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SUMMARY:—

Competitions and the real Rights of the Promoters thereof.— Serious Alterations of the Philadelphia Public Buildings become necessary.— The Annual Report of the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine-Arts.— The Services which American Engineers have rendered to their Country.— Foreclosure Sale of the Detroit Chamber of Commerce Building.— Revival of the East River Tunnel Project in an extended Form.— *Deutsche Kunst und Dekoration*, a new German Periodical.— Our Italian Immigrants and their ways of Life.

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WE hope that the fragment of the discussion of the question of competitions published on another page will be read with the most careful consideration by architects everywhere. It is the best and fullest presentation of the "other side" that has appeared anywhere of recent date, and it exposes with careful deliberation the fatuity of the hope that this irritating and long-debated matter can ever be set at rest so long as architects resolutely insist on looking at the matter only from their own standpoint. If the great body of promoters consisted always of the same membership, as does the smaller body of architects, it would be comparatively easy for both bodies to come together and agree upon some equitable line of procedure that should assure fair dealing to the competing architects and a proper performance of such service to the promoter as he feels he has a right to demand. But the promoters are very numerous and of many kinds, of very differing degrees of education and great variety of moral fibre. In one particular only can they be given a common classification: they are the possessors of money, money which is synonymous with power the world over, money which there is no means of compelling them to part with save upon their own terms. Now to treat a class of men so really powerful in the cavalier fashion in which too many architects really believe is the only way in which they deserve to be treated is not only unbusiness-like but arrantly absurd. In every walk of business life the rights of the purchaser are paramount, and, except on those rare occasions when he can be taken at disadvantage, he cannot really be compelled to purchase against his will. Yet in too great a degree it seems to be the idea of many architects that promoters have no rights, that they are really always at a disadvantage, and that it is simplicity itself to compel them to expend their money if only codes and agreements declare that the money must be spent. The problem must be solved by the architects, who form a small class, the membership in which is practically unchanged from year to year, but it can never be solved until a fuller and fairer consideration of the real rights of the promoters has been had.

THE Philadelphia Public Building Commission has asked for an appropriation of two million dollars for the coming year, for maintenance, repair and alteration of a building which has been completed and occupied for several years. Of course, we do not question the necessity for the expenditure, of which the persons concerned are the best judges; but it will do no harm for municipalities less rich and generous than

Philadelphia to note how expensive a matter it may be to maintain a huge public building. Among other things, we find that the growth of the city business requires the conversion into offices of rooms now used for storage. This involves, it appears, "the change of at least fifty-two small, round windows into large, oblong ones, at a cost of one thousand dollars each"; besides the installation of an elevator in the tower, an electric-lighting plant, and some other features. Most architects will think fifty-two thousand dollars a tolerably liberal price for enlarging fifty-two windows, but it is impossible for outsiders to judge of all the circumstances.

THE reports of the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine-Arts have always a peculiar interest, as showing the conduct of an American institution of the kind, founded and carried on by the zeal of private individuals, in the modest, but energetic way most favorable for the development of art in this country. It is hard to realize that the Pennsylvania Academy has reached its ninetieth birthday, but it is quite as vigorous as it could have been in youth, and its ninety years of experience have only helped to give efficiency to its work. As our readers know, there is no place in the United States where so much public encouragement is given to artists and students, in proportion to the resources available for such encouragement, as Philadelphia, and the Academy has been the judicious almoner of nearly all the prizes and scholarships founded by citizens for this purpose. Moreover, although the total income of the Academy, including that from trust funds, which must be devoted to specified purposes, is only about twenty thousand dollars a year, it manages not only to pay the prizes placed in its charge but to buy annually a few meritorious works for its collection, and, in addition, to lay up, in favorable years, a small addition to its surplus.

THE American Society of Civil Engineers, following the example of the English and French engineering societies, has erected in New York a permanent building, which was occupied for the first time November 24th. A reception was held in honor of the occasion, and the Society seems likely to draw fresh vigor and influence from its settlement in a worthy habitation. The non-professional speakers at the reception, Mr. Joseph H. Choate, of New York, and President Schurman, of Cornell University, called deserved attention to the services which engineering has rendered to this country. It is hardly too much to say that, without the engineers, the Republic would long ago have ceased to exist; for nothing but the amalgamation of the various communities of the United States by canals, railroads and telegraphs could have held them together through the century of the conflicts of interest and sectional disputes of all kinds, which are now, as we may hope, in process of being allayed forever. Another matter which might have been touched upon, had not modesty admonished the speakers, would have been the conspicuous excellence of American engineering works. A story is told in the *Engineering Record* about an English general in India. Having occasion to take his troops across a river, he summoned his engineer officer, and directed him to throw a light bridge across the stream with the least possible delay. The engineer promised that it should be done, and retired. Some hours passed, and the general sent for the officer, to inquire how the bridge was getting on. The engineer replied that he was still engaged in making the necessary calculations, but that they were well advanced, and he hoped to begin construction before long. The day wore on, and the general again summoned the engineer, who assured him that the calculations were almost finished, and retired. At that moment a native appeared, who saluted the general, and said, respectfully, that he understood that a bridge was needed, and that, if permission were given him, he would soon have one ready. The general reflected that, after all, there was no harm in having two bridges, and granted the desired permission. In a few minutes, a band of coolies was seen cutting bamboos at some distance up the stream and setting them afloat. Another set of men, standing in the water, caught the floating sticks, stuck them upright in the bed of the river, and cut them off at the requisite height. More bamboos were lashed to the uprights, both longitudinally and transversely, and a bamboo floor laid; and when the engineer

officer at last arrived, to report the completion of his calculations, he found a substantial bridge already in use. As compared with the engineers of other countries, the Americans have unquestionably distinguished themselves by a fertility of resource similar to that often displayed by half-civilized races; and many an engineering problem has been solved in some unprecedented way in this country while the learned of the profession abroad were demonstrating the impossibility of its solution. There is less difference now than formerly between American and foreign practice, but our engineers still lead in quickness of observation, and power of imagination in conceiving new combinations, and it is to be hoped that they may long maintain that preëminence.

THE Detroit Chamber of Commerce, a thirteen-story office-building, which is said to be well rented, was sold a few days ago, under foreclosure of the first mortgage. The purchasers were Messrs. W. H. and F. A. Winslow of Chicago, who hold a second mortgage on the property. Under the sale, they will assume the first mortgage, of three hundred and seventy-five thousand dollars, and pay arrears of interest and taxes, amounting to about sixty-three thousand dollars more. All holders of claims subsequent to the mortgages are cut off, as the corporation which erected the building has no other property; and among these unfortunate persons are said to be the architects, and some others who have furnished labor or materials.

THE project for carrying the Long Island Railroad into New York by means of a tunnel under the East River has been revived, in connection with a still more important scheme, which contemplates nothing less than the construction of a tunnel under Manhattan Island and the North River, as well as the East River, so that passengers and freight can be conveyed directly from New Jersey to Long Island, and *vice versa*, without coming to the surface in New York at all. It is proposed to set this tunnel at a great depth, from seventy-five to ninety feet below the surface, so that it will not interfere with any of the subways or tunnels in the city. The project is certainly a bold one, but it is not easy to see how it can benefit anybody in proportion to its cost. It is well known that the late Austin Corbin entertained an idea that it might be possible to form a great seaport at the eastern end of Long Island, connected with New York by railway, and it was seriously proposed to establish a line of steamers from this point to Milford Haven, in Wales. It is hardly necessary to say that this project was not realized; the steamship line was never established, and the Long Island Railroad has not yet accumulated surplus funds enough for carrying through such an undertaking, even if it should commend itself to judgments less enthusiastic than that of Mr. Corbin. If, however, it might be possible to persuade the owners of ocean steamers to load and unload them at a little fishing village, for the sake of giving a railroad company profitable employment in transporting them the rest of the way to and from the market, it is difficult to see what inducement could be offered to persuade shippers to send freight from the landing-place on a Long Island sandbank underground through New York, the principal market for foreign goods in the Western Hemisphere, to the much more restricted outlet of the Western cities. The promoters of the new scheme think that local business would come through the tunnel in each direction to New York, but, while the local business from Long Island might possibly pay interest, in time, on the cost of the East River tunnel, a new one under the North River would have to compete with the ferry lines, the new suspension bridge, and the earlier tunnel, which, it is said, is likely to be completed by its present owners.

THE publishing-house of Alexander Koch, of Darmstadt, Germany, announces a monthly periodical, under the name of *Deutsche Kunst und Dekoration*, which is to treat of the pure and applied arts as practised in Germany, Switzerland and the German-speaking portions of the Austrian Empire. No architect needs to be told that these countries furnish a greater variety of beautiful and interesting examples of work in wrought-iron, glass and carved-wood than perhaps all other parts of the world put together; yet, as the publishers' prospectus tells us, German work is little known or valued in Germany itself, and an effort to revive the national interest

in the subject by disseminating a knowledge of what has been done and is now being done in the arts for which Germany was once so famous can hardly fail of important results. The new magazine is to be abundantly illustrated, and a special interest is to be given to it by a series of competitions for designs for carpets, wall-papers, posters, leaded glazing, and furniture of various kinds. The subscription price for foreign countries is twenty-two marks a year, but subscriptions are received at the same rate for three or six months. Judging from the prospectus, and from the specimen illustrations accompanying it, the new journal promises to be a peculiarly interesting and valuable addition to the periodical literature of its subject.

