

THE AMERICAN ARCHITECT

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NUMBER 1966



GENERAL VIEW BERLINER SPAR UND BAUVEREIN

THE FIBRE OF THE NATION. PART IV

SOME OBSERVATIONS OF THE HOUSING PROBLEM IN THIS COUNTRY AND IN EUROPE

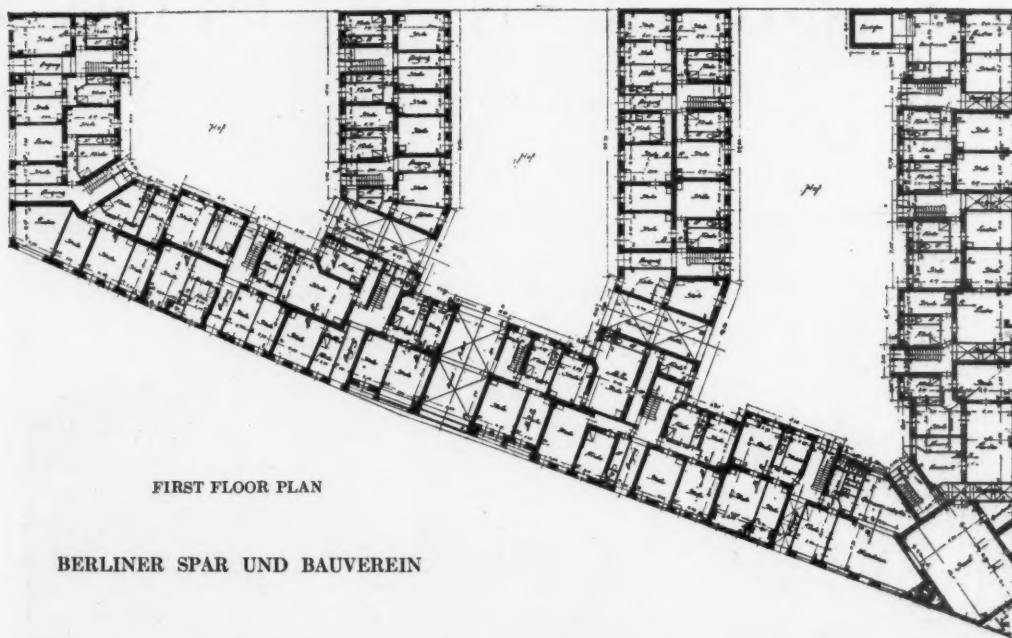
By WM. H. SCHUCHARDT, A.I.A., Member of the Milwaukee Housing Commission

THE CONTINENT

EXAMPLES of improved housing abound in all of the northern countries of Europe. Laws, providing for guidance of future extension of cities are enacted every year, and the concern for the "fibre of the nation" is nowhere lacking. In Germany alone, there are over a thousand societies formed for no other purpose than that of providing cheap and sanitary homes; railroads are offering fourth class service at extremely low rates; and municipalities are buying large tracts of land to control its price. Men of great wealth and large

industrial concerns are everywhere endeavoring to make sane living possible for wage-earners; and yet, so stupendous is the problem that hardly over one per cent. of the people have so far been beneficially affected. To be sure, the fight has but begun, and the evils are old and many; but we, in this comparatively new country, should see in such conditions a note of warning, and not complacently shut our eyes to our still controllable slums. There is no city, however small, which does not contain the seeds of such deplorable districts, and in the rapid development of

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FIRST FLOOR PLAN

BERLINER SPAR UND BAUVEREIN

municipal strength and size, of which we are all so proud, these neglected seeds soon mature into serious and ugly problems.

While the lessons to be learned on the continent do not differ greatly from those found in England, there are a number of efforts in housing well worth study. We shall first give attention to the largest and the best of the buildings, erected by the "Fondation Rothschild" in Paris. Other model tenements, like those of the Société Philanthropique, show much study and understanding of local needs, but the great care shown planning, and the introduction of many innovations for the purpose of raising the mode of living and the morals of their tenants, make the group of buildings erected by the Rothschilds especially interesting. Three of these groups have been completed and were occupied in 1910, and another is now commenced. Besides this, the trustees have bought at Clichy-sous-Bois, about eleven miles from Paris, a twenty-acre tract of land, with splendid railway connections, for the purpose of laying out in the near future a garden city. The first of the tenements, built on the rue de Marché Popincourt, contains seventy-four apartments of various sizes; the second on the rue de Belleville, with 101 apartments, harbors 468 persons; and the last and most

elaborate, on the rue de Prague, shelters in 321 apartments 1,183 persons. The rue de Prague building occupies an entire city block, is seven stories high, and is very pleasing both on the streets and in the courts. Its completeness in every detail, the largeness of the rooms, the splendid concrete stair halls, the provisions for pleasant and profitable social intercourse, the kindergarten and school rooms and lecture hall, the laundry and baths, and above all the absolute cleanliness and absence of noise, make a most striking and lasting impression on the visitor. No possible demand seems to have been overlooked, and it is a source of considerable pride and satisfaction to the trustees, that the tenants have given many proofs of appreciation and betterment in citizenship. The cost of the rue de Prague building was approximately \$800,000 and the value of the land, at the time of purchase, was \$172,000; and on this investment the net yearly profit amounts to three per cent. or thereabouts. As the average wage of the family head among the tenants is not far from \$1.20 or \$1.50 a day, the rentals must of necessity be very low, and it is remarkable how much it has been able to offer them, and still make the enterprise profitable.

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Apartments containing an entrance hall, kitchen, toilet, and four rooms command a rental of \$96 to \$108 per year, while those with kitchen, toilet, and three rooms rent for \$84 to \$104. Kitchen, toilet, and two bedroom apartments rent for \$64 to \$84, and those having but a kitchen, toilet, and one bedroom rent from \$40 to \$60 per year. In addition there are thirty-nine suites of one or two rooms renting at \$32 to \$40, reserved for single women or widows, who go out to work during the day. Thirty-six ateliers, or workshops, are also provided, so that cheap rentals for business purposes are at the disposal of tenants. A commodious kindergarten, opening out on a playground, takes care of the smaller children during the day, and class rooms for



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older children, where girls are taught household duties, and boys receive instructions in manual training and the simpler trades, lessen the problem of parents while they are both at work. For adults there is a lecture hall and reading room, and if, for one reason or another, the preparation of meals is impossible in the private kitchen, food may be taken to the general kitchen for that purpose at a nominal price. With over 300

families, the collection of garbage is a serious matter and is, in this building, well taken care of. The chutes are of cement, to avoid the nuisance of rusting, and the doors on each floor level are so arranged that odors from the general receptacle



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below cannot escape. At the bottom the refuse is received and held in oiled canvas bags, which assures complete removal and great cleanliness.

Separate bathing establishments are maintained for men and women, where tub baths may be had for five cents, and shower baths for two cents. The baths are always open except on Monday, when all tubs, floors, and walls are thoroughly scrubbed. The laundry is almost magnificent in its appointments. Every type of laundry machinery is in use, and there is space for sixty-five women at one time. To expedite their work, a centrifugal drying machine is installed, which dries clothing in as many minutes as ordinarily is required in hours. Women pay one cent for every pound of laundry, and an additional two cents for every pail of hot water they use. They also pay for the use of the ironing machine. A central heating plant provides



KARL SCHRADER HOUSE

hot water for this laundry and the baths, and heats the school rooms, lecture hall and general dining room, but not the apartments. These are heated by the tenants either by small stoves or fireplaces, and require fuel costing from \$16 to \$20 a year per apartment. Electricity only is used for lighting, and gas for cooking, and both are paid for by the tenant, who when necessary, puts a franc into a slot meter. Tenants may also rent storage lockers in the basement, a four by five-foot locker costing twenty cents per month, and a six by eight, eighty cents per month. The building is of course entirely fireproof, which also means vermin-proof; and in the matter of light and air meets every ideal of proper planning. It is hoped that it will not only serve as a model for future tenements, but will also inspire other public-spirited

men to engage in this much needed work.

Housing in France, through building societies and private assistance, has been carried on for thirty years and more, and very remarkable results have been achieved. The element of beauty has not entered to the degree that it has in English workingmen's settlements of recent construction, but sanitation and crowding have received careful attention and in many cases well planned, if not attractive, homes are rented at \$20 to \$40 a year.

Belgium, as early as 1849, undertook to develop a policy calculated to prevent pauperism, and fifteen years later began building operations on a considerable scale. The larger manufacturing establishments have also housed their employees, and many coöperative societies have been formed.

Among other interesting housing settlements in Holland, is that of Mr. van Marken of Delft, who bought a tract of land containing ten acres, and built thereon eighty houses. With the intention of not interfering with the mobility of labor, and not wishing to bind the occupants to their homes by sale, he formed a stock company, capitalized at \$60,000, in which wage-earners hold shares. As the rentals charged, though low, are greater than is required for taxes, interest, cost of administration, and contribution to a reserve fund, the surplus is credited to the tenants, who in this way will gradually become the owners of a controlling number of these shares. All the advantages of ownership are the wage-earners' under this system, and in the event of removal to another city or of death, the family, in addition to its other troubles, is not burdened with a house and lot but partly paid for. In theory, it is generally held that, when an owner of his home, a workman is a more valuable citizen, but

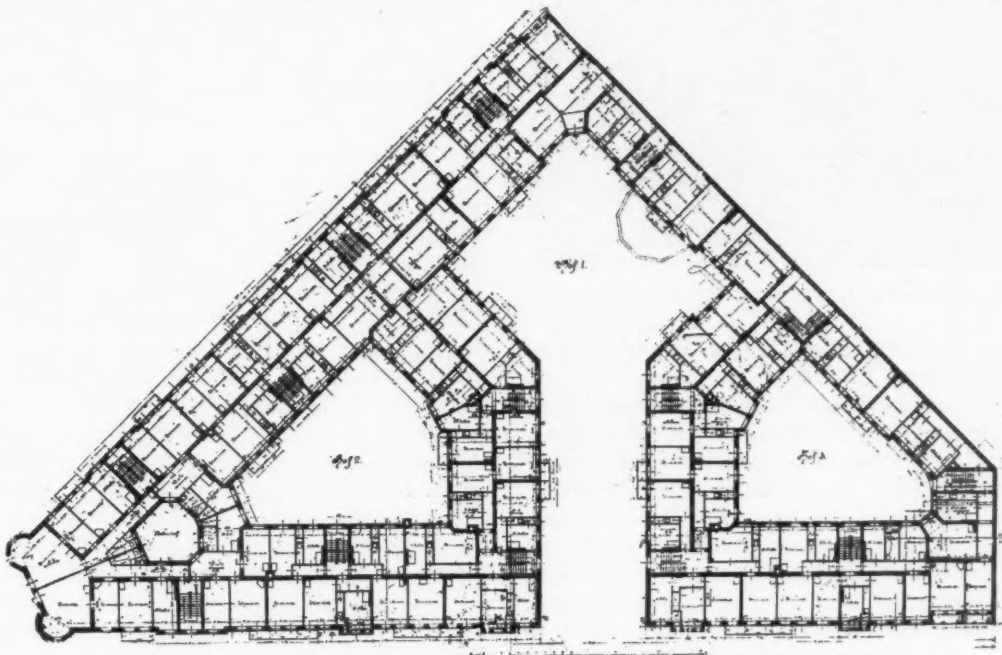
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in actual practice these homes are too often abused by overcrowding because of heavy mortgages so frequently held by usurers. The advantages of ownership are entirely lost, and the efforts of the well meaning builders for wage-earners go for naught.

