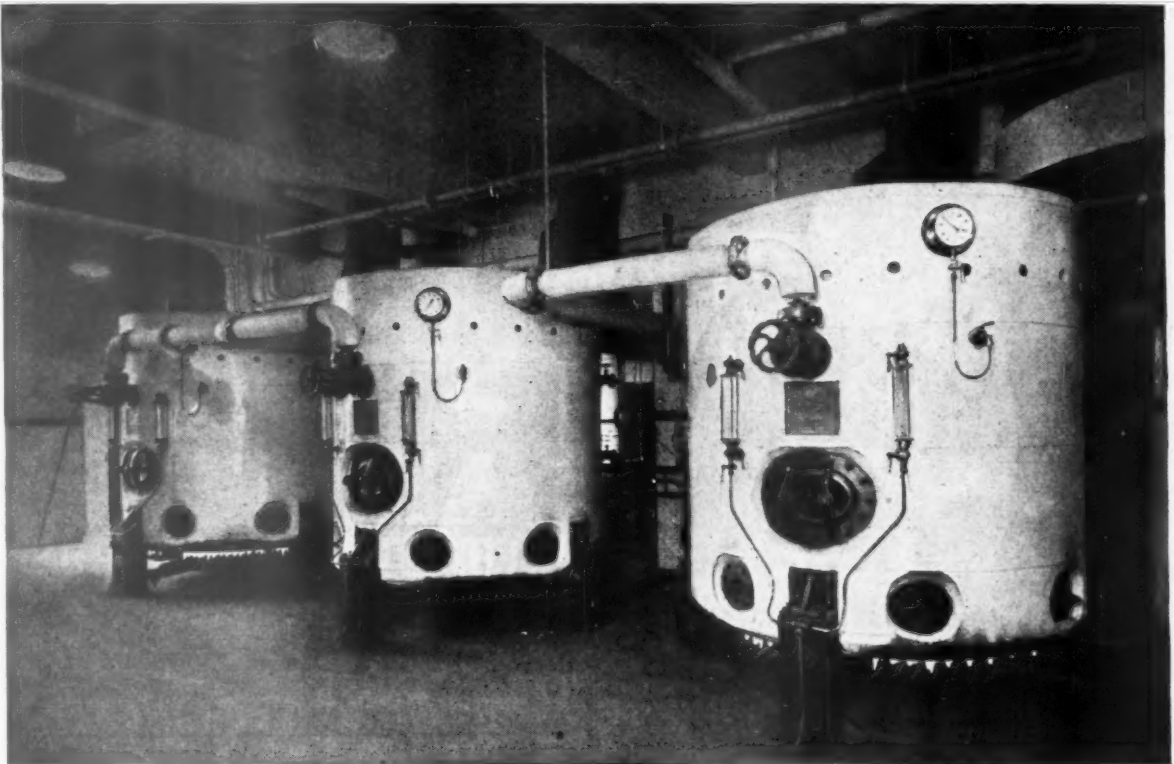
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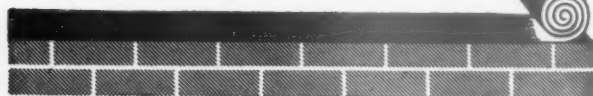
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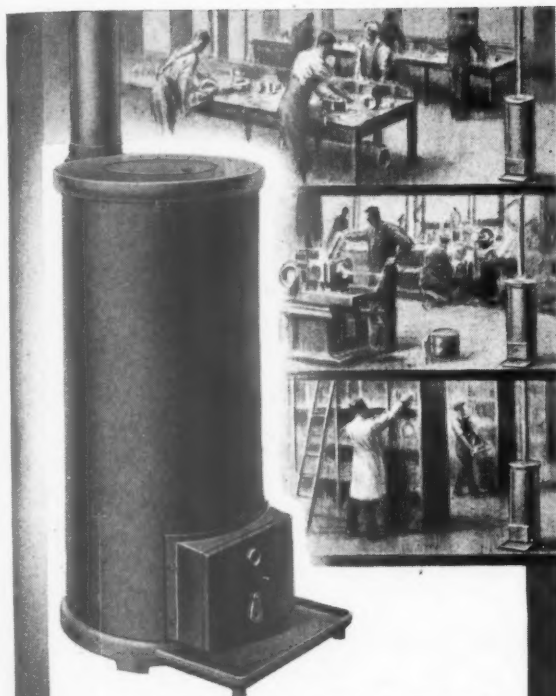
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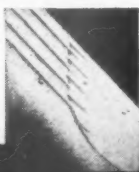
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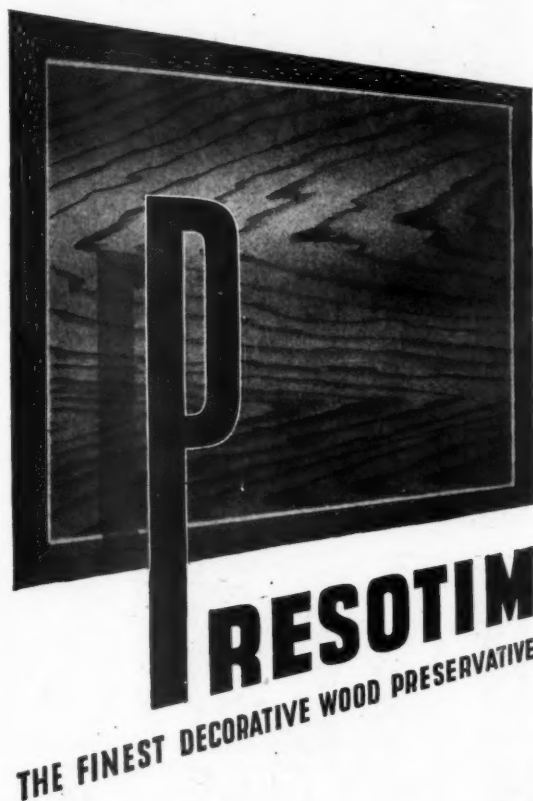
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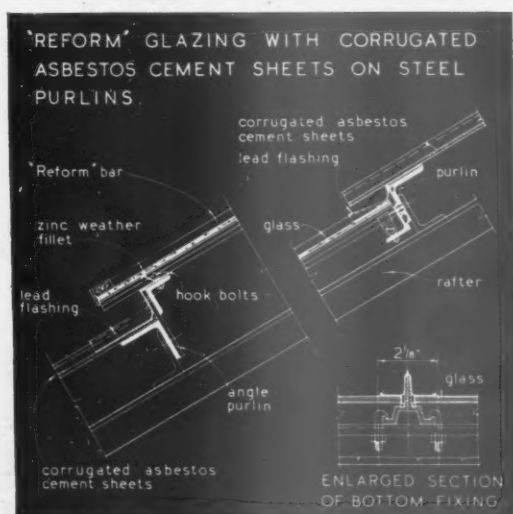