THE November *Bulletin* of the United States Department of Labor contains, as usual, a remarkable amount of interesting and valuable matter. The first article treats of the Italians in Chicago, and contains some curious statistics. There are probably ten thousand Italians in Chicago, and the agent of the Commission visited more than thirteen hundred families, containing nearly seven thousand persons; so that his information is probably correct, in the main, for the Italians in the country at large. It seems that the immigration to America is mainly from Southern Italy, about one-half coming from Campania and the Basilicate, while Sicily, Calabria and the Abruzzi furnish nearly all the rest. It is not surprising that provinces which have been renowned for two thousand years for the half-savage character of their inhabitants do not furnish an extremely polished or intelligent class of citizens to Chicago and Boston; and the solicitude of the Commission's agent, who seems to know by experience the pains of dyspepsia, over the lack of hygienic knowledge among people whose fathers and grandfathers were little removed from brigands, is rather amusing. Although the Italian immigrants are ignorant and undeveloped, they show, according to the statistics, a surprising capacity for improvement, and, a generation or two hence, it is probable that they will form an influential part of the composite race which is rapidly displacing the Anglo-Saxons in America. The life of new settlers in a strange land gives, probably, some notion of the ideal of existence which prevails among them, but which they could not realize at home; and it is curious to find that the women, who, in Italy, earn a large part of the subsistence of the family, are, in America, to a great extent released from the hard necessity of working among strangers for bread, so that, among the Italians in this country, a remarkably small proportion of the women are engaged in what the statisticians call "gainful occupations," as contrasted with the less gainful, but more congenial feminine employments of keeping house in their little tenements and looking after the children. Another noticeable characteristic of the American Italians, particularly of the men, is their fondness for good living, of which, considering that their wages are only those of the lowest and most ignorant laborers, of inferior bodily as well as mental development, they manage to secure a surprising amount. A list is given of typical bills of fare for sewer-diggers and day-laborers, both married and single. Sewer-digger Number One, married, reports that he has beef-steak for breakfast three times a week, and again for lunch on the same days, eating half a pound for his breakfast, and another half-pound for lunch. The other three working-days he has red peppers, fried, in place of beefsteak, at these meals. For supper he has macaroni and beans, or beefsteak and fried potatoes. With each meal he has bread, and he washes down his breakfast and supper with beer, to the value of five cents on each occasion. What his *carte* for Sunday is does not appear, as the statistician made no inquiries in regard to this day in any case. In nearly every case, the sewer-diggers and laborers had beef or pork chops and beer at least once a day, and often twice, or even three times, the only exception noted being in the case of a young man of twenty-three, who drank no beer, and ate meat regularly only once a day, choosing ham or sausage for his lunch, and indulging in beefsteak only occasionally for supper. Although nearly all the food is fried in lard, and is thus much less commendable than the "oatmeal and other prepared cereals" which the statistician regrets to find that the Italians have no taste for, it is likely to do something toward the physical development of a race which has starved for generations at home on macaroni and "*polenta*," and dietetic wisdom may come with the habit of well-filled stomachs.

COMPETITIONS.¹—VII.

ARCHITECTS' AGREEMENTS.

WE have now reviewed the chief questions concerning competitions as illustrated and explained in the rules and suggestions governing them put forth by our more important societies. A considerable variety in the points-of-view has been shown; yet, after all, most of these differences are differences of detail, differences of expression, rather than radical differences fundamentally affecting principles involved. Some societies go more into detail than others; some, apparently, have not fully comprehended the position to which their own rules have carried them; others have omitted certain features as immaterial, or as too obvious to call for mention. But all are alike in this, though none of them specifically refer to it, that competitions should be fair, honest, straightforward and above board. However imperfect any series of rules may be, that, at least, is the fundamental object of them all.

And, as is natural, they are chiefly concerned with the interests of the architects, having been prepared by architects for their own protection. Yet it may be questioned if the real end and aim of these documents will ever be obtained until the architects recognize that the promoters have rights of their own. A long and bitter experience with unsatisfactory conditions has created a sense of resentment towards promoters. Architects feel that they may well look at them with suspicion. And the evil is not mitigated because the architects have been willing victims, because they have entered competitions of their own volition, and been "done" through their own voluntary acts. But because the rights of architects have been trampled upon by indifferent promoters is no reason why architects, in retaliation, should rise in their might and trample on the privileges of promoters.

They do not do so in fact; yet a comparison of the rules and suggestions of the different societies leaves an impression on the mind that the architects are the only ones to be considered in a competition, or at least the chief ones. The position they take is very much this: the promoters must have an architect as an adviser in the first place, who will arrange the competition for him and serve as a medium of communication between all interested parties; a jury of architects shall examine the designs and make the award, and the design awarded the first place by this jury shall win for its author the commission for the work; the promoter must sign the programme or make himself responsible for it, and he must agree to leave everything in the hands of his adviser and the jury.

Is it quite right that this should be so? Is it good business for a man to turn over a matter that will involve him in the expenditure of large sums of money wholly to other people in no way interested in such expenditure? Would an architect confide an important piece of work to one of his assistants without keeping a constant check on it and on him too? This, I take it, is very much the position of the promoter when he is asked to hand over everything to the architects. The case may be paralleled by the client who blindly follows all his architect's suggestions and has no mind of his own—an ideal client that scarcely exists in theory. I am not arguing for the promoter—let us have as little of him as we can—but I wish to bring forward the question, Is he being treated quite fairly? Are not the architects, in their rules, suggestions and agreements, looking a little too closely after themselves, and allowing scarcely sufficient freedom of action to the promoter? He may have all the liberty he deserves, but is he being treated fairly? Is it wise to push him into the background and usurp all the privileges for the architects?

The rules, suggestions and codes of the various societies that have been considered in these papers constitute an expression of professional opinion on the conduct of competitions. Without any exception whatever, they are wholly wanting in power of enforcement. Not one of them even so much as hints as to how it is to be carried out to the letter, or, indeed, in any particular. We are told there should be an adviser, that the programme should contain this and that, that the conditions should be stated in such and such a way, that judgment should be rendered by a jury obtained after a particular fashion, that the first prize should be the commission, and various other important matters. These are all things that should be, not things that must be. They are things that are desirable, advisable, beneficial to the promoter and competitor alike; not things that must be done. It is true enough that the constant expression of an opinion as to what should be will often help most materially to bring it to realization; but it is a slow and cumbersome process. Yet it is as far as the societies have progressed, and until they get farther they cannot hope to accomplish all they have set out to do.

That the promoter cannot be held is sufficiently obvious, and if testimony were needed to that end the recent programmes of notable competitions would sufficiently establish that fact. And, strangely enough, the architect cannot be held either. There is nothing to prevent any one from calling himself an architect, since an architect achieves material success—which seems to be the criterion of his performances—by his ability to obtain jobs. There is no end to the inefficient architects engaged in large and presumably lucrative practice, who, on artistic grounds, have not rightfully the smallest privileges in this noble profession. If men who have the interests of their pro-

fession at heart—and there are many such—refuse to enter competitions which do not appear to them to be properly managed, many less conscientious, less capable men are ready and willing to rush in and do their best—or their worst—to win the commission.

Or it is not a mere case of supposition to suggest that men of good standing will take into consideration the absence of their peers from a competition, and take their chances of being the only really available competitor. And what, as a matter of fact, is to prevent any architect from entering any competition he chooses, be the conditions good or bad? How is a member of the American Institute of Architects to be punished for taking part in competitions that openly and wantonly violate the rules put forth by that body? How is a member of any society to be punished for supporting violations of the suggestions and codes of his own organization? Granted that expulsion will follow, what then? Was not Paris worth a mass? Is not expulsion from any architectural society on the globe worth a fee of \$50,000? Verily, men must live, and membership in architectural societies has not yet put bread into the mouths of architects, or certainly provided any of those side-dishes that help to make life agreeable. And so societies may issue rules and codes, they may make all the suggestions in the world, but unless they establish some means of enforcing their regulations, not alone among the promoters but especially among the architects, their fulminations will amount to nothing at all, and everything be at the starting-point.

The Society of Beaux-Arts Architects is especially weak in this respect. It may be useful to repeat its dictum under this head. "Competitions for public buildings," says its code, "or semi-public buildings erected by private means for the use and benefit of the public, such as important churches, hospitals, libraries or colleges, etc., can only be entered with the approval of this Society, if safeguarded by conditions which the Society deems essential to their fairness and success, and to the self-respect of the participants."

This does not forbid competitions at all, nor does it forbid the members of the Society from entering any sort of competition; it simply says that the Society cannot approve of certain competitions unless it does approve of them. The rule has absolutely nothing to do with the members or their relationship to their Society; and its conclusion is simply to refer the whole matter to the self-respect of the members. If the self-respect of the competitor is content, that, it would seem, is all that is necessary.

That architects have themselves recognized the difficulty is apparent from the agreements that have been made among them in connection with competitions. It has been felt, and rightly too, that mere rules were in themselves not enough; more was required; accordingly efforts have been made from time to time to establish formal agreements among architects that they would not, absolutely would not, enter competitions unless conducted in such and such a manner. Here is the "Agreement" issued by the Boston Society of Architects:—

"The undersigned architects agree not to enter any competitions except such as are arranged on one of the following plans:—

"First.—Competitions limited to a definite number of invited architects each of whom is adequately paid for his services.

"Second.—Open competitions in which a professional adviser is employed to draw up the conditions of competitions and assist in the award, and in which at least one-half of one per cent of the proposed cost of the work is divided among not less than five competitors, none of whom shall receive less than \$100 in any case, and in which the promoters of the competition agree to place the work, if carried out, in the hands of the architect selected under the terms of the competition at the usual rate of compensation.

"This agreement shall take effect when 75 per cent of the practising members of each of the following Chapters of the American Institute of Architects—Boston, Illinois, New York and Philadelphia—have signed."

There is a good deal to be commended in this agreement. In the first place, it is short, and, in the next, it is binding on its signers only when a certain percentum of the members of the American Institute of Architects in certain localities have signed it. In practice it has been found as yet impossible to obtain the necessary number of signatures, owing to the very considerable geographical extent of the territory proposed to be covered in its operation. Yet meanwhile, no one is bound by it, and the mere putting forth of such a document under such auspices has a moral force quite as great as a more elaborate system of rules or regulations.

Payment of the competitors is made a fundamental part of the agreement. Architects have grown weary of working for nothing, and, like other men of affairs, dependent on their own exertions for their living, are refusing to do so longer. The question of payment in competitions is now actively urged by all architects, and is one of the penalties promoters are called upon to pay for bad treatment in the past. The most formidable step taken in this direction has been made by the American Institute of Architects, which has inserted in its "Code to Govern Competitions" an elaborate schedule of fees arranged in an ascending scale for work costing from \$50,000 to \$5,000,000.

Each amount is equal to two and a half times the square root of the lowest cost, a method that may have grounds of equity so far as arithmetical progression is concerned, but which is certainly without direct connection with the question at issue.

It will be seen that the introduction of payment on such a basis as this at once, and completely, bars out open competitions, and

¹ Continued from No. 1143, page 65.

therefore the exposition of unknown genius, which has been advanced as a reason for holding competitions, instead of awarding the work outright to an architect for what he has accomplished, is quietly pushed into the background. Competitions become, then, not opportunities for the display of ability, or the discovery of unknown ability, but pure matters of business, as, indeed, they might be. Under the Code of the American Institute of Architects all competitions must be limited to invited architects, and the cost to the promoter is very heavy. A comparison with an actual instance will show the difference between the position of the promoters, who are meeting the cost of the competition, and that of the architects, who wish the cost to be borne by the promoters.