Housing in Copenhagen commenced after the cholera epidemic of 1853. There the evils of unsanitary homes and overcrowding were so forcibly brought home, that the unexpended balance of the relief fund, amounting to \$21,000, was used as a nucleus, and today about 3,000 wage-earners

work, both in housing and town planning; but we must be content to consider only one or two of the different kinds of problems and their solutions.

Compulsory insurance against sickness, unemployment, old age, death, etc., has, as everyone knows, existed in Germany (and in other countries on the continent) for many years. Not only does the Government conduct insurance departments, but the various trades, somewhat similar to the guilds of olden times, provide in this manner protection for their workers. These



PLAN, KARL SCHRADER HOUSE

are living in clean and wholesome homes.

Modern Germany is amazing in almost every direction. The thoroughness, skill and energy, which have made her the leading industrial country of Europe, have also made her the leading country, at least in extent of operations, in housing. Volumes and volumes of books, bearing on the subject, have been written and studied, all experiments in England and in other countries have been eagerly watched, and every possible effort has been made to carry on the conservation of humanity. To "The Example of Germany" by Mr. T. C. Horsfall, published in 1904, might be added another volume describing more recent

insurance departments and societies, having accumulated large surpluses, are empowered to loan to building societies, for the erection of workingmen's houses, sums up to eighty-five per cent. or ninety per cent. of the valuation, at rates of interest varying from two and one-half per cent. to four and one-half per cent. Loans also may be granted at an equally low rate of interest on favorable conditions from any of the available provincial funds to building societies for this purpose.

On January 10th, 1901, the Loan Council of the City of Berlin appropriated \$238,000 (1,000,000 marks) for the formation of the "King Frederick Beneficial Associa-



COURT OF KARL SCHRADER HOUSE

tion", to commemorate the foundation of the kingdom of Prussia.

Two of the most important societies in Berlin are the "Berliner Baugenossenschaft" and the "Berliner Spar and Bauverein." The first, since its formation in 1886, has erected over 300 various houses at a cost, inclusive of land value, of over \$1,500,000. Over half of these have been turned over to the members of the society, and the other will be, as soon as sufficient amounts have been paid in. The society has also erected a large model tenement, known as the "Karl Schrader Haus." It is located in a rather pleasant neighborhood (as far as crowded neighborhoods can be pleasant) on broad streets in the northwestern part of the city. On the ground floor there are eleven stores, twenty-six apartments, a ball room, library, reading room, and a kindergarden. In the four stories above these are twenty apartments with three bedrooms, kitchen, living room and bath; 110 apartments with two sleeping rooms, kitchen and living room; and thirty-six apartments with one bedroom, kitchen and living room. In the basement there is a general bathing establishment with seven tub baths and five showers. Each apartment is supplied with gas and

water, and the majority have at least one room and balcony facing on the street. A peculiarity of Berlin apartment houses, which also obtains in this building, is that the laundries and drying rooms are placed in the attic instead of in the basement, so that the odors common to laundries will not be noticed by the tenants. Here there are fourteen such laundries and as many drying rooms. The building, costing \$362,000, is rented only to such working people as have lived in the city five years or more.

The Berliner Spar and Bauverein was formed in 1892 for the purpose of providing suitable apartments for its members, mostly working people. The seven buildings erected by this society remain its property, and the apartments are let at a certain monthly rental which may not be increased. Each member, whether occupying an apartment or not, pays into the treasury 300 marks (\$71.40), in installments, if he so desires, of thirty pfennigs (7.1 cents) a week. Should he at any time withdraw from the society, his contributions are returned to him, in addition to a dividend of four per cent. on his shares, and if he has entrusted his savings to the management, it allows him in addition to his principal, a four per cent. interest. In general, these buildings have in plan many characteristics similar to those of the Karl Schrader Haus. The rooms are large and well lighted and the rentals are extremely low, when one considers that the ground value is, as a rule, higher in Berlin than in New York. Externally all buildings are rather interesting in so far that picturesqueness, most dear to the German mind, is employed to considerable extent. Floors and walls between apartments are fireproof, and the outside walls are of common brick, all covered with stucco. Ornaments, such as string courses, "stone" coursing, corbels, and window and door elaborations are, with few exceptions, of this material, moulded on the premises, as is the practice in all continental countries. Charlottenburg, now part of Greater Berlin, and other districts, possess many apartment houses of these types, but the great demand for apartments of still lower rentals presents a serious problem, for which the officials find it difficult to work out a solution.

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OUR GOVERNMENT AND THE FOREIGN LANDLORD

"NATIONAL HONOR" is a cant phrase of the anti-arbitrationists which should claim the consideration of an eminently peace-loving administration.

The daily press states that Justice James W. Gerard, our new Ambassador to Germany, after a long search throughout Berlin, has managed to find two houses, either of which would be suitable for the American Embassy. The rental in each case is \$19,000 a year. The Ambassador's salary will be \$17,500, and his government allows \$6,000 for office rent. There are several phases of interest in this situation aside from its evident embarrassment and inconvenience to Justice Gerard.

If the other costs of living for an Ambassador bear the same proportion to house rent as in the common walks of life, he will have to draw about \$60,000 a year from his own pocket to meet the expenses of his position. The members of Congress responsible for this anomaly do not seem to realize that the abundant opportunities presented in America for augmenting official salaries, some of which have received

much attention of late, are not enjoyed by our representatives abroad. These gentlemen who are successful in providing the extra funds needed for maintaining the dignity of office at home, without, we hope, loss of personal dignity, should make adequate provisions toward the same ends for our less fortunately situated foreign representatives.

Probably the realty situation in Berlin is not very different from that in most other large modern cities. The amount of rental allowed by this government may or may not be a reasonable sum for providing offices that accord with the taste of the Ambassador and with the dignity of the Nation he represents. If it is a reasonable amount, the Berlin landlords are evidently determined to share in the much exploited American prosperity. It is interesting to note that the rentals for the two possible buildings are identical. Can there be a European trust in available buildings suitable for ambassadorial offices?

Ex-Secretary of the Navy Meyer has extended commiseration to Justice Gerard, stating that he had a similar experience in finding a residence when he was Ambassador to Rome and afterward when he was transferred to St. Petersburg. But perhaps the most humiliating phase of the situation is that our Ambassadors should be paying office rent at all. That our foreign representatives should occupy temporary quarters in the principal European capitals savors more of those American governments that rise and fall in a day than of the sturdy defender of the Monroe Doctrine. In her recent proposal to establish in Washington, D. C., an embassy building worthy of the fatherland, Germany not only honors her own but virtually acknowledges the permanency of our government. Can we afford to contradict her in Berlin?

It is an established theory of American government that fitness for official position should bear no relation to personal wealth, but the granting of adequate annuities by Congress is essential to put this theory into actual practice. From a purely business standpoint, it is evident that maximum efficiency cannot be expected from an Ambassador who must be constantly harassed by the importunities of landlords,

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especially when he knows that his government can well afford to build an Embassy worthy of its dignity and importance among nations.

CITY BOARDS OF TOWN PLANNING

BY a recent enactment of the legislature of the State of Massachusetts, every City of the Commonwealth and every town of over 10,000 population is authorized and directed to create a city planning board.

The act outlines the duties of the board, in the making of studies and investigations of resources, possibilities and needs of the district under their control, with particular reference to any conditions that might injuriously affect rented dwellings. The board is further empowered with reference to proper housing conditions.

In cities the boards shall be appointed by the Mayor, subject to confirmation by the Common Councils, while in towns the members of the board shall be elected by the voters at the annual meetings.

The steady progress of town planning and the various questions that are allied to the subject, will, we believe, be greatly advanced in Massachusetts by this legislation, as it makes it mandatory on the part of the governments of cities and towns to take action that will insure logical development, and prevent by timely effort errors that are always costly in correction.

Among the various matters that affect the general public welfare and are conducive