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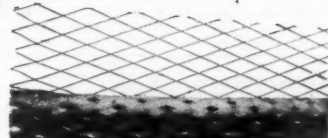
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Replies to Box Numbers should be addressed care of "The Architects' Journal." War Address: 45 The Avenue, Cheam, Surrey.

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Six lines or under, 8s.; each additional line, 1s. THE INCORPORATED ASSOCIATION OF ARCHITECTS AND SURVEYORS maintains a register of qualified architects and surveyors (including assistants) requiring posts, and invites applications from public authorities and private practitioners having staff vacancies. Address: 75 EATON PLACE, LONDON, S.W.1. TEL.: SLOANE 5615. 991

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Application forms may be obtained from the Principal, Twickenham Technical College, Egerton Road, Twickenham, by sending a stamped and addressed foolscap envelope, to whom completed forms must be returned not later than Monday, 11th December, 1944.

H. M. WALTON,  
Secretary to the Middlesex Education Committee.

887

## MINISTRY OF TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING.

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The duties consist of advising and giving guidance to Local Planning Authorities on all planning subjects, of co-ordinating the Regional activities of all Government Departments in this field, and of keeping the Minister informed of the local planning situation.

Candidates must possess a recognized architectural, engineering or surveying qualification, and must have had considerable practical experience on town and country planning work either in the employment of a Local Authority or in private practice. Membership of the Town Planning Institute is desirable, but consideration will be given to candidates who are not members of the Institute if they have had five years' actual experience of statutory planning work.

Successful candidates will be stationed in the Ministry's Regional Planning Offices, which are at present located in Newcastle-upon-Tyne, Leeds, Nottingham, Cambridge, Reading, Bristol, Cardiff, Birmingham, Manchester and Tunbridge Wells.

Applicants should write, quoting EA. 1144A, to the Ministry of Labour and National Service, Central (T. & S.) Register, Room 5/17, Sardinia Street, Kingsway, London, W.C.2, for the necessary forms, which should be returned completed on or before 12th December, 1944.