For work to cost from	\$10,000 and under	\$75,000	\$559.00
" " " " " "	75,000 " "	100,000	684.60
" " " " " "	100,000 " "	150,000	790.50
" " " " " "	150,000 " "	200,000	968.10
" " " " " "	200,000 " "	250,000	1,118.05
" " " " " "	250,000 " "	300,000	1,250.00
" " " " " "	300,000 " "	350,000	1,369.00
" " " " " "	350,000 " "	400,000	1,479.00
" " " " " "	400,000 " "	450,000	1,581.00
" " " " " "	450,000 " "	500,000	1,677.00
" " " " " "	500,000 " "	600,000	1,767.70
" " " " " "	600,000 " "	700,000	1,936.20
" " " " " "	700,000 " "	800,000	2,091.50
" " " " " "	800,000 " "	900,000	2,236.00
" " " " " "	900,000 " "	1,000,000	2,371.50
" " " " " "	1,000,000 " "	1,250,000	2,500.00
" " " " " "	1,250,000 " "	1,500,000	2,895.00
" " " " " "	1,500,000 " "	1,750,000	3,061.70
" " " " " "	1,750,000 " "	2,000,000	3,307.00
" " " " " "	2,000,000 " "	2,500,000	3,536.00
" " " " " "	2,500,000 " "	3,000,000	3,952.70
" " " " " "	3,000,000 " "	4,000,000	4,330.00
" " " " " "	4,000,000 " "	5,000,000	5,000.00

Take the competition for the New York Public Library. As a result of the preliminary competition twelve artists are awarded a premium of \$400 each. Of these six are chosen for the second competition, with six additional especially invited architects, the twelve artists in this second case each receiving \$800. Let us suppose, for argument's sake, that the eighteen premiated and paid competitors had all been invited, the first twelve having a compensation of \$400 each. The matter would then stand thus:—

6 artists at \$400 each.....	\$2,400
6 " " 800 " (especially invited architects).....	4,800
6 " " 1,200 " (\$400 from first competition).....	7,200
Total cost to the Trustees.....	\$14,400

The building is estimated to cost \$1,700,000 and under the schedule of the American Institute of Architects the fee would have been for each \$3,061.70, and for the whole eighteen competitors, \$55,150.60, an excess of more than \$40,000 over the amount the Trustees have announced their willingness to spend. It would seem, therefore, that a very direct way of putting an end to competitions would be the adoption of a schedule of charges similar to that of the American Institute of Architects. Few promoters would be willing to spend so large an amount as proposed in that schedule.

On the other hand, the compensation suggested by the Boston Society of Architects is not unreasonable. One-half of one per cent of the total cost of \$1,700,000 is \$8,500, which, divided among eighteen competitors, would have netted them \$472.22 each. Had this rule been followed the Trustees of the Library would have effected a considerable saving. We have, therefore, the somewhat surprising spectacle of one body of artists contending for a rate of payment that is quite prohibitive, while on the other hand is another body, most of whom belong to the first, putting forth a modest claim that, in the instance cited, has been nearly doubled by the generosity of the promoters.¹ It would seem, therefore, as though the making of hard and fast agreements as to compensation was not always beneficial to the architect.

Following the Boston Competition Agreement comes the Code prepared last year by the Illinois Chapter of the American Institute of Architects. This document is entitled a "code," but to it is attached an agreement among architects which gives it a formal meaning and application that the Codes and Suggestions of other organizations do not have. It is limited to "work done in the State of Illinois and only to such work." The word "competition" is then defined, and the further provision made that "The subscribers to this Code will not enter a competition with any architect for work in the State of Illinois unless such architect be also a subscriber to this Code." It is provided that no subscriber to the code shall enter a competition unless the promoter guarantees to "pay each competitor the amount provided by the code schedule of fees for competition sketches, and to pay the selected architect the fees provided by the schedule of fees of this Chapter." Each subscriber is bound to ascertain, before beginning any sketches, if designs are to be received in competition as defined by the code; this having been done, both architect and promoter are to sign an agreement to that effect, attached to the code. Payment is provided for competitive designs on the basis of the schedule of the American Institute of Architects reproduced above, but proportioned to the number of competitors, each of whom shall receive a certain fractional part of the amount specified by the American Institute.

¹ The writer here makes a slip in his excellent line of reasoning. The Boston Code in its entirety would have application to each of the two competitions, so that the trustees would be called on to pay for both competitions one per cent or a total sum of \$17,000.—Eds.

Taking the Institute's schedule as a basis, "the charge for competitive sketches shall be a decimal part thereof, as follows:—

Number of Competitors.	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Decimal payment to each Competitor.	.9	.8	.7	.6	.53	.49	.45	.42	.40	.38	.37	.35	.34	.333"

In order to explain the workings of this system it will be useful to revert to the example supplied by the New York Public Library. The printed form of the code provides only for fifteen competitors. To avoid independent calculations we may assume that number for the Library competition the total cost of which, according to the American Institute schedule, would be \$45,925.50. Under the Illinois code each competitor would receive but .333 of the \$3,061.70 provided for in the Institute code, or \$1,020.56 each, making the total cost \$15,308.40. Of this amount the premium paid the winner of the competition would be deducted from his fees, leaving the total cost to the promoters for fifteen competitors as \$14,287.94.²

This code also includes an elaborate schedule for the payment of professional services, which need not be touched on here as being independent of the question of competitions. It concludes with the following agreement:—

"The undersigned architects hereby agree to abide by the provisions of the foregoing code of practice for competitions under the following limitations, namely,

"First.—This agreement to go into force when the signatures of fifty architects have been obtained, at least thirty of whom shall be members of the Illinois Chapter of the American Institute of Architects.

"Second.—This agreement shall terminate January 1, 1898."

Apparently, then, our Illinois brethren are not quite sure as to the wisdom of their agreement, and do not wish to bind themselves to it indefinitely. And it may not be wise to do so, for fresh conditions may arise at any time, and the code itself prove to involve impracticabilities in working not clear at the beginning. It was also a wise provision, no doubt, to limit it to Illinois architects, and to Illinois work; in the former instance signatures are more readily obtained than when a large territory is attempted to be covered, as is the case with the Boston agreement, and in limiting its operations they do not bind themselves to abstain from entering competitions in other States, where such an agreement among architects is not in force. In other words, the Illinois architects, in this agreement, have tied their hands partly, but not wholly; a certain latitude is allowed them and they still have a considerable field for operations unfettered by arrangements that might otherwise hamper them. The provision that the promoter and the competitors shall both sign a formal agreement to abide by the code is certainly an interesting idea whose practical workings must afford suggestions to other organizations.

The latest "Agreement" among architects is the formidable document put forth by some New York architects, many of the essential points of which have already been touched on in the course of these papers. It differs radically from other agreements that have been made in being established by mere fact of publication; there is no waiting for signatures; but sufficient names having been obtained to give the paper weight, it is forthwith published and established at the same time. It contains two series of statements, one positive and definite, the other suggestive. Separating the two items the Agreement appears to contain the following definite requirements:—

Competitors [signers] must each receive "at least a sufficient sum to reimburse them for their cash outlay in preparing their competition drawings."

In limited competitions the "number of competitors shall be definitely named, and that number shall not be increased without the consent of all competitors."

The successful competitor shall be paid the fees established by the American Institute of Architects "as compensation for his professional services."

"That in work of any serious importance a professional adviser or advisers shall be appointed to act with the party instituting the competition in the preparation of a proper programme, which shall be definite in its specifications of requirements, and explicit in its statement of the drawings required, and their character, and of the various rules which shall govern the competition."

"It shall be the duty of the professional adviser or advisers to examine all drawings submitted by the competitors, and to place out of competition any competitor who has not submitted his designs at the date fixed for their reception, or who presents details or models which are not called for or whose drawings do not conform exactly in number and character with the requirements of the programme, and that if placed out of competition, his plans shall receive no further consideration by the party instituting the competition."

An award must be made and an architect appointed "on the consideration of the relative merits of the several schemes as shown by the drawings submitted, and that no demands shall be made for additional drawings or for a new competition."

This Agreement also contains the following suggestive recommendations:—

"In the opinion of the undersigned, it is very desirable that the professional adviser or advisers should be practising architects; and the undersigned suggest that the best results can be gained by first

² Here, also, payment of the labor in the second competition is neglected.—Eds.

appointing the architects to compete, and by inviting them to meet with the party instituting the competition, for the purpose of consultation with regard to the preparation of the programme of competition, and to nominate the professional adviser or advisers.

"The undersigned are of the opinion that all designs should be signed by their authors, and also that it is desirable that each competitor who has qualified by having his designs accepted by the professional adviser or advisers as complying with the terms of the competition shall have an opportunity to personally explain his design to the party instituting the competition in the presence of the professional adviser or advisers."

There are but three points of moment in this agreement: first, that its signers will not enter any competition whatsoever unless they are paid at least their cash outlay for the preparation of drawings. They will not enter open or limited competitions, though if they themselves are paid they do not appear averse to entering mixed competitions. The agreement, therefore, establishes no new principle, does not amplify any principle already established, makes no attempt to cover the whole field of competition codes, but is a specific demand for cash. If any promoters want any of the signers of this document to take part in a competition they are instituting they must pay for that privilege.

It is a pity the agreement is so indefinite in the matter of compensation. It wisely does not incorporate with itself the liberal scale fathered by the American Institute of Architects; but neither does it say how any rate of compensation is to be fixed. It might cost one architect less to make his drawings than another. Is payment to vary with the cost, or who is to determine this question, which is, after all, the vital matter of the agreement?

The other important points are entered under the head of Suggestions. The suggestions are so radical that if worth making at all they had better have been made definite at once; the question of the appointment of the adviser has already been alluded to and need not now be reopened. The signing of drawings is, perhaps, a matter of opinion, yet it may be questioned if the general public is prepared to believe that judgment in a signed competition would be absolutely devoid of the influence of the name. Professional juries and advisers can rise above such matters; but what of promoters? The agreement does not say how or by whom the award is to be made, though it calls for an award; but as the drawings placed out of competition are not to receive the consideration of the promoters, and as personal interviews with them are suggested, it would seem as though the power of finality were retained by the promoters. And promoters, as is well known, sometimes fall victims to other influences than absolute excellence of design as exhibited in drawings.

To sum up: this agreement prohibits open competitions, so far as its signers are concerned, and calls for definite payment to each. Its suggestive recommendations would appear to have been inserted with the idea of inciting discussion rather than of adoption, since they might as well have been made positive as included in any form. It is to be hoped that the eminence of the names attached to this remarkable document will not prohibit a frank and full discussion of it, and especially of the suggestive features that may, in time, make it of some value.

It is not without interest to point out that the signers of this document have tied themselves up very closely to paid competitions. Almost at the very time it was published, and therefore went into effect so far as the general public was concerned, the programmes of the Harrisburg Capitol and the New York Public Library were announced. Its influence in this connection has already been adverted to. In the New York Public Library competition the six invited architects in the final competition were paid \$800 each for their drawings; and the acceptance of this amount as compensation for sketches for a building to cost \$1,700,000 is likely to influence the sums that, in the future, promoters will be willing to pay for competitive drawings.