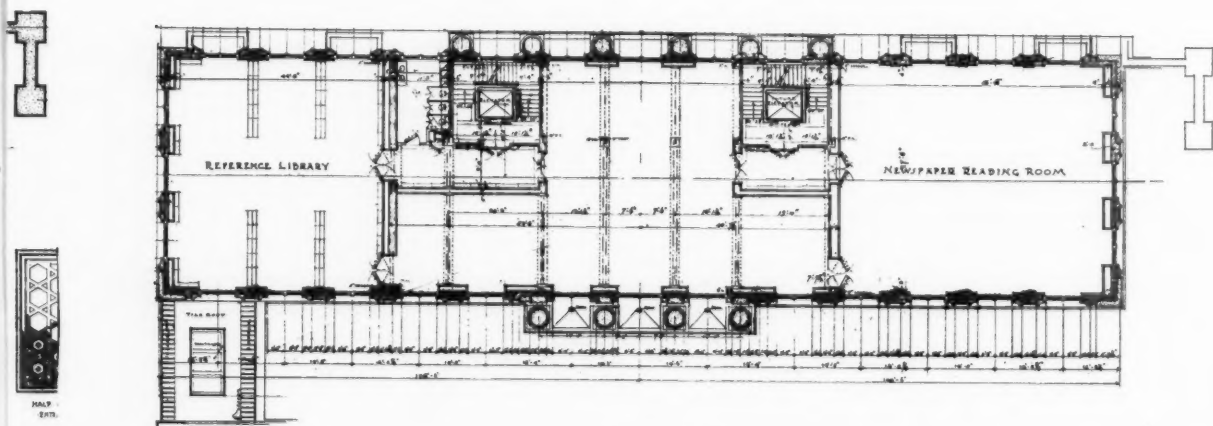
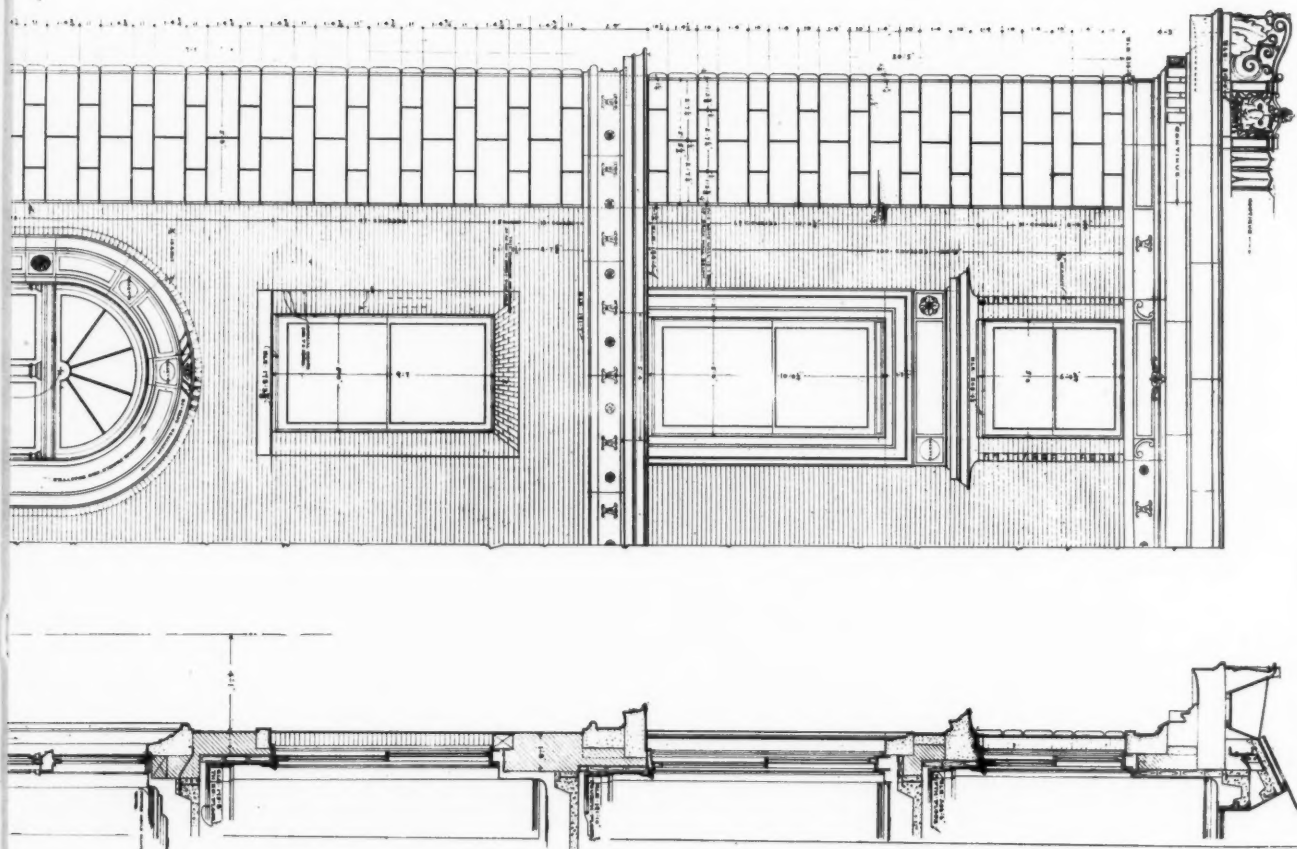
to our well developed future growth as a nation, probably none are of greater importance than town-planning. It means the careful conservation of all resources in our national life, the best development of municipal growth and the inculcation of civic pride, always the basic force that animates a patriotic people.

It will be interesting to watch the results of the enforcement of this act. We believe that the good that will ensue will be so early apparent that other states will follow the example set by the State of Massachusetts. Meanwhile, it will be of value to study the personnel of the various boards on their appointment or election.

The profession of architecture has undoubtedly supplied more men prominently identified with town-planning movements than any other. The reason for this is obvious. Both by education and practice, architects are equipped in a larger and broader sense than other men to undertake the problems presented in the planning of a new town, or the correction of those errors that have resulted from the erratic growth of older towns, some of which have become cities.

The opportunities presented to members of the architectural profession to engage in this important work of civic development are many. It is to be hoped that those with appointive powers will appreciate the value of the trained service that is available, and take such action as will utilize it.