888

## COUNTY COUNCIL OF LANARK.

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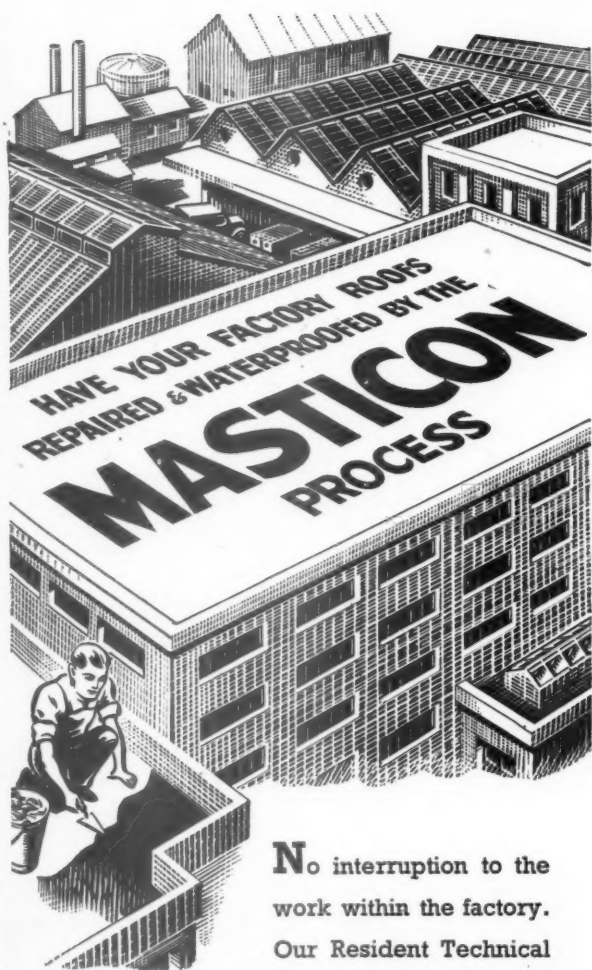
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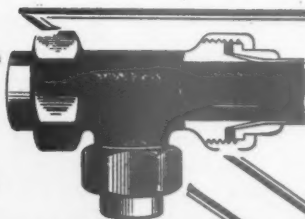
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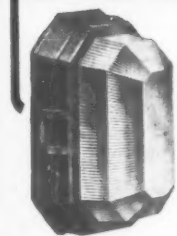
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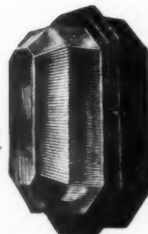