It would be amusing, were it not serious, that an agreement intended to benefit its signers directly should have proved of the utmost practical benefit to those who did not sign it. The signers having taken themselves out of competitions like those for Harrisburg and the New York Public Library, all other architects and draughtsmen are at once rid of their most formidable competitors and rivals! The making of this agreement at this time has given other architects an opportunity they perhaps do not deserve. Competitions for great public buildings should not be conducted among the lesser members of the profession, but among the most able and the most conspicuous. We do not want our boys to design our notable buildings, but our architects. The conditions that confront a public competition are not difficult of comprehension. Rightly or wrongly, there is a well-rooted idea that every architect should stand an equal chance with every other architect; the arbitrary selection of an individual, be his excellence what it may, would be the occasion of a general outcry, as happened very recently in New York when a certain architect was awarded the commission for the new Hall of Records without competition. But it is quite impossible for any promoter, even a Government body, to pay an indefinite number of competitors, and the selection of a limited number to be paid and the confining of the competition to that number is likely to create as much distrust and opposition as the selection of a single architect. If, therefore, any considerable body of architects announce that they positively will not enter competitions unless at least their cash outlay is returned to them, they are deliberately shutting themselves out of public com-

petitions, turning over our noblest monuments, or rather what might be our noblest monuments, to new and untried men, and doing all they can to retard that bettering of our public architecture for which architects, artists and lovers of real art have for so long labored. If it is advisable to sign any binding document that produces such a result, the responsibility for so doing must rest with those who sign it.

And the signing of this agreement will have another effect on our public architecture that its adherents may not have fully taken into account. Very shortly after it was issued the Secretary of the Treasury issued a series of regulations for the enforcement of the so-called "Tarsney Act," which gives him authority to select architects for National buildings by competition among "at least five architects of good professional standing, who are citizens of the United States." Our architects, including many of the signers of the New York agreement, have labored long and zealously to bring about the designing of Government buildings by architects, and the "Tarsney Act," while not all that was desired, was welcomed as a decided effort to improve existing conditions. Yet in the regulations issued by the Secretary of the Treasury it is expressly stipulated that "It must be understood that no claim shall be made upon the United States by any unsuccessful competitor for any fee, percentage or payment whatever, or any expense incident to, or growing out of, his participation in this competition." Yet gentlemen who have just stated over their own signature that they will not take part in any competition unless each shall receive "at least a sufficient sum to reimburse them for their cash outlay in preparing their competition drawings" cannot possibly take part in any Government competition. The Secretary of the Treasury may well feel justified in thinking them the most changeable and uncertain of people; for, after pleading with him, or with his predecessors, to speak accurately, for years, to permit them to compete for Government work, he finds, when he is prepared to make some trials in that direction, that they have solemnly agreed not to enter any competition whatever unless paid "at least a sufficient sum to reimburse them for their cash outlay in preparing their competition drawings"! How can architects expect the public to believe that their contentions for a better art in our public buildings are unselfish, when they exhibit themselves in such a light?

The question of compensation for competition drawings forms so large a feature of the architects' agreements that a few words may, at this time, be devoted to that topic. There can be no question but that a proportion, at least, of the competitors should receive compensation in competitions. In limited competitions there can be no difficulty, for the architect can take what is offered him or leave it, as he pleases, and the amount may be \$1,000, \$800, \$500 or less, if a smaller sum is commensurate with the work required. A series of money prizes enhances the value of the competition in the eyes of the competitors. The Harrisburg competition is deficient in this respect in offering simply medals to the authors of the design placed second and third: that, perhaps, is scarcely sufficient compensation for an architect who may feel that he has come very close indeed to winning the commission. But these medals may serve a useful purpose in impressing the lesson on the minds of the competitors that the idea of honor, of obtaining an honor, is, after all, an important element in competitions, at present too much overlooked. The New York Public Library makes no provision, in the programme of the preliminary competition, for money prizes in the final trial.

It would seem reasonable, therefore, that a programme should provide for suitable money prizes in addition to the commission for the undertaking. They should be invariably stated, as well as the conditions under which they will be awarded. The programme should also contain an explicit statement as to the terms of payment to be made for the building as it is being erected. Many of the codes require that payment should be in accordance with the schedule of the American Institute of Architects, or at least in accordance with that scale, since an architect is always entitled to obtain as large a price as he can. In several English programmes it has been requested, as in competitions in Brighton and at Llanelly, that the architects state the terms on which they will carry out the work if entrusted to them, thus making a competition in price as well as in design, a request that did not fail to call forth a vigorous protest from the architectural societies and the technical press. The established fees of the Institutes are quite small enough, as every architect is aware, without competition of this sort being required.

But we need not go to England for examples of this kind. The Board of Regents of Normal Schools of the State of Wisconsin issued a circular under date of April 24, 1893, in which the following paragraph occurs:—

"The architect must submit with the plans and specifications a written tender of the plans and specifications for sale to this Board, at a cost price fixed by the architect, and the price so fixed shall include the delivery, within one month from date of notification of acceptance thereof by this Board, of all necessary working-plans, and an absolute bill of sale of all such work to this Board, with the privilege granted of all subsequent use by this Board of the plans and specifications at its pleasure."

Apparently the Board of Regents was unaware of that feeling in the profession that the Boston Society of Architects was to voice a couple of years later in its Code of Ethics, that "No member shall compete in amount of commission or offer to work for less than another, in order to secure the work." How much better off every

architect would be if each were to make this provision a cardinal principle of his life!

Another evil that sometimes creeps into competition programmes is a request for a detailed estimate of cost, or a bona-fide tender to carry out the construction of the building at a fixed figure. Clients are constantly finding fault with architects for overrunning their estimates, though in too many cases they themselves have aided and abetted the architect in changes and alterations not originally contemplated when the estimates were made, and which could not be carried out without increasing the expenditures. These are matters to be adjusted between the client and the architect, and should by no means be made part of the requirements of a competition. After all, the drawings submitted in a competition are properly only

In the statue St. Winifred wears the martyr's crown and holds in her hand the sword by which she was beheaded. This statue was a gift to the City of Hudson, N. Y., by Gen. J. Watts de Peyster and was the work of Geo. E. Bissell in Paris, 1896.

From the speech made by Hon. C. P. Collier in presenting the statue to the civic authorities we make this extract, which has an explanatory value:—

"General de Peyster has for many years had many acquaintances and friends in this city, has for many years had more or less monetary transactions in this city with inhabitants of this county, growing out of his landed estate in this county, and, as is engraven on the base on which the statue is placed, is the last Patroon of the ten-mile tract called 'Lower Claverack Manor.' This Manor came



St. Winifred, Hudson City, N. Y. Geo. E. Bissell, Sculptor.

sketches, and architects should not be required to view them as detailed drawings, as must be the case when estimates are required. Certified checks and bonds to perform the work within a given figure have no place in competition operations.

BARR FERREE.

[To be continued.]

THE STATUE OF ST. WINIFRED, HUDSON CITY, N. Y.

THE statue of St. Winifred is in bronze, is 7 feet high and mounted upon a pedestal composed of natural rocks through the front of which water falls into a basin 20 feet in diameter.

The pedestal is about 6 feet square and 5 feet high, and built of rough boulders to suggest St. Winifred's Pool in Wales, caused, according to the legend, by the blood of the Saint when she was beheaded by the prince she refused to marry. This Pool became famous for its miraculous healing power.

to him by will from his grandfather, John Watts, and the interests that he so acquired have now been for the most part disposed of to inhabitants of this county. The base upon which you have placed the statue he has given you, you have taken from a quarry on the lands that he once owned, and you have had placed thereon an inscription that will carry down to posterity the name of the donor of this statue and the last Patroon of a manorial tract of land that once embraced a portion, if not all, of the City of Hudson.

"I have stated the fact of General de Peyster being at one time a manorial land-owner in this county, which manorial tract embraced lands in and about the City of Hudson, and have spoken of his business relations with citizens of Hudson, that you may be apprised somewhat of the reasons and motives that have led the donor to make this gift to this city; and General de Peyster appreciates the honor you have done him by placing his gift in this beautiful park, by the pedestal you have placed under it, and by the inscription you have put upon it."

Further enlightenment can also be found in the following extract from the speech delivered by Ex-Mayor Levi F. Longley at the unveiling of the fountain:—

"I find that not only is all that Mr. Collier has said about General de Peyster true, but a great deal more that he has not told you.

"I have learned from one who has to some extent in these matters enjoyed his confidence and aided him in the execution of some of his generous plans, that some years ago General de Peyster determined, during his lifetime, to bestow his entire property, in instalments, upon such deserving recipients as he should from time to time select; that he thereupon ascertained the amount of his property, calculated the number of years beyond which he was not likely to live, and then divided his estate into as many portions as he had probable years to live, and set about giving away in public benefactions one of these shares, or, on an average, one of these shares, each year. In pursuance of this plan, he has already given away to various charitable and religious institutions and to various municipalities between \$150,000 and \$200,000. These bestowals include the gift of the Memorial M. E. Church at Madalin, with all its interior furnishings and the spacious grounds about it; the St. Paul's Training School at Union Vale, Dutchess County, under the management of the Brothers of Nazareth of the Episcopal Church; the Home for Consumptives, also at Union Vale, and under the direction of the American Union Society of the Methodist Church; a Home for Homeless Girls at Madalin, a non-sectarian institution; a magnificent bronze statue of one of his ancestors, a former mayor of New York, erected in Bowling Green, New York City; a large extension to the Orphan Asylum at Yonkers, which was founded by his grandfather, and a bronze statue, erected in Trinity Church-yard, New York, to the memory of his grandfather. It will thus be seen that the bounties of this great-hearted, liberal-handed man's generosity have known no limitations of religious or sectarian creed, no local favoritism, no personal aggrandizement, but with broad and cultured intelligence, unflagging zeal and rare discernment he goes on from year to year seeking out opportunities for bestowing his bounty where the benefits to accrue will be immediate, lasting and sure."

ARTIFICIAL BLACK MARBLE.



NEW discovery has been made by a Calabrian engineer—the manufacture of artificial black marble—and this industry is now being carried on here in Catania by the firm Tortorici & Grasso, who are the owners of the gas-works and manufacture various by-products. The artificial marble has been patented in Italy and other countries. I send herewith a sample (a small column¹). It can be made into any

form desired, and fully takes the place of black marble, resembling it so closely that it is difficult to distinguish it from the real article, while its cost is said to be very much less.

The process is said to be as follows: Common white sandstone is first cut into the desired shapes; then the various pieces are placed in a large, square iron tank, upon a heavy wire-grating, the latter resting a few inches above the bottom of the tank, in order to keep the stone from touching the bottom and to permit the fluid to penetrate freely everywhere; the stones must not touch each other. Then, through an iron pipe, a molten mass of volcanic asphalt and coal-tar pitch, mixed, I believe, in equal parts, is let into the tank from an adjoining boiler until the molten mass fully covers the pieces of sandstone. This liquid is kept boiling in the tank for thirty-six hours; then the stones are taken out, placed upon a brick floor to cool off and dry, and are afterwards polished in the same manner as other marble.

The artificial product is said to resist acids, is not damaged by atmospheric action, moisture, heat or cold, and is claimed to be aseptic. In the same manner, the firm also prepares pressed tilings for flooring, roofing, etc., which are said to be perfectly water-tight and aseptic.