SECOND FLOOR PLAN

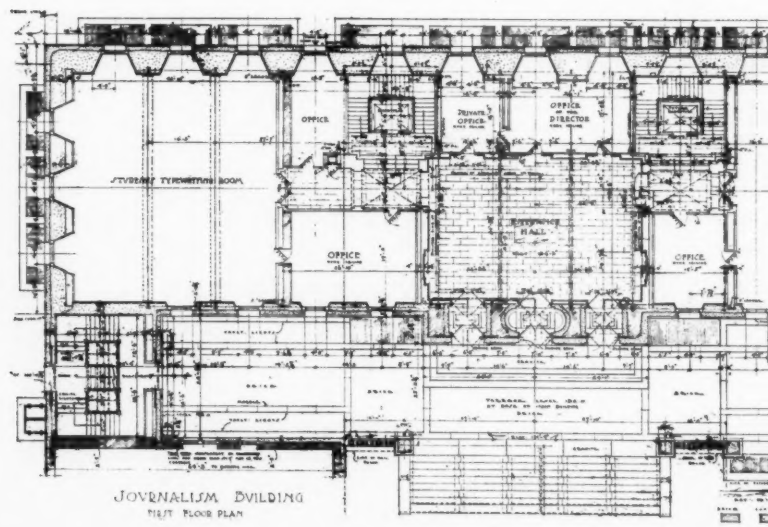
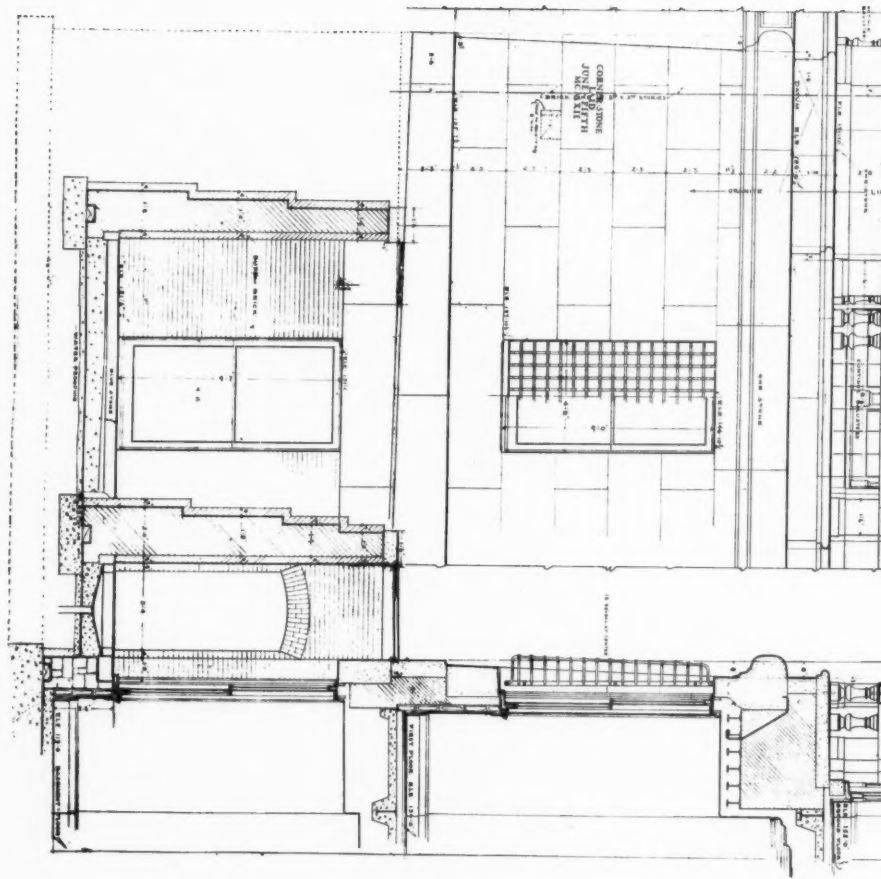
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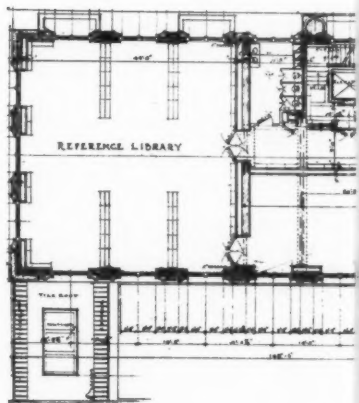
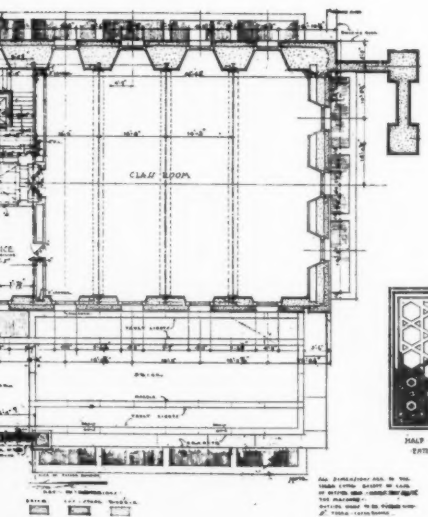
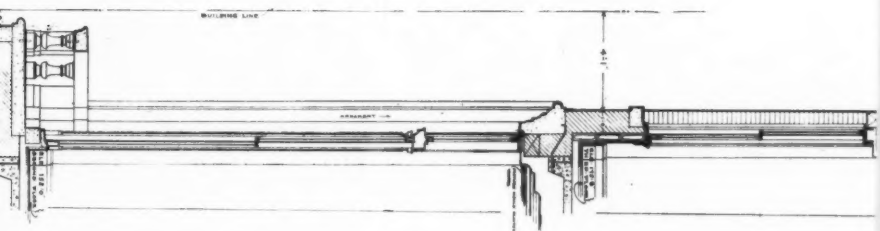
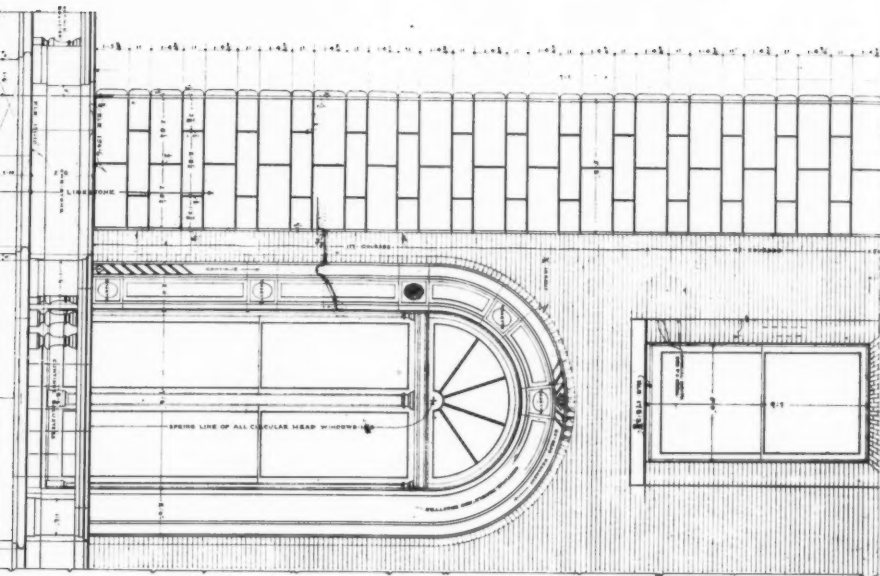
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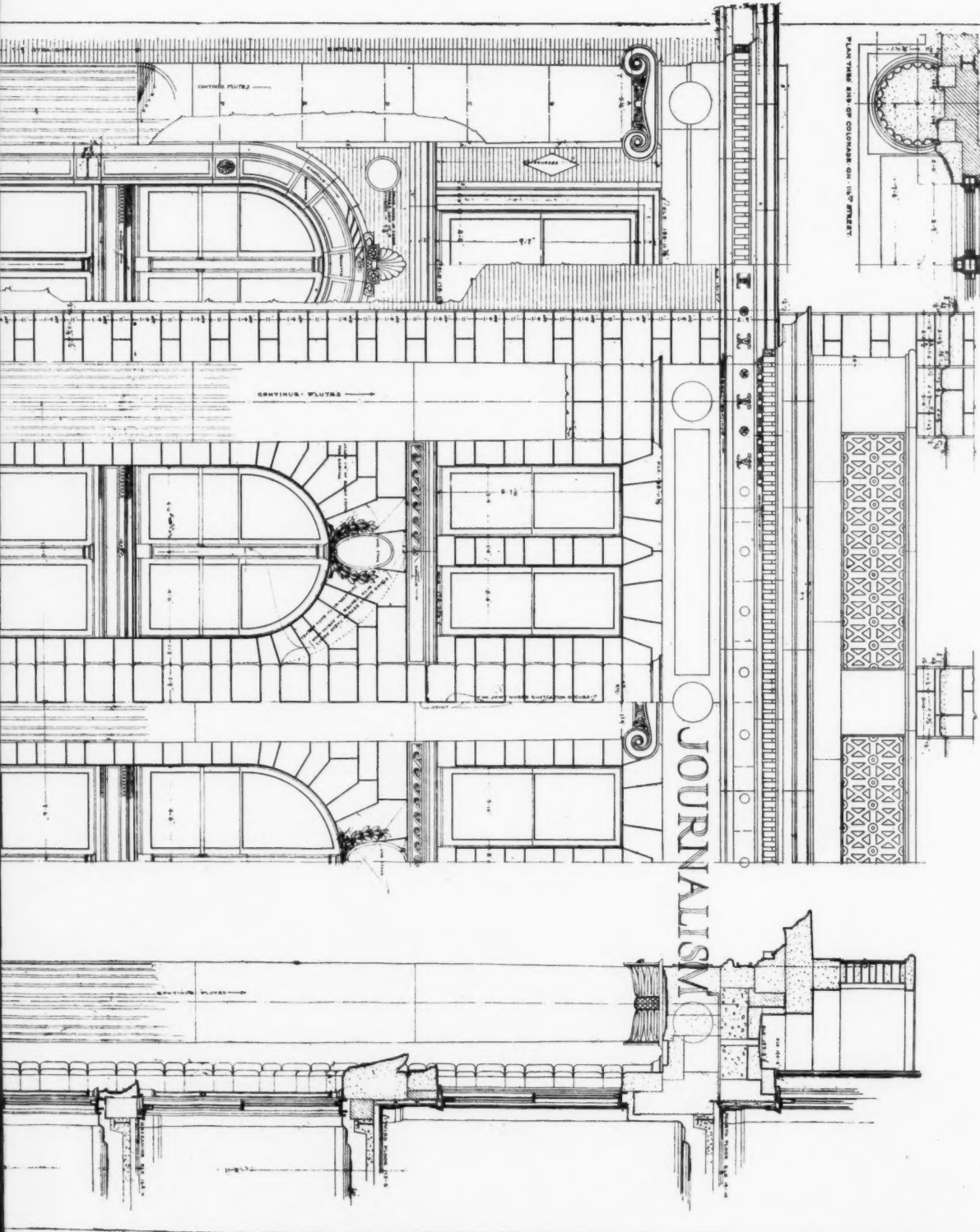
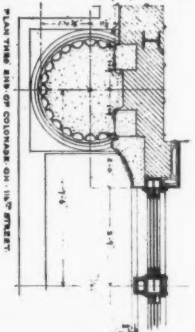
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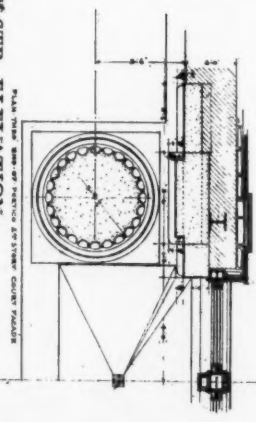
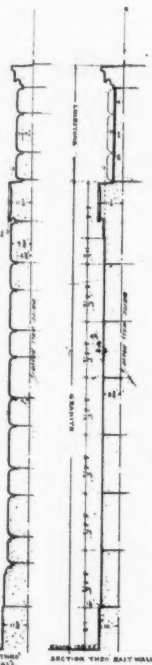
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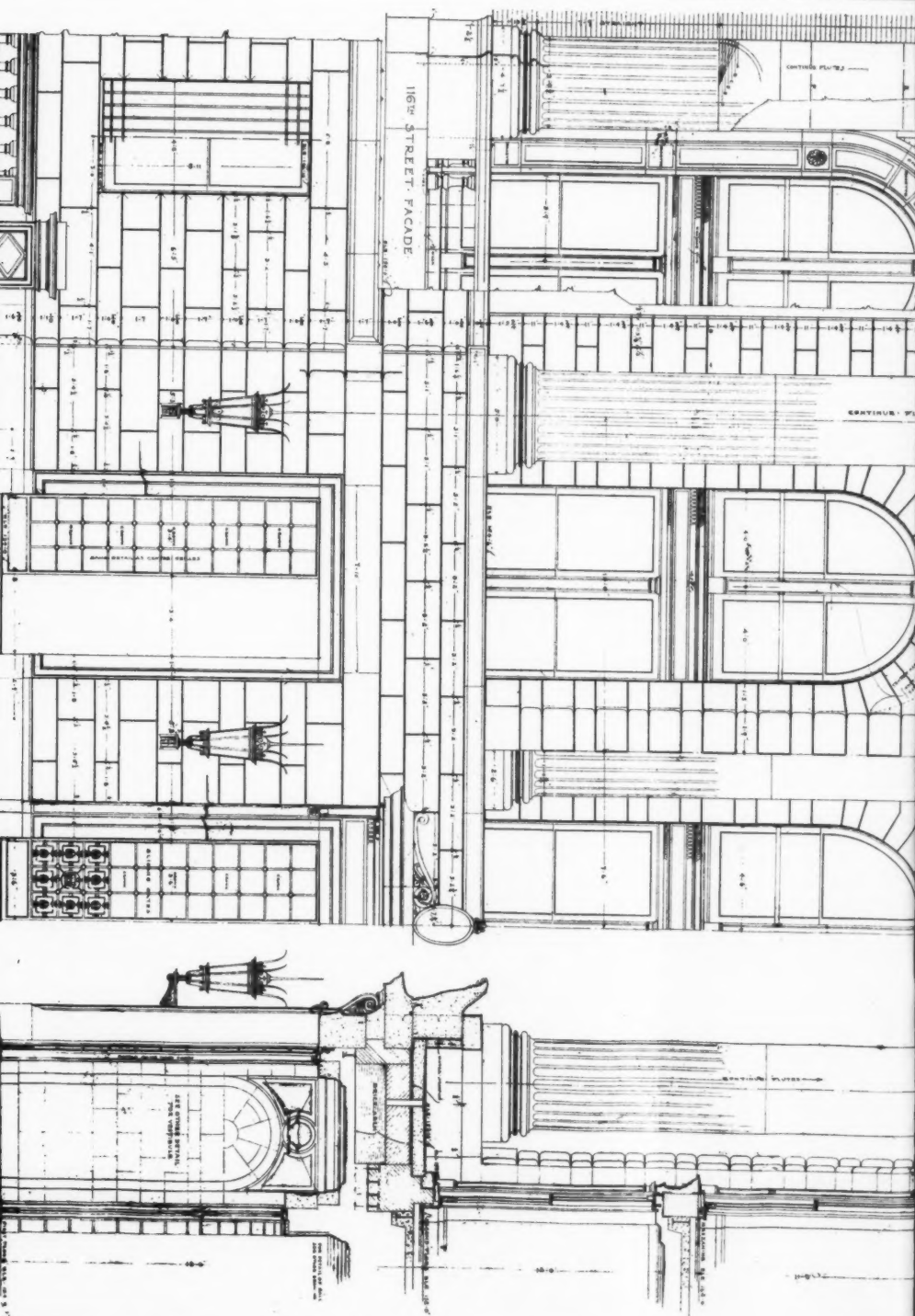
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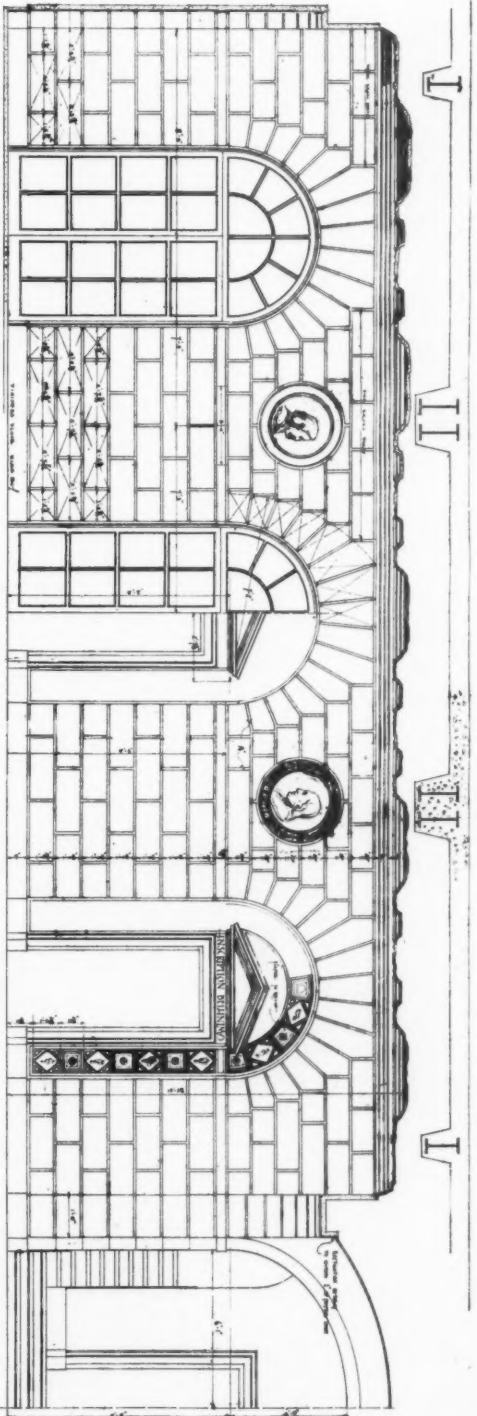