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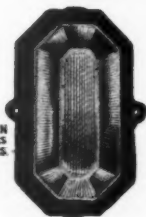
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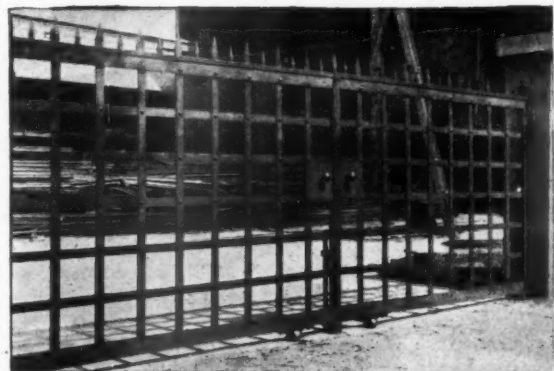
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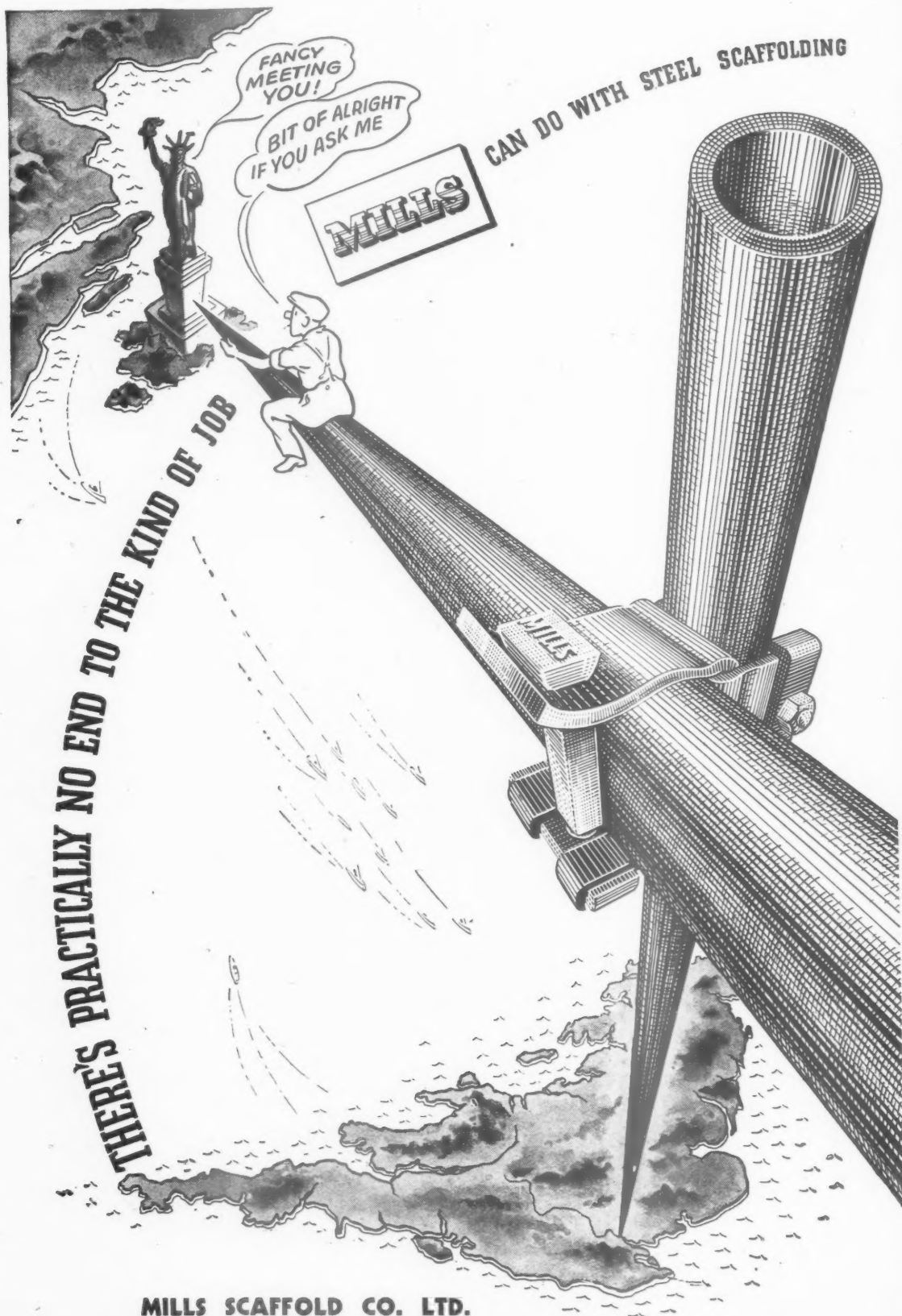


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