I am told that a mass of sand, cement and water, after having been thoroughly kneaded, is put into forms, put under a press, which works quite rapidly, taken out and dried a while, and then placed in the tank-boiler for thirty-six hours, as in the manufacture of the artificial black marble, and, after being cooled off, is placed in a rotary grinding or polishing machine. This machine consists of a large, round, stationary grindstone, upon which revolves an iron frame, with partitions therein for holding the tiles in place.

LOUIS H. BRÜHL, U. S. Consul.

CATANIA, August 10, 1897.



SOCIETY OF BEAUX-ARTS ARCHITECTS.

THE Annual Meeting of the Society was held at the Café Fleuret, New York City, on the evening of Monday, November 22d, and the attendance was unusually large. The usual routine business of reports, etc. was transacted, the principal attention being

¹ Filed in the Bureau of Foreign Commerce, Department of State.

given to the Committee on Education, which reported that a great deal of work had been done in the past year and still more extended efforts were planned for the coming year, with the coöperation of the colleges, and that in the future the best drawings submitted in the Committee's competition were to be published and also were to be sent to different cities for exhibition. The Committee received a vote of thanks for their labors.

The entire list of officers was reelected, as follows: Walter Cook, President; Edward P. Casey, Vice-President; Edgar A. Josselyn, Secretary; Joseph H. McGuire, Treasurer; John E. Howe, Corresponding Secretary; John M. Carrère, John G. Howard and Ernest Flagg, Executive Committee, and Edward L. Tilton, Thomas Hastings and T. F. Turner, Committee on Education.

An amendment to the Constitution reducing the annual dues of non-resident members was adopted. A committee appointed to consider the possibility of holding an exhibition under the auspices of the Society reported, and it was arranged to give the matter further consideration. It was voted to arrange for a joint dinner to be held with the N. Y. Chapter of the A. I. A. A toast was drunk to Carrère & Hastings for their success in the recent Library and Academy of Design Competition, and Mr. Carrère responded. Four new members were elected: Messrs. John Van Pelt, A. B. Trowbridge, Dom Barber and Chester Holmes Aldrich.

Although the meeting was devoted largely to business, it was made very enjoyable by the large attendance and the presence of a number of guests.

EDGAR A. JOSSELYN, Secretary.

PHILADELPHIA T-SQUARE CLUB.

A REGULAR meeting of the T-Square Club was held on Wednesday evening, December 1st, the subject for competition being "An Arrangement of Terraces and Steps." Mr. Wilson Eyre was the critic for the evening. First Mention was awarded to David K. Boyd; Second Mention to Wm. C. Hays, and Third Mention to John Molitor. The award of medal and mentions for the Second Annual Re-designing Competition was also announced at this meeting, the drawings having previously been sent to New York, where they were judged by Messrs. John Galen Howard, Bruce Price and Henry Bacon, who had kindly consented to act as a jury for this competition and made the awards as follows: Gold medal to Horace H. Burrell; Second Mention, Samuel R. Davis; Third Mention, Charles Z. Klauder.

GEO. BISPHAM PAGE, Secretary.

SKETCH-CLUB OF NEW YORK.

THE members of the Sketch-Club of New York held their regular monthly meeting at the rooms No. 3-9, 14th St., on Saturday evening, December 4, 1897.

The Club's guests for the evening were Mr. Edward L. Tilton and Mr. Nathaniel Vickers.

Mr. Tilton, in the course of a most interesting talk on his "Travels in Greece," illustrated, by means of a blackboard, the restoration on paper of some of the ancient temples, from the first discovery of a few simple fragments of masonry to the time when a drawing of the finished edifice was possible.

Mr. Vickers spoke on "Gothic Detail" with special reference to vaulting and brought along some specially prepared drawings, showing, to a large scale, sections of a church, with stone vaulted ceiling.

The blackboard being brought into requisition, Mr. Vickers demonstrated a new theory of proportion of which he is the originator, and described his method of designing piers and mouldings and the setting out of the ribs and ceiling vault in a most lucid and interesting manner.

The only expressed regret was that time did not permit either of these gentlemen to follow out his subject still farther. A cordial vote of thanks was accorded both speakers.

Mr. Hen. Bjoen with his immaculate violin, and Messrs. Lovel and Crosby with their singing and piano did much to make the evening pass pleasantly.

The Club has entered upon its first medal competition of the season, subject, a "Park Fountain."

The "Life," "Water-color" and "Architectural Research" classes are now in full blast, with openings for a few more members.



[Contributors of drawings are requested to send also plans and a full and adequate description of the buildings, including a statement of cost.]

FARLOR AND LIBRARY: CLUB-HOUSE OF THE DETROIT CLUB, DETROIT, MICH. MR. WILSON EYRE, JR., ARCHITECT, PHILADELPHIA, PA.

[Gelatin Print, issued with the International and Imperial Editions only.]

PRIZE COMPETITIVE DESIGN FOR PROVIDENCE ARMORY, PROVIDENCE, R. I. MESSRS. W. ATHERTON AND H. D. HALE, ASSOCIATED ARCHITECTS, BOSTON, MASS.

This design was awarded one of the three equal prizes.

A COMPETITIVE DESIGN FOR PROVIDENCE ARMORY, PROVIDENCE, R. I. MESSRS. W. T. SMITH AND R. D. MACPHERSON, ARCHITECTS, BUFFALO, N. Y.

"BEACH MOUND": HOUSE FOR BENJAMIN THAW, ESQ., NEWPORT, R. I. MR. HENRY IVES COBB, ARCHITECT, CHICAGO, ILL.

THE COMMERCIAL CABLE BUILDING, BROAD ST., NEW YORK, N. Y. MESSRS. G. E. HARDING & GOOCH, ARCHITECTS, NEW YORK, N. Y.

HART MEMORIAL LIBRARY, TROY, N. Y. MESSRS. BARNEY & CHAPMAN, ARCHITECTS, NEW YORK, N. Y.

[The following named illustrations may be found by reference to our advertising pages.]

PROPOSED REBUILDING OF SOUTH TRANSEPT AND TOWER, SELBY ABBEY, ENG. J. OLDRID SCOTT, ARCHITECT.

This plate is copied from the *Builder*.

METALWORK FROM A HOUSE ON THE RUE DE BERRY, PARIS, FRANCE. M. SERGENT, ARCHITECT.

This plate is copied from *La Construction Moderne*.

DOORS AND DOORWAYS, NO. 13: DOORWAY OF S. PUDENZIA, ROME, ITALY.

[Additional Illustrations in the International Edition.]

CLUB-HOUSE OF THE DETROIT CLUB, DETOIT, MICH. MR. WILSON EYRE, JR., ARCHITECT, PHILADELPHIA, PA.

[Gelatine Print.]

DINING-ROOM IN THE SAME BUILDING.

[Gelatine Print.]

PREMIATED DESIGN FOR THE HOTEL METROPOLE, MORECAMBE, ENG. MESSRS. ESSEX, NICOL & GOODMAN, ARCHITECTS.

SPANISH SYNAGOGUE, MAIDA HILL, LONDON, ENG. MESSRS. DAVIES & EMANUEL, ARCHITECTS.



MAXIM'S LATEST AIR-SHIP.—At a cost of \$15,000 Hiram S. Maxim, the inventor, has built an air-ship of aluminum plates, furnished by the New Kensington Works. George H. Clapp and Arthur V. Davis, members of the Aluminum Company, recently told a representative of the press that they were furnishing plates to the Atlantic and Pacific Aerial Navigation Company, which is the style of the organization headed by Mr. Maxim. The first order was received some months ago, and a few days since the Aluminum Company received a second and larger order, which was printed on the company's letterhead, with the names of the officers and a cut of the strange craft. Hiram S. Maxim is superintendent of construction for the company, C. A. Smith is president and M. A. Terry, secretary. These two are well known in the financial world of San Francisco. Mr. Maxim furnishes the following description of his vessel. The dimensions are: Cylinder, 38 feet 2 inches in diameter and 90 feet in length; length of forward cone, 50 feet; length of after cone, 45 feet; total length, 158 feet. It occupies 106,000 cubic feet of space. The propelling power is a 105-horse-power naphtha engine. The cylinder, engine and every part of the machine, so far as practicable, are made of aluminum, which was purchased of the Reduction Company here. The ship now weighs about five thousand pounds, and will carry more than a ton's weight of provisions and passengers. The naphtha for the engine will be stored in cases, which will hold enough to drive the ship around the earth without replenishing the tanks. The skin of the ship is double and filled with hydrogen gas. It is confined in separate compartments and in the upper part of the vessel and in the cones. The tail that projects upward from the stern of the ship directs it up or down, as a bird directs its movements with its tail. The rudder changes the course from right to left. Motive-power is secured by the big propeller at the stern, which is driven by the naphtha engine. It is stated that Mr. Maxim's first air-ship

made a trial trip during the summer from San Francisco to Cleveland, O., in three days, and that it was his vessel which so many people between those points saw floating on high. It was this vessel, it is stated, which travelled one hundred miles an hour. The dimensions here given are taken from the order received by the Aluminum Company. While the officers of the latter cannot, of course, speak positively, beyond confirming the receipt of their orders, it is understood at New Kensington that Mr. Maxim proposes to build a line of air-ships. — *Philadelphia Press*.

THE INFLAMMABILITY OF SMOKE.—A new explanation comes from Philadelphia for the fact, long ago noticed by all who have had any experience with burning buildings, that a fire which has long smoldered in one part of a structure will often spread almost instantly to all other parts of it the moment a door or window is opened. The usual theory is that the flames leap into activity because of an increased supply of oxygen, but this hardly accounts for the surprising rapidity with which every floor of a large business block or dwelling is sometimes swept by a fire that has previously confined itself for hours to a single room or part of a room. Experiments recently made by a Fire Department official in the city mentioned go far toward showing that smoke itself, in certain conditions, is both inflammable and explosive. This he demonstrated by means of an apparatus consisting of a deep, round tin can, inverted over a smaller can and a gas burner. Smoke was produced by placing hay, grain, wood, and other materials in the small can and heating them over the gas burner, the smoke produced being caught in the large can. In the bottom of the latter was placed some excelsior. An opening in the inverted can permitted the air to be driven out, and then the opening was closed. When the can became filled with smoke, the heat of which was not sufficient to ignite the excelsior, a flame placed near the open end caused an explosion and set fire to it. The force of this explosion depends largely upon the material used to produce the smoke, smoldering malt giving the maximum result, and old rags also producing a strong explosion. From this experiment the deduction was that a building filled with smoke is threatened with quick and speedy destruction, and that some means to clear it of the finely divided carbon should be used. Spraying each room with water will accomplish this, a fact that was clearly demonstrated in the course of these experiments. — *N. Y. Times*.