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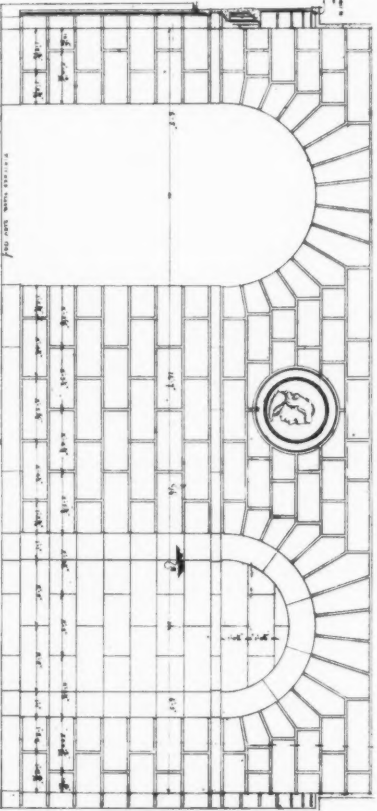
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ENTRANCE TO OFFICE

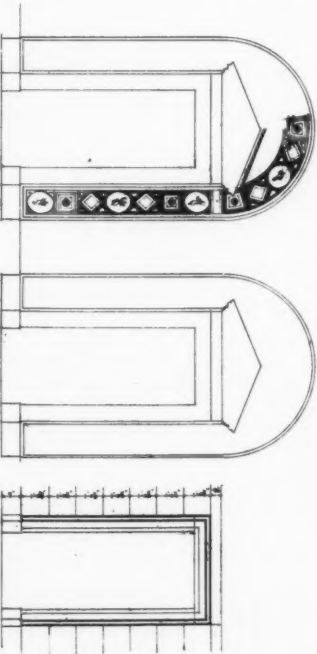
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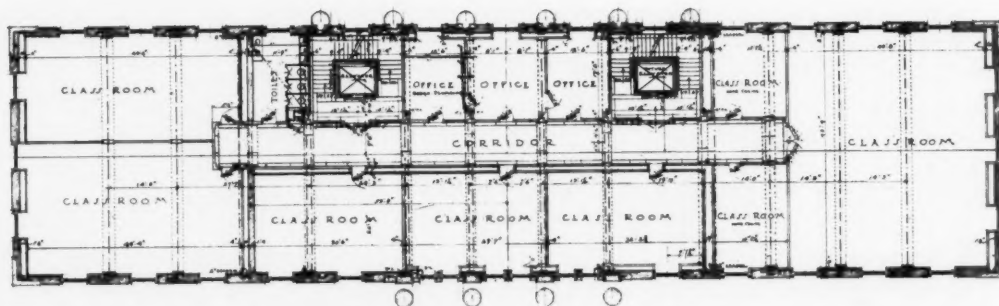
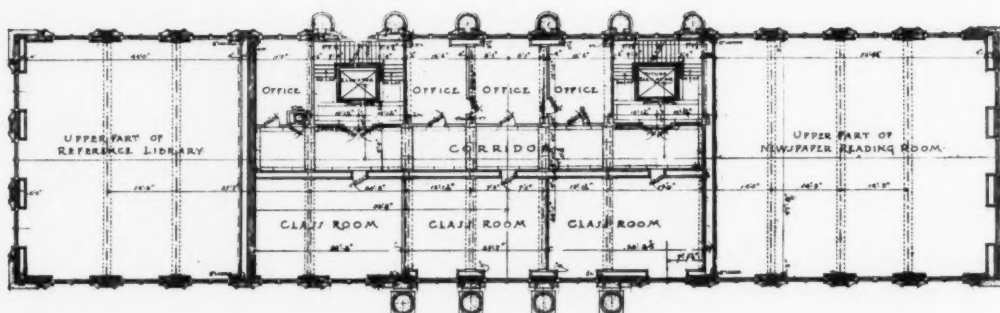
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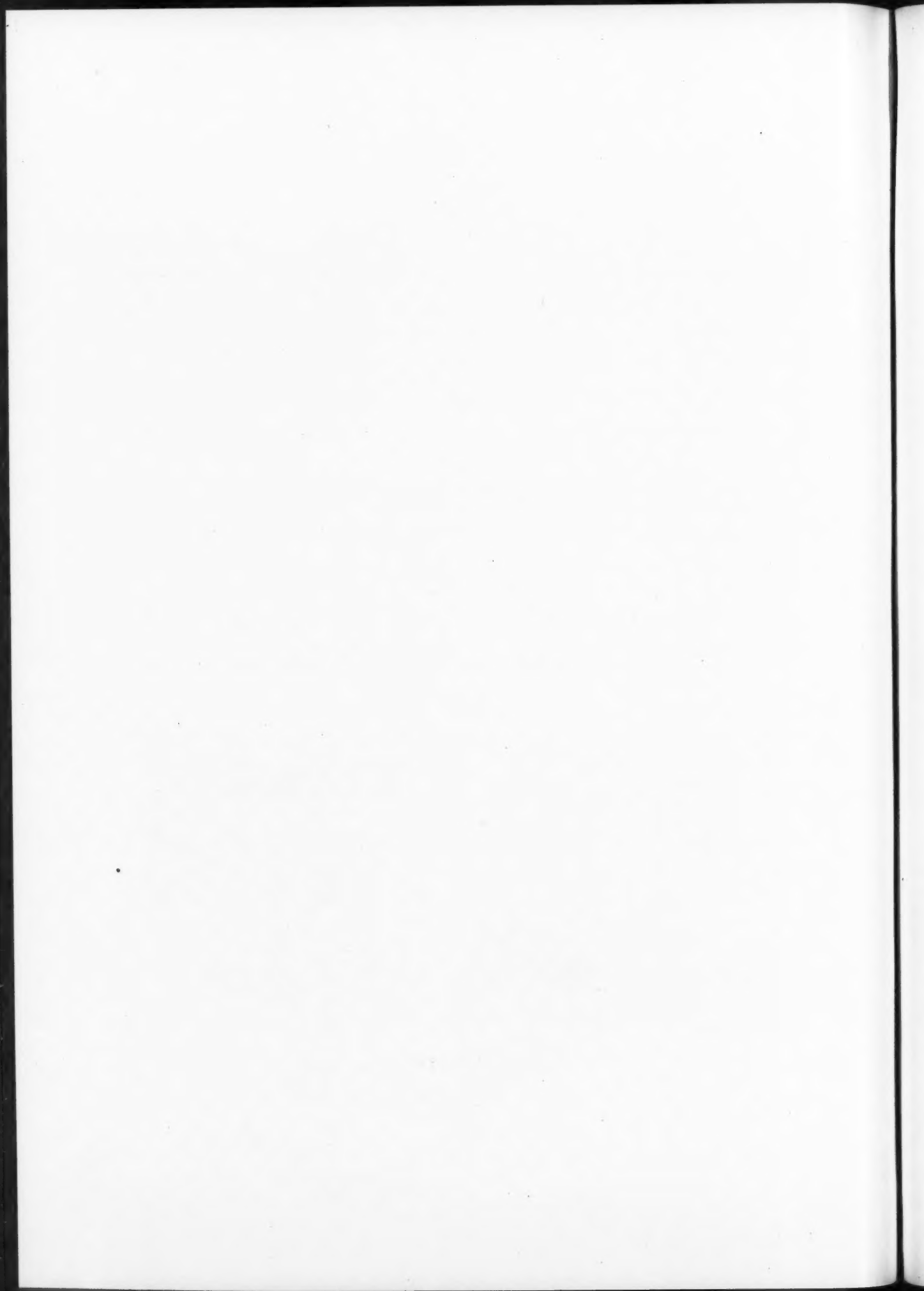
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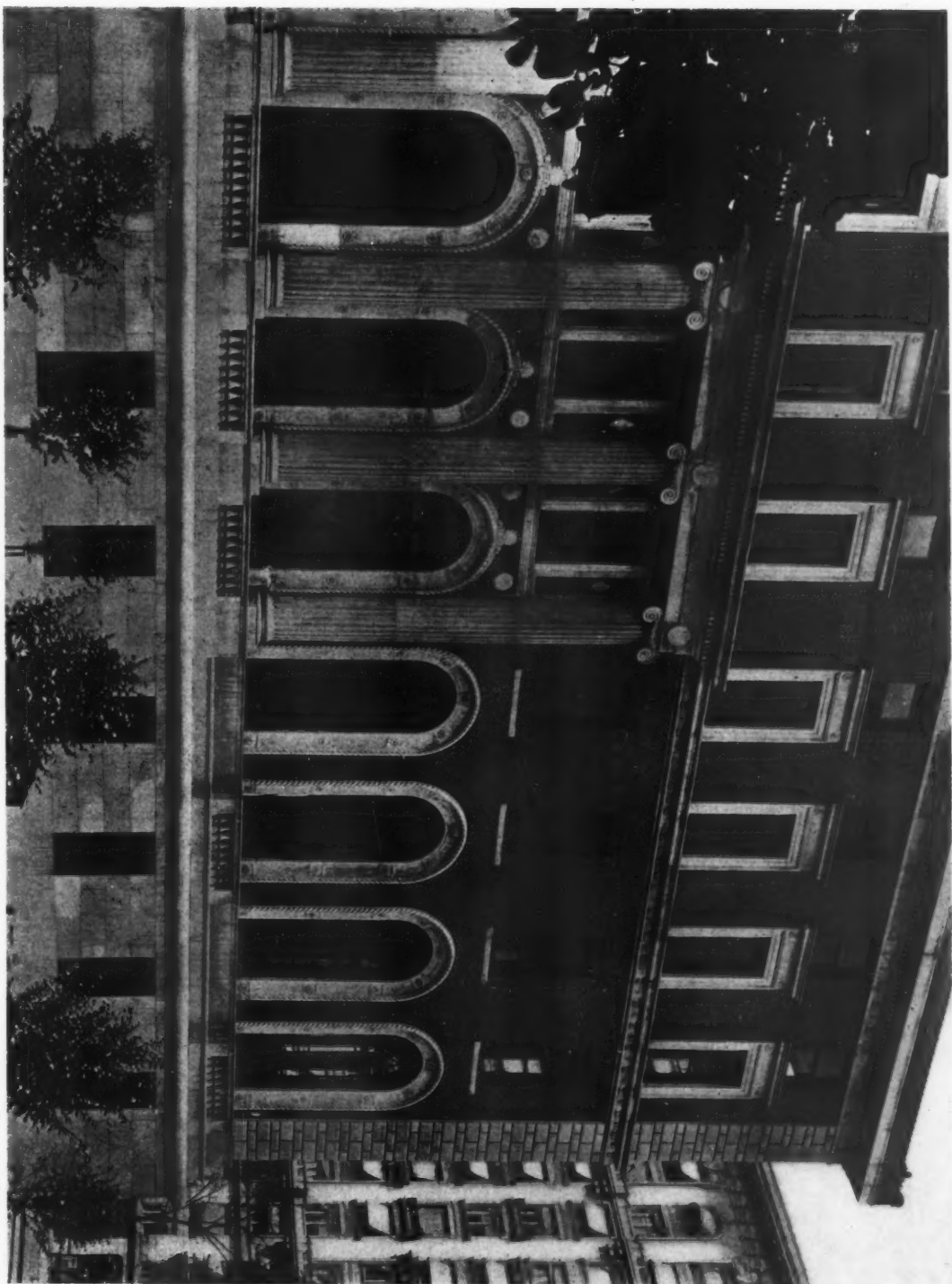
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AUGUST 27, 1913



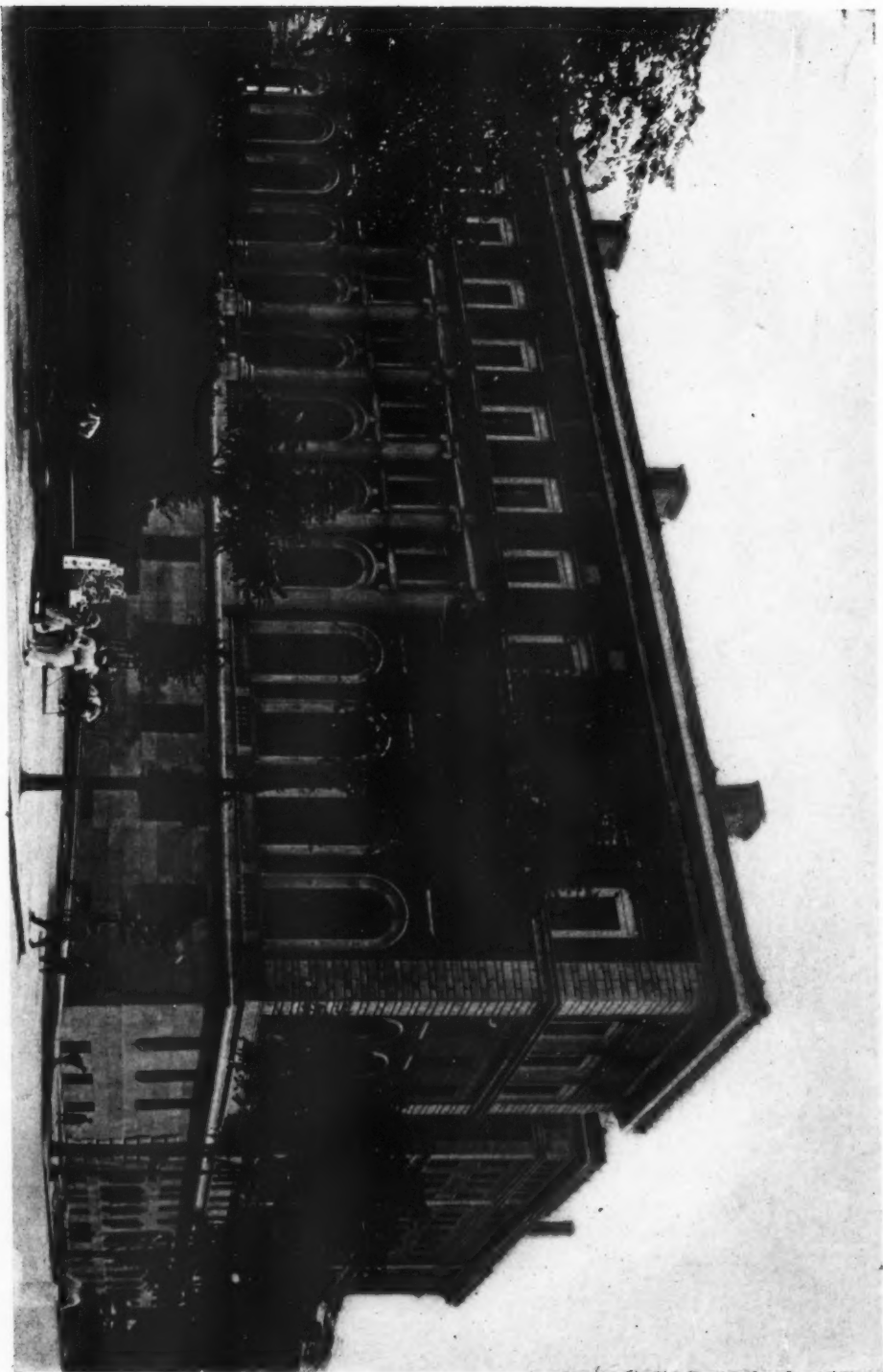
DETAIL OF 116TH STREET FACADE

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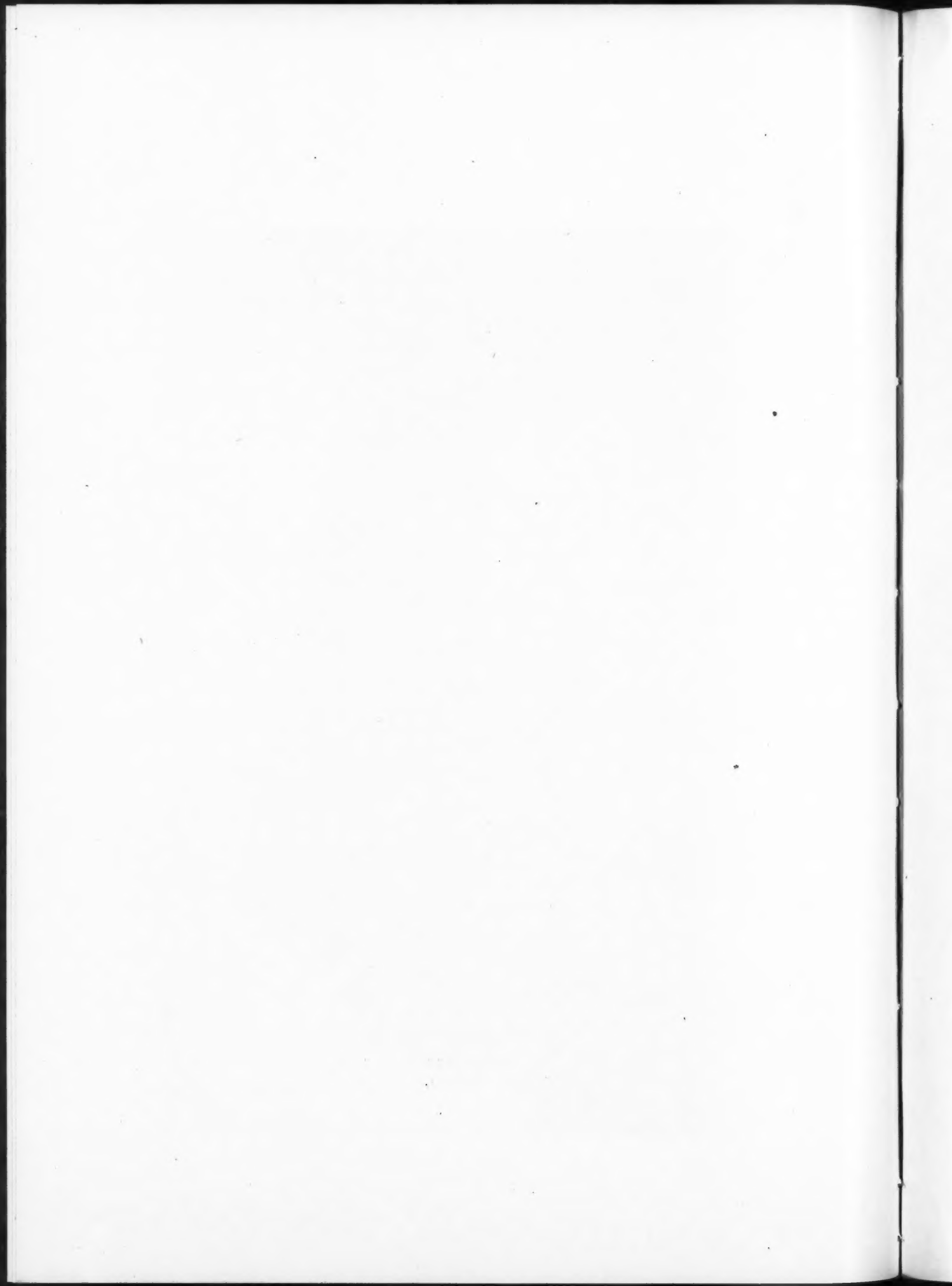
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AUGUST 27, 1913



VIEW FROM NORTHWEST

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CURRENT NEWS AND COMMENT

CHARLES BULFINCH

The *Boston Herald* in its issue of August 8th, takes occasion to direct attention to the fact, that it was the anniversary of the birth of Charles Bulfinch, architect, and publishes illustrations of a number of the best known examples of his work. It is gratifying to note that men who have attained prominence in this country in the profession of architecture, are not forgotten in the hurrying incident to our present largely commercialized point of view. That their works are regarded with respect, and as in the present instance saved from demolition and thus left to posterity, is also commendable. Bulfinch was born in 1763.

Undoubtedly his extant work most often referred to when his name is mentioned or his work discussed, is the Massachusetts State House. He designed many other notable buildings, among them, University Hall in the college yard at Harvard, the Massachusetts General Hospital, the enlarged Faneuil Hall and a number of houses and churches. Among the latter, Christ Church on Salem Street, Boston, is the best example of the purity of line and form that characterized this man's work.