RECENT PANIC IN A RUSSIAN CHURCH.—The terrible panic which occurred in an Orthodox church in the village of Khmelovo, near the town of Kozloff, on the 24th ult., was far more disastrous in its consequences than it was represented to be by the first telegrams on the subject. The church had been newly built and a vesper service was being held in connection with its consecration. The large town of Kozloff being not more than eight miles off, there were many townsmen as well as peasants from the surrounding country. As the ventilators had not been opened at first, it became necessary to throw open somewhat suddenly both ventilators and windows, whereupon dense clouds of vapor issued forth from the steaming congregation within, which was mistaken by the crowd outside for smoke, especially as at the same moment a blaze of light was produced by the lighting up of all the candelabra. The candles in the chandeliers of Russian churches are lighted by igniting the end of an inflammable thread previously attached to all the wicks. The people outside imagined that the altar screen was burning, and set up frantic cries of "Fire!" and "Help!" The crowded worshippers rushed towards the door. The scene and the results which followed remind one of the Khodinsky Plain disaster. There was no medical aid nearer than Kozloff, and when the morning dawned there was a vast heap of dead and dying. Altogether 74 persons were killed, including 15 pregnant women, and 160 were more or less seriously injured. — *London Times St. Petersburg Correspondence, November 2.*

THE HARBOR WORKS AT DOVER, ENG.—The British Admiralty authorities are about to complete the great harbor at Dover, which has been the subject of discussion for many years. Enormous sums of money have been expended during the last fifty years upon the underground fortifications at that place, originally designed to protect a harbor which, so far as its value in war times was concerned, never had any existence. For some time the conviction has been growing that these elaborate underground works are useless, as it is not probable that a foreign enemy would select that point for attack. Hitherto the harbor works have been confined to the so-called Admiralty pier, which was begun on a colossal scale, and ends in a worthless fort, which mounts two 80-ton guns, and was built at prodigious expense, owing to the cost of working under water at its foundations. Almost as soon as it was finished it was found to be constructed so badly that an additional sum of no less than £40,000 had to be spent in securing the magazines of the now obsolete guns, which could not be discharged a dozen times without disabling their mountings. Now the harbor is to be completed, so that a safe anchorage and coaling-station shall be provided in time of war for a fleet of twenty line-of-battle ships and a corresponding number of smaller craft. The shore batteries will then have something to defend. The colossal work will be begun at once and finished as rapidly as possible. — *N. Y. Evening Post*.

THE DEPARTMENT-STORE.—Mr. Luiz A. Da Cunha writes thus to the *Record and Guide of New York*: "It does not appear to me that you need search for the cause of so many stores being vacant, not on Third Avenue only but on all avenues, further than the erection of the department-stores. I have just been figuring roughly on the area of the largest one. It contains in its seven floors about 540,000 square feet; divide this area into stores of 2,500 square feet and the result is 216; spread these along Sixth Avenue, eight to the block, and you cover 27 blocks. All this is now under one roof, 184 x 480. Then consider the number of these department-stores in various parts of the city, and you can figure out only one result—many vacant stores on all avenues."

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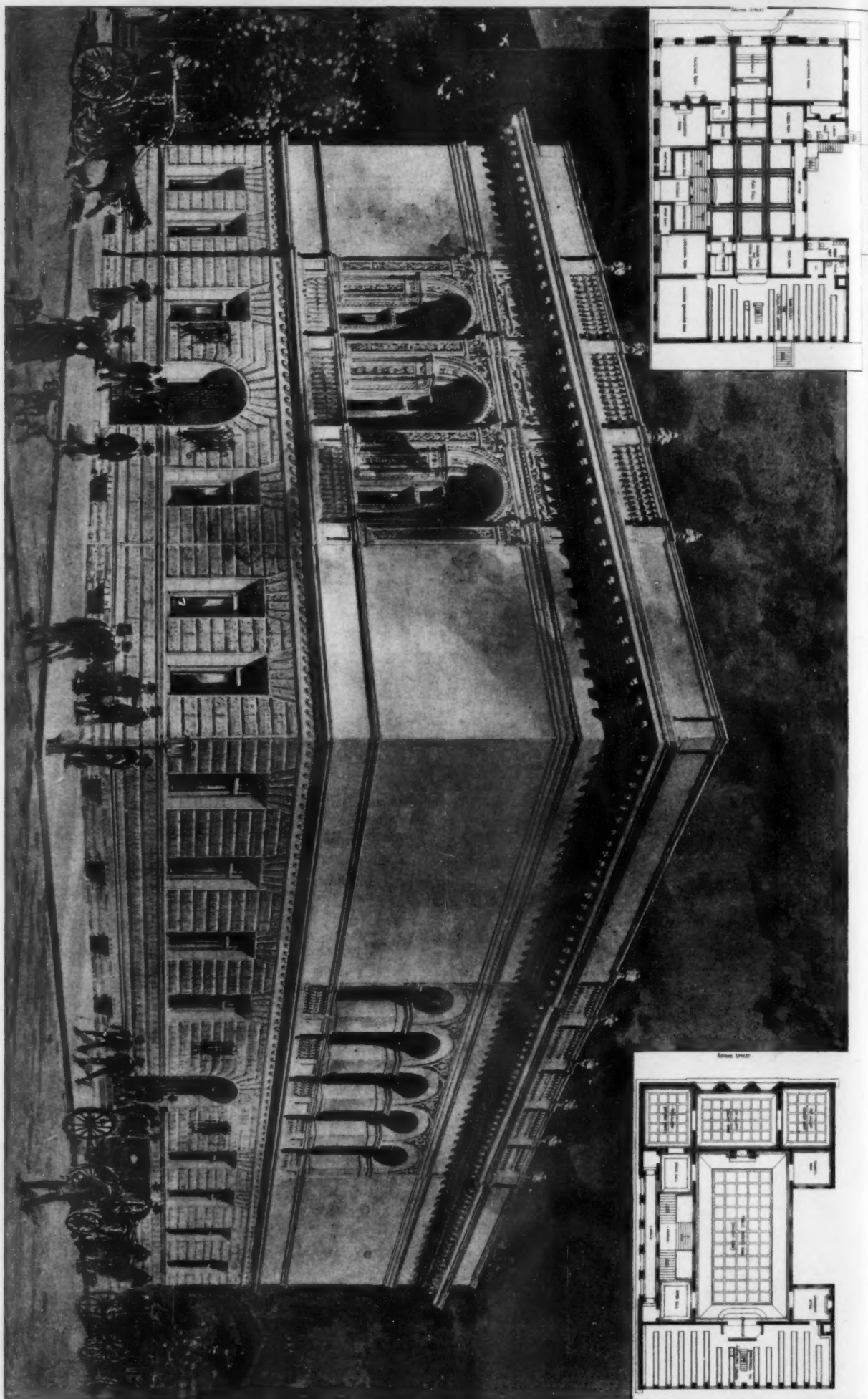