TO BEAUTIFY CANAL

COMMISSION RECOMMENDS IMPRESSIVE ARCHITECTURAL FEATURES AT PANAMA

President Wilson has sent to Congress a report by the commission of fine arts outlining a plan for beautifying the Panama Canal. This includes two monuments and impressive architectural features at the entrance. Daniel C. French, the New York sculptor, and Frederick Law Olmstead, landscape architect of Boston, spent two weeks on the isthmus and the report submitted is based on their recommendations. The commission does not find the canal construction work to be of architectural beauty. "The entire absence of ornament and no evidence of the aesthetic," is one of the phrases describing the work on the canal. This, however, the commission admits, was to be expected of a work that was to be "strictly for utility. Like the pyramids, it is impressive because of its scale and simplicity," observes the commission. "Anything done merely to beautify would have been an imperfection in a work of that character."

One important recommendation made by the commission is for a monument at Culebra, where the canal passes through the continental divide. It is proposed that the monument be at least 100 feet high and of greater width, suitable for some inscription that may be read from the other side of the canal. The commission also recommends a

monument at Gold Hill, the highest point in the Culebra cut, and some suitable structure in the form of an arch at the point where the channel from Limon bay ends and the canal actually begins, and something similar at the Pacific entrance. A fringe of trees rising from the waters in Gatun Lake is condemned from an architectural viewpoint, Colonel Goethals said it would have been too expensive to have removed the trees. The commission recommends an additional lighthouse at the Atlantic entrance of the canal. The plan of the shops at Balboa is condemned as unsightly, but this work has advanced so far that a change in the plan is not practical. The commission approves the general plan for beautifying the Pacific entrance to the canal.—Newport, R. I., *News*.

SOME FACTS ABOUT GRANITE

Granite is two and two-thirds times as heavy as water; its specific gravity is 2.663. A cubic yard of granite weighs exactly three-quarters of a ton. The strength of granite is tremendous, although the different granites vary greatly. Poor granites will withstand a pressure of 18,000 pounds to the square inch. Good, close-grained granite will withstand 30,000 pounds; but certain Wisconsin granites have withstood a crushing pressure of 43,973 pounds to the square inch—22 tons weight resting on a tiny cube of stone not much larger than a lump of sugar.—*"The Architect and Engineer."*

TEXAS STATE BUILDINGS MUST BE FIRE-PROOF

Every public building erected with Texas State money hereafter shall be absolutely fireproof, according to a recent decision of the House Appropriations Committee.

The State Fire Marshal has been asked to define "fireproof," and his definition will be written into the appropriation bills, with the proviso that no appropriations for new buildings shall be available unless the required "fireproof" standards are complied with.

REPORT OF BOSTON SCHOOL HOUSE DEPARTMENT

The annual report of the School House Department of the City of Boston, Mass., for the twelve months preceding February 1st, 1913, is, like those that preceded it, an interesting record of the building operations of one of the most important departments of school construction in this country.

In addition to the illustrations of the various

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schools, together with floor plans, this report contains numerous appendices of standard detail, of fittings, accessories, plumbing and heating.

Further information of value, not only to those engaged by this department in the various branches incidental to construction, but to architects generally, is an appendix setting forth general information as to standard requirements for school buildings, and an account of some experiments carried on under the supervision of the Department, in the humidification of air.

This report has been ably prepared by Mr. Charles F. Eveleth, the Heating and Ventilating Engineer of the Boston School House Department.

YEAR BOOK NEW YORK SOCIETY OF ARCHITECTS

The Year Book for 1913 of the New York Society of Architects is a substantial volume of 300 pages, 6 by 9 inches, bound in flexible leather covers, and presents a marked advance over previous issues, in the collection of the various laws, ordinances, building and other regulations, to which architects have frequent occasion to refer. An added feature in this year's issue is an index of architects practising in the State of New York. Architects in practice may procure this Year Book on application. To all others the price is \$5.00.

DEPARTMENT OF ARCHITECTURE, UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

At the last meeting of the Board of Regents of the University of Michigan an important step was taken towards placing the Department of Architecture on a better footing. When that Department was organized seven years ago it was made a sub-department of the Department of Engineering for convenience of administration. The action just taken by the Board of Regents makes the Department of Architecture co-ordinate with the Department of Engineering. While henceforth there will continue to be one dean for the new organization, known as the Departments of Engineering and Architecture, the latter department will admit its students and have complete control of its courses of study as in the case of other major departments or colleges of the university. The recognition thus granted the Department of Architecture will be of great advantage in many respects and will help create an even better spirit than formerly, while this step accords directly with the opinions of architects in practice.

CONVENTION OF ILLUMINATING ENGINEERING SOCIETY

The Attendance and Transportation Committee of the Illuminating Engineering Society reported that a large number of members and others interested in illumination have signified their intention to attend the Convention. It is expected that the attendance will far surpass all previous conventions. The Committee has arranged for a special train over the Pennsylvania Railroad to leave New York, Sunday, Sept. 21st, at 10 A. M. Delegates from Boston will also travel by this train, which will pick up a delegation in Philadelphia at 11:57 A. M., and reaching Harrisburg at 2:35 P. M., will there take on the delegates from Baltimore and Washington, arriving in Pittsburgh at 8:50 P. M. A special train for the Western delegates will leave Chicago over the Lake Shore & Michigan Southern R. R. from the La Salle Street Station at 8:20 P. M., Sunday, Sept. 21st, due at Pittsburgh at 7:40 A. M., Monday. Other special accommodations will be provided as needed. These trains will be met at points outside of Pittsburgh by members of the local committee, who will care for the needs of the travelers.

The local committee has arranged for a full program of entertainment features during the Convention.

The Publicity Committee is preparing an attractive souvenir book containing a program of the Convention, a copy of which will be mailed to each member, and any others desiring it, about a week before the Convention.

PERSONAL

Mr. N. M. Woods, architect, formerly in practice in Memphis, Tennessee, has moved his offices to 156 Fifth Avenue, New York. He desires manufacturers' samples and catalogues.

Albert Kelsey, who designed the Pan-American buildings and grounds at Washington in association with Professor Paul P. Cret, has been appointed permanently architectural advisor to Director General Barrett, and is charged with visiting the property and making written reports four times a year. The care of the grounds and their further development and all matters pertaining to the physical welfare of the property will be in his charge.

This is the first time the European system of maintenance for a Government building—assuring strict adherence to a well established architectural theme—has been adopted in the United States.

INDUSTRIAL INFORMATION

IN this section will be found information concerning late catalogues issued by manufacturers of building materials, fixtures or equipment. Also under this head will be printed, from time to time, certain data relative to new devices or methods of construction considered to be of interest to architects. Architects are invited to make use of THE AMERICAN ARCHITECT'S Catalogue Files and Information Department whenever they can do so to advantage. Any assistance we can render or information we can furnish in this connection will be freely given.

A SPACE SAVING BED

The value of economy of space and a means of its attainment is shown in a pamphlet issued by the Murphy Door Bed Co., Longacre Building, Broadway and 42nd Street, New York.

The Murphy "In-a-dor" bed is a standard size, all metal bedstead, designed to fold away out of sight in a closet provided for the purpose. This bed, the makers state, has no counterweights, as it is perfectly balanced. On opening the closet door, the bed which is pivoted to the floor is easily swung out into the room, lowered and is at once ready for use.

The pamphlet referred to contains photographs of rooms in which this type of bed has been installed, floor plans of hotels and apartments designed to accommodate the Murphy bed, and detailed drawings giving exact dimensions of closet space for each one of the four standard sizes. Pamphlet may be had on request.

INTERLOCKING ROOFING TILE

The roof, possibly the most vulnerable part of a building when considered as to its fire exposure, has for years received the thoughtful consideration of makers of roofing material, in an endeavor to provide a fire resisting surface. One of the many methods used to secure this end, is illustrated and described in a pamphlet issued by Detroit Roofing Tile Company, Hammond Building, Detroit. Burned clay tile are now so commonly employed for roofing purposes, as to need no special mention.

The question of thoroughness of manufacture and the supplying of proper forms, together with the presentation of an artistic appearance when laid, are always necessary to consider. These points are discussed with many practical suggestions in the catalogue referred to. It may be had on application.

REFRIGERATORS

Catalogue No. 22, issued by Monroe Refrigerator Company, Locqland, Cincinnati, Ohio, is a well-prepared illustration and description of Monroe Refrigerators.

A feature of the construction of these refrigerators to which the makers direct attention is, that all food compartments are constructed of real porcelain ware, moulded in one solid piece. These compartments, they state, are practically unbreakable,

cannot discolor, crack or chip, and for this reason are a sanitary receptacle for their contents.

Views of many pretentious houses of modern construction in which Monroe refrigerators have been installed are reproduced in the pamphlet. The makers are desirous of conferring with architects and will send pamphlet and any further information desired on request.

VENTILATORS

Kerncher Company, McCormick Building, Chicago, desiring to acquaint architects with the merits of the Kerncher Siphonage Ventilator, have prepared for free distribution, an illustrated catalogue describing the siphonage principle.

An eduction pipe adapted to fasten on the roof over which it is to be used, is of cylindrical form at the top and provided with a flange at the bottom. The upper end of this pipe is provided with a number of V-shaped slits or openings, each covered with a siphon, tapering inwards towards the top and rising above the level of the pipe. By this means the makers state the most efficient ventilation is secured. Particular attention is directed to the fact that there is no revolving mechanism to get out of order, and consequently nothing to wear out.

Testimonials from owners of many buildings where this system of ventilation has been installed are included in the catalogue.

METAL CORNER BEADS

A method of protecting plastered corners by the use of metal corner beads, is illustrated and described in a pamphlet recently issued by The Clark Caster Company, Plainville, Connecticut, makers of plasterers' corner beads and special hardware.

These corner beads, termed "Straitedg," are constructed of galvanized metal, and furnished in $\frac{3}{8}$, $\frac{5}{8}$ and $\frac{3}{4}$ sizes, in lengths from 6 to 10 feet, special lengths to order. Full description and sample will be mailed to architect on request.

KEWANEE "UNIONS"

"The Whole Kewanee Family" is the title of an illustrated pamphlet issued by the Kewanee Works of the National Tube Company, Pittsburgh, Pa.

It describes steam fitting accessories made by the Company, with special reference to a line of

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Kewanee "Unions." These unions, it is stated, have been produced as the result of many years' experience in this line of manufacture, and are offered by the makers as a practical solution of disadvantages which have heretofore been present.

The idea was to provide a form of union that could be connected and disconnected an unlimited number of times without impairing its efficiency. To accomplish this, it was necessary to produce one that would not rust together and so make disconnection impossible. This feature was secured, it is claimed, by constructing a union with a brass to iron connection, with no inserted parts.

Among the illustrations in the pamphlet referred to is one of a Kewanee Union that has been disconnected one thousand times. It is stated that after this unusual test the union was in a perfectly serviceable condition, remaining as good as new, and under pressure disclosed no leakage.

These facts are cited at some length as evidence of the care used in modern manufacture to insure a product that will be as nearly perfect as human ingenuity can accomplish.

"DOORWAYS"

Doorways, the monthly publication issued by Richard Wilcox Mfg. Co., Aurora, Ills., is intended to direct attention to hardware specialties made by this Company.

Special reference is made to the line of door hangers that it is claimed are means of giving greater efficiency to sliding doors, and insuring the most positive and satisfactory operation.

An interesting series of prize articles, on the advantages and convenience of sliding doors are printed in this issue, the result of a competition intended to supply arguments to induce a more general adoption of this style of door.

FERRO CONCRETE CONSTRUCTION

Illustrated bulletins issued at irregular intervals by The Ferro Concrete Construction Company, Cincinnati, Ohio, and Seattle, Washington, serve to diffuse information as to recent construction by Ferro Concrete methods. These publications present interesting examples of a wide range of buildings with details of construction, statements of tests and much other information that will be of interest. They may be had by applying to the company.

THE FILTRATION OF WATER

Pure water is ordinarily obtained in one or the other of two ways: either by distillation or by filtration. A means of securing ample supply by the latter method is illustrated and described in a pamphlet issued by The Hygia Filter Co., Detroit,

Michigan. The apparatus, made in a variety of styles by this Company, passes the water through porous stone. The makers state that through improved method of construction, these filters may be easily and thoroughly cleaned and thus maintained in an efficient and sanitary condition.

Illustrated catalogues will be sent on request.

"STEEL FABRICS"

Steel Fabrics, the journal of the Clinton Wire Cloth Co., Clinton, Mass., is an occasionally published paper issued by this company to educate not only the architect and builder but the general public as well, in fireproof construction and concrete reinforcement with special reference to the use of the product of this manufacturer.

In common with other similar publications intended to forward the propaganda of fire prevention and fire protection, *Steel Fabrics* contains much technical information that will be of service to architects. It may be had on request.

The issue referred to contains an illustrated article on the new Charles River Bridge, at Boston, which is an interesting description of this important engineering work. It also contains descriptions of a series of recently conducted tests of concrete floors.

ARCHITECTURAL FINISHES

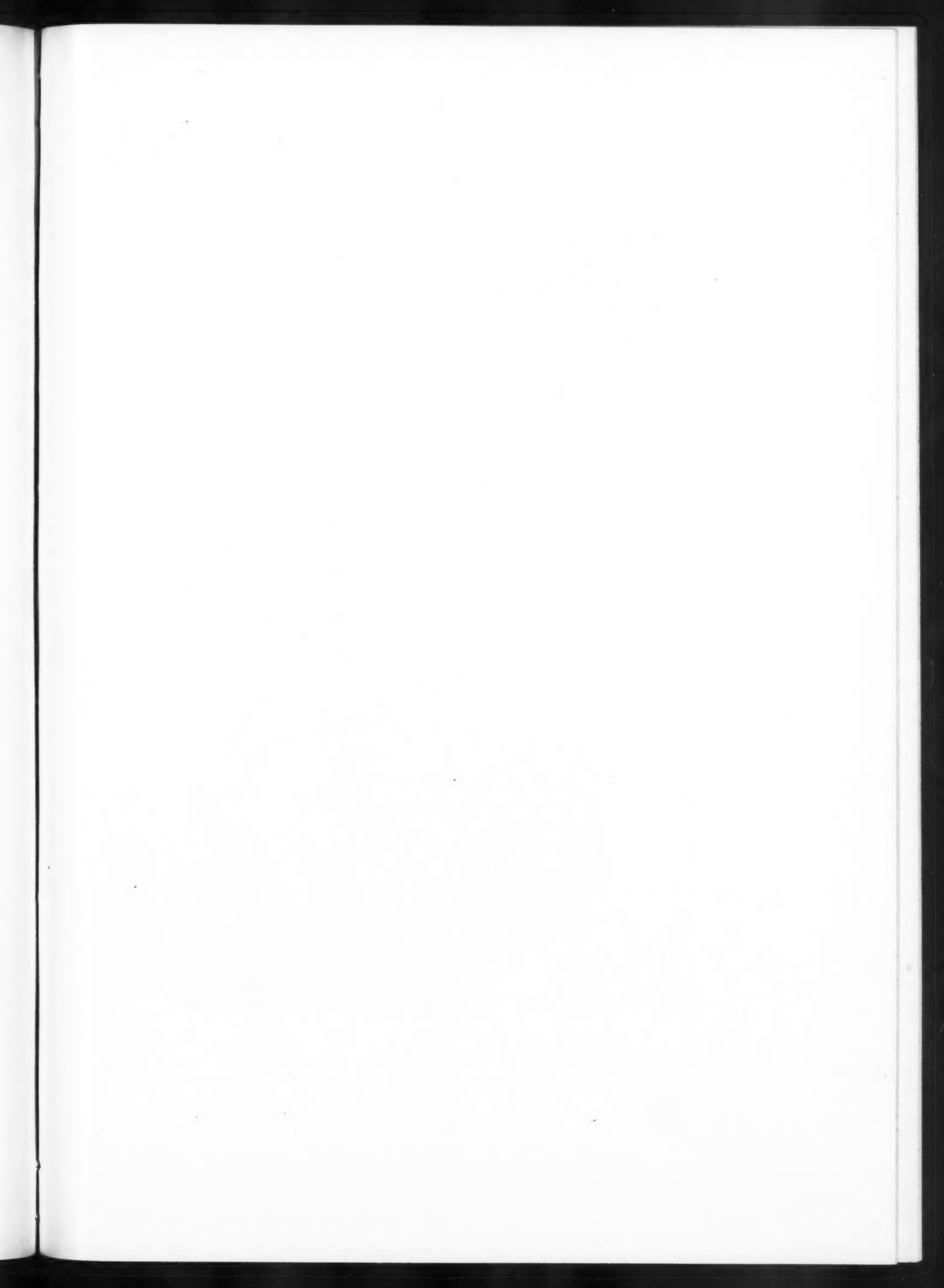
The Hildreth Varnish Company, West Street Building, 90 West Street, New York, are makers of varnishes, Japans and paints, and in a series of monographs recently issued direct attention to various finishes that the makers believe possess unusual advantages. These pamphlets include "The Big Four," "Architectural Finishes and Enamels," "Hildrolite," said to be a flat oil paint to be had in more than twenty-five shades, and a "Steel Preservative" paint, which it is stated is a pure carbon paint for preventing corrosion of structural steel.

The manufacturers will be glad to forward the series of monographs to architects on request.

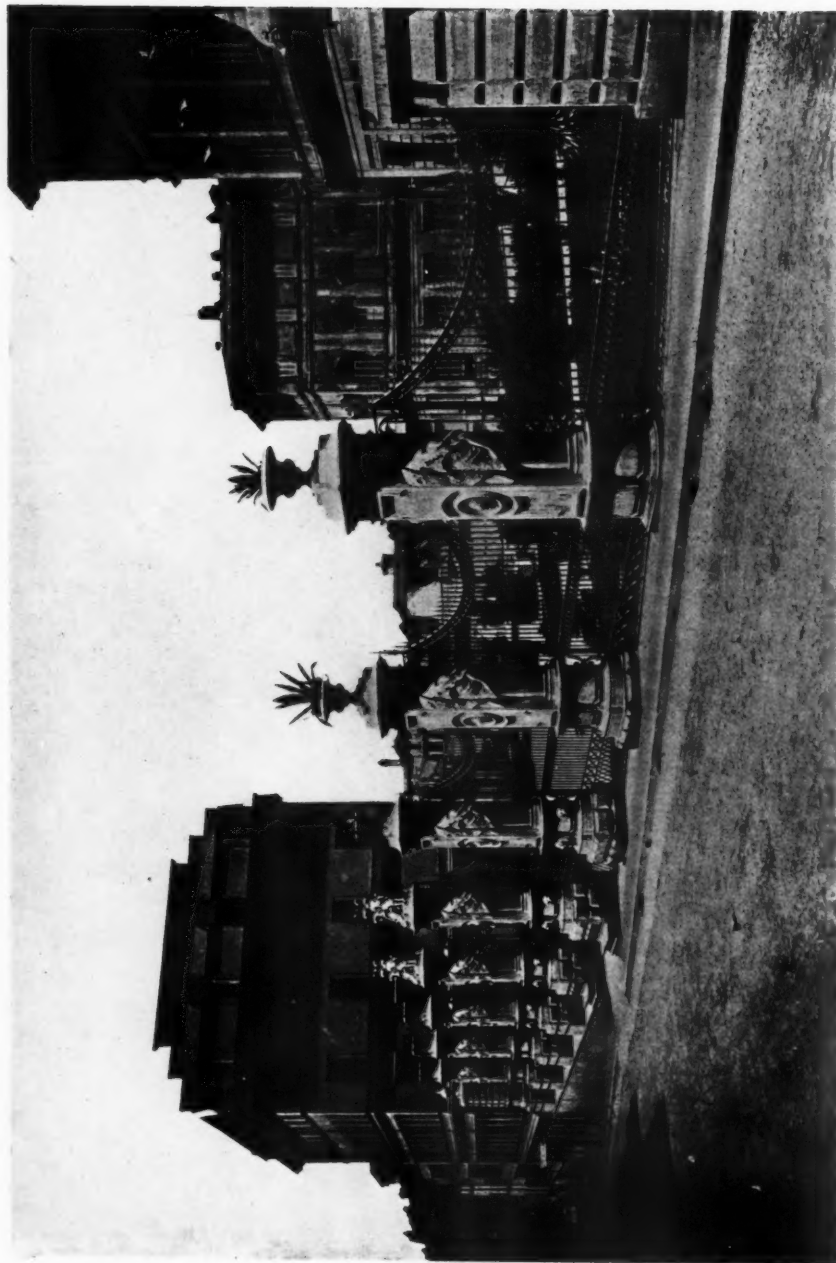
CONCRETE FLOORS

The Master Builders Company, whose main offices and works are at Cleveland, Ohio, have issued an illustrated pamphlet directing attention to Master Builders Method in the construction of concrete floors. These floors are said to be non-porous, durable, dust-proof and water-proof. The method employed for securing these desirable features is described in the pamphlet referred to.

The makers direct attention to the fact that millions of feet of concrete floors have been laid by Masters Builders method, and they desire the most careful inspection of these floors as a proof of the thoroughness of the work.



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PALAZZO BARBERINI, ROME