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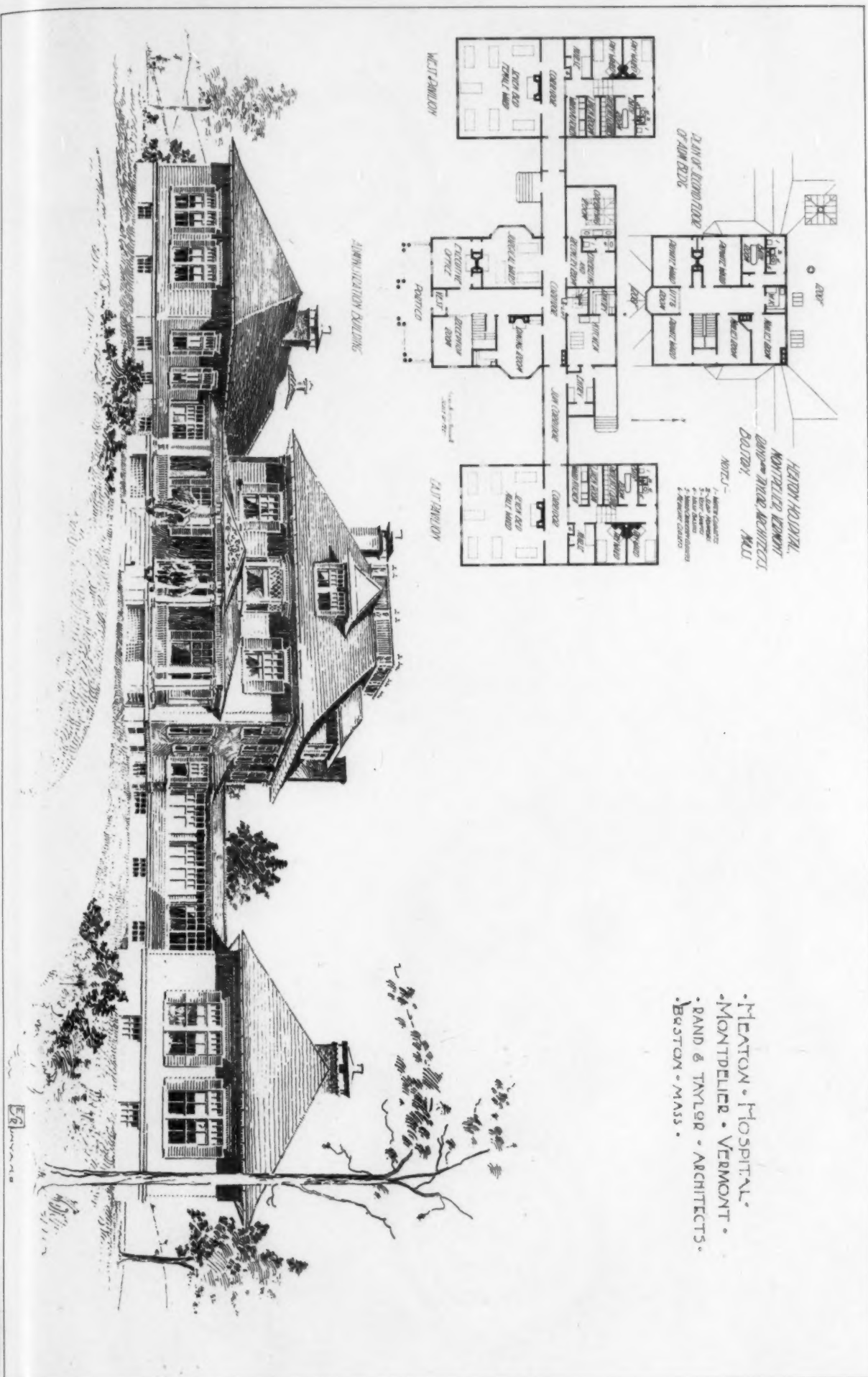
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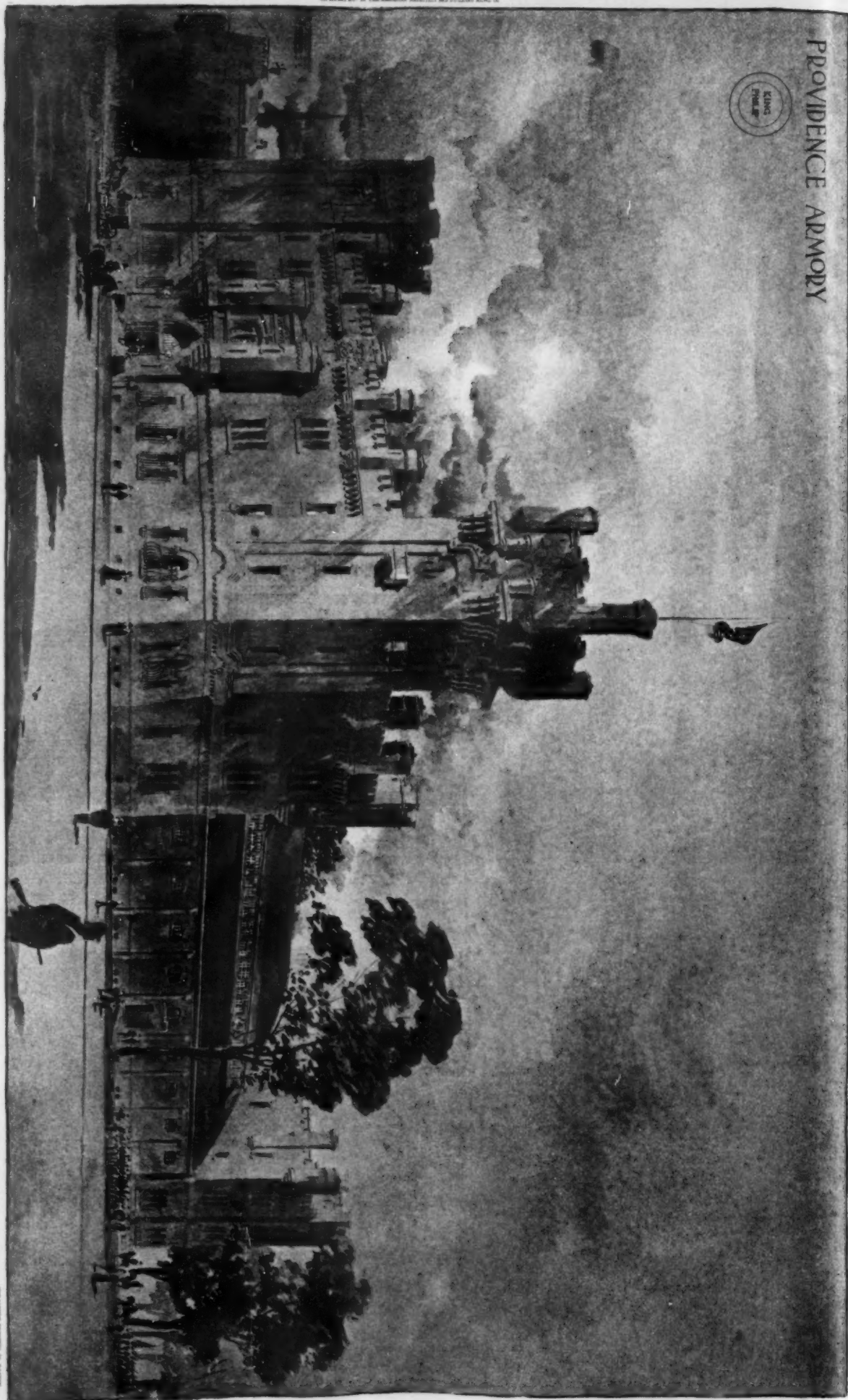
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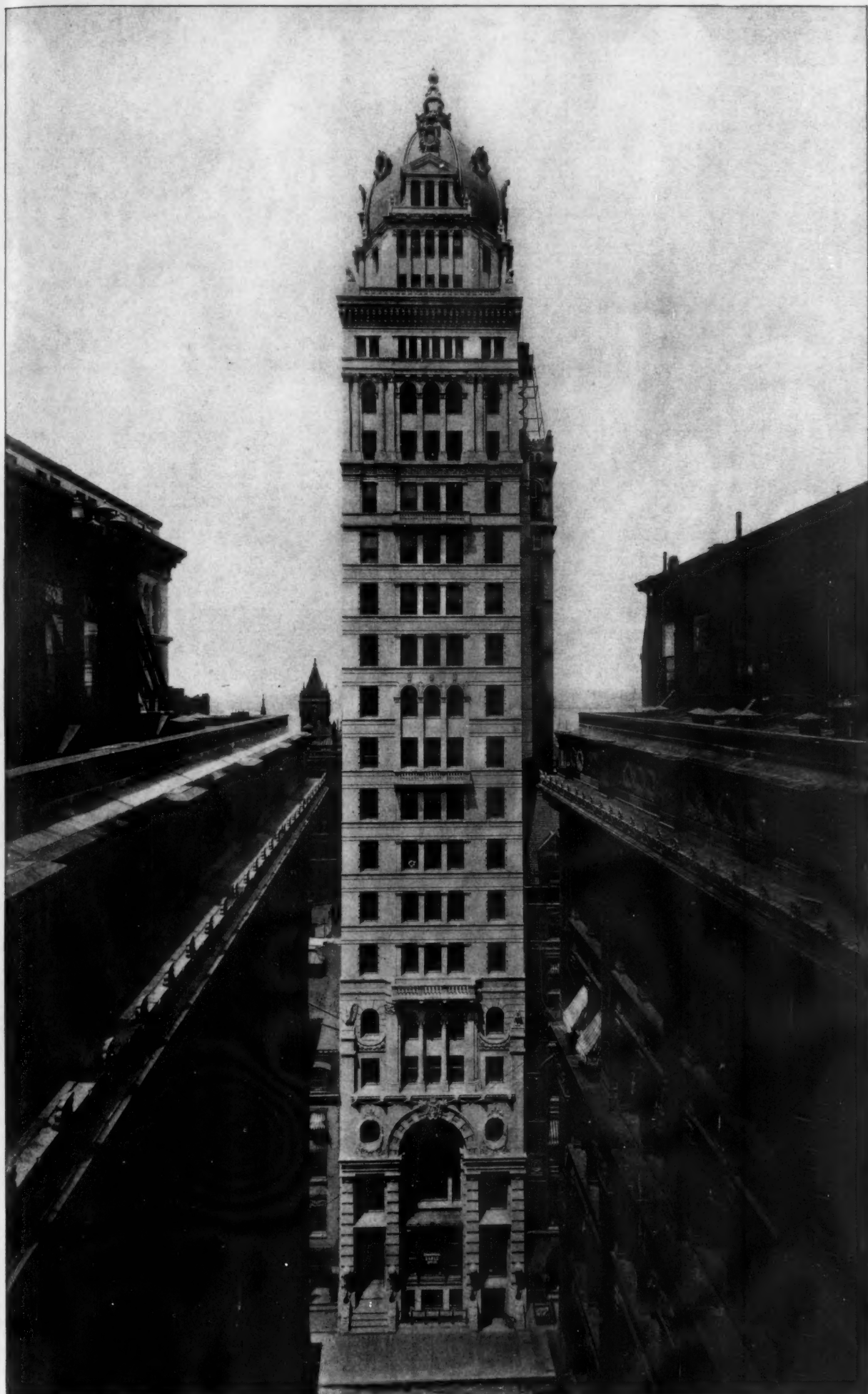


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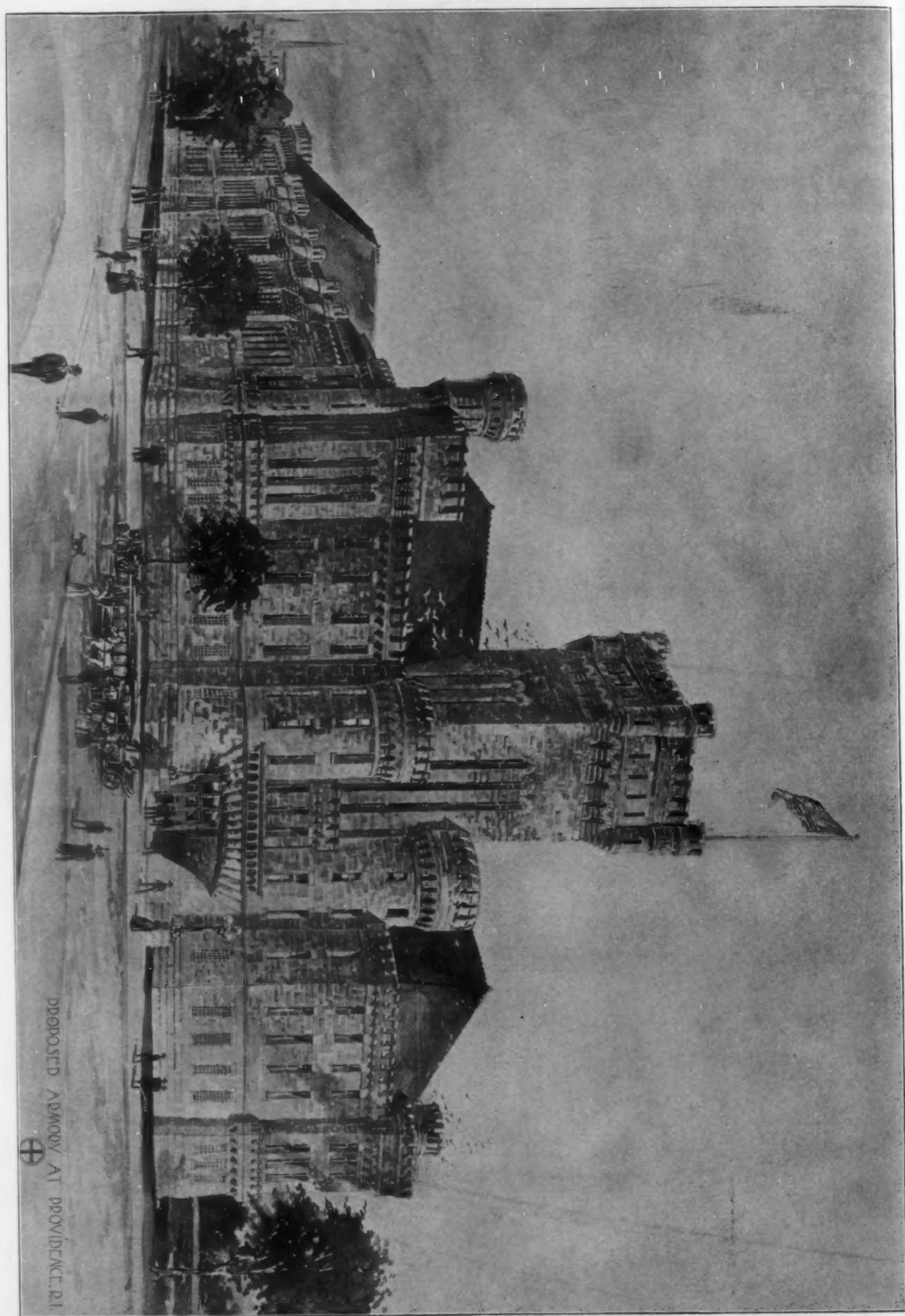


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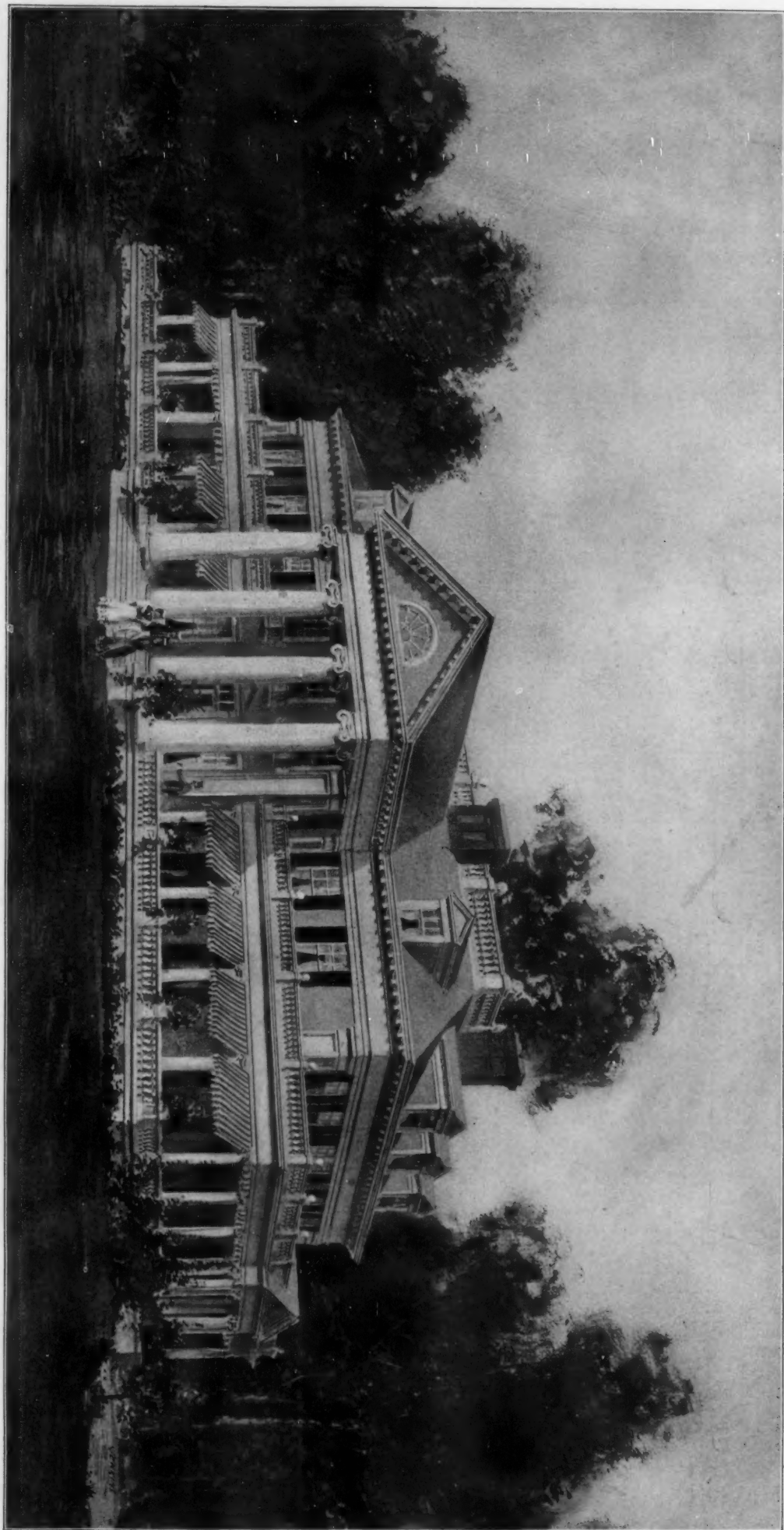
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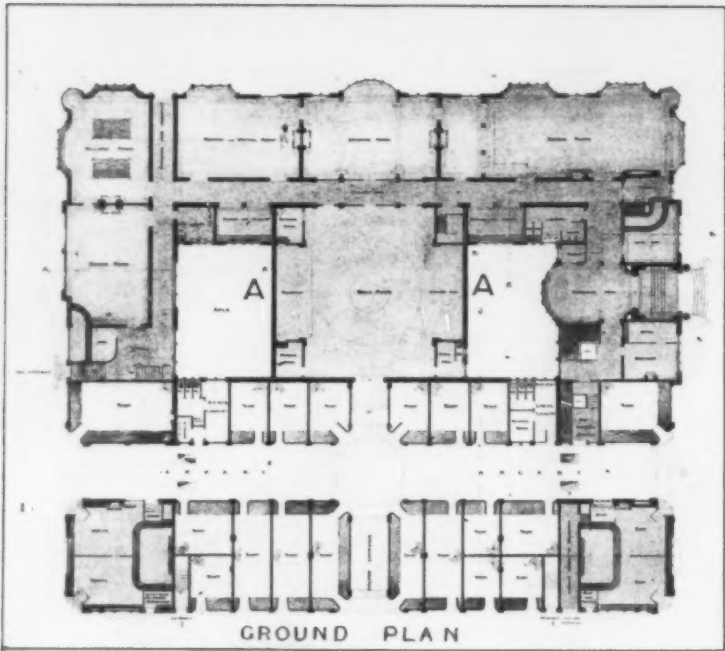


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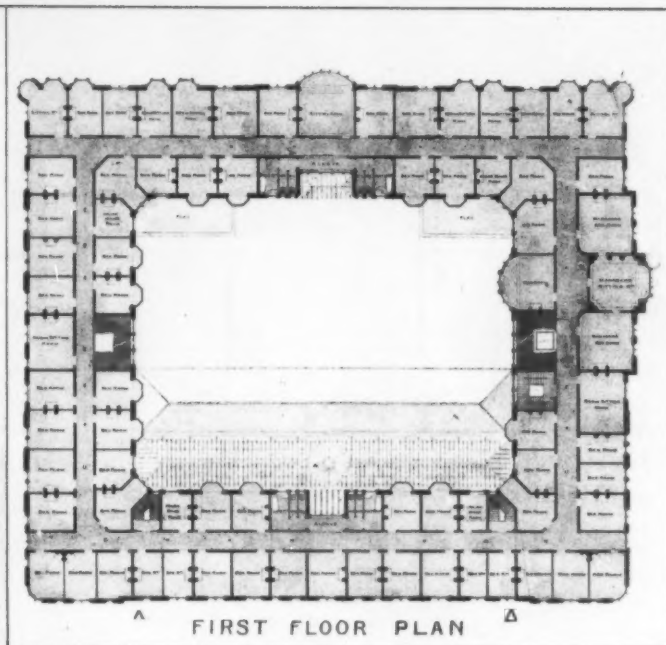


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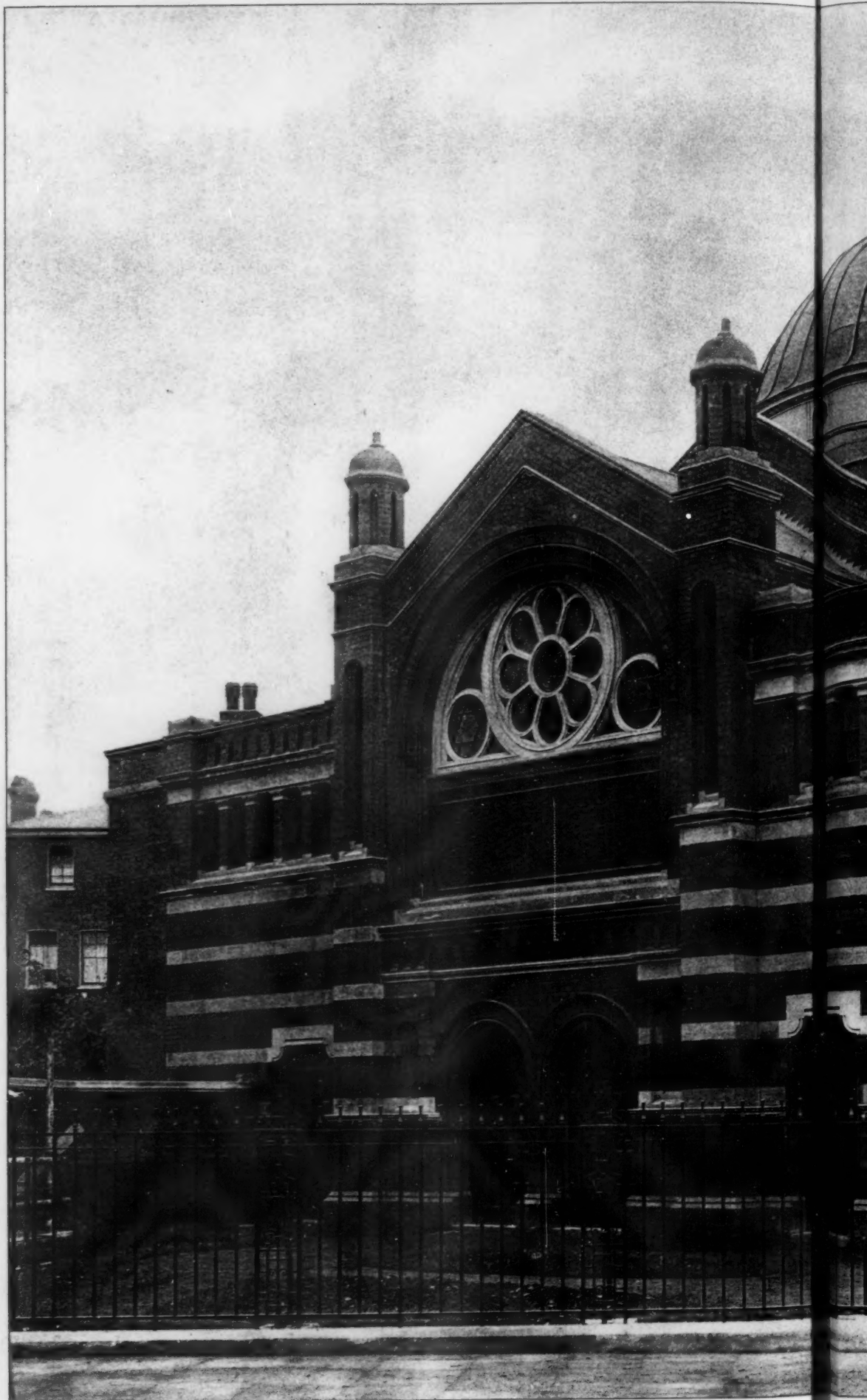
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