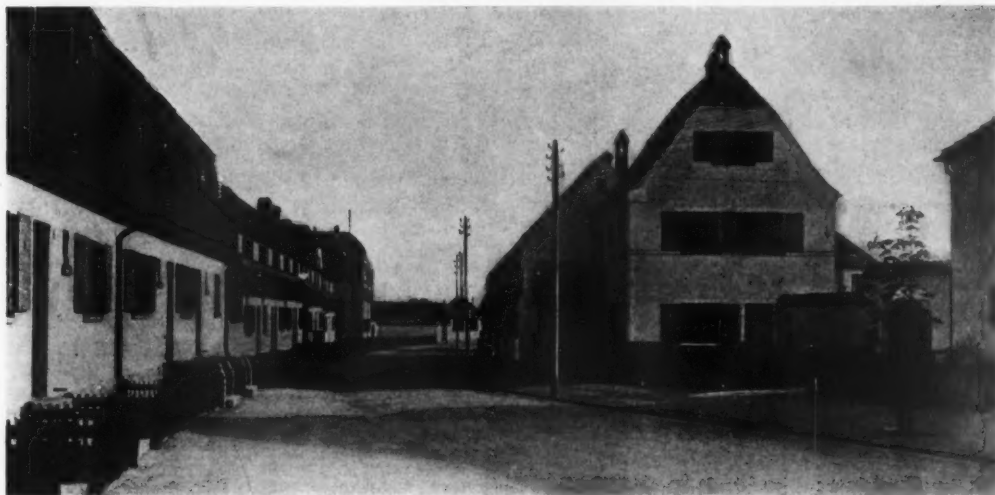


THE AMERICAN ARCHITECT

VOLUME CIV

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 22, 1913

NUMBER 1974



HELLERAU

THE FIBRE OF THE NATION. PART V

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

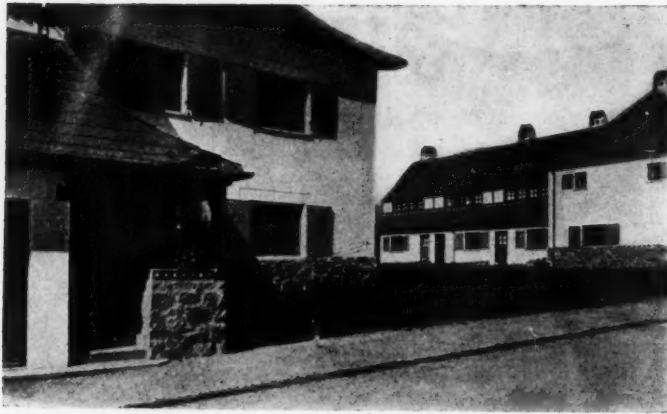
By WM. H. SCHUCHARDT, A.I.A., Member of the Milwaukee Housing Commission

THE CONTINENT



MOST splendidly planned apartment building, one of the best in Germany, is that built by the Society for the Betterment of Housing Conditions in Munich (Verein für Verbesserung der Wohnungsverhältnisse in München) of which the architect is Herr Johann Mund. German architects are often termed building artists, which descriptive title is well earned by Herr Mund, for this building like other workingmen's homes designed by him is of a high order, and illustrates the possibility of making architecture an art for the poor as well as for the well-to-do. The Dachauer Strasse building, with the

courts, covers a city block, and contains 224 apartments. Seventy-four of these are of one room and kitchen, forty-six of two bedrooms and kitchen, forty-five have two bedrooms, kitchen and bath, others have three bedrooms, kitchen and bath, and several are without baths. Rentals vary from twenty-seven marks (\$6.75) per month to forty marks (\$10) per month. Besides these apartments the building contains six stores or shops with two room dwellings attached, and three shops with storage facilities. There is also a bathing establishment in the basement and a large kindergarten hall with a playground at its door, and it is intended soon to begin a library for the tenants. The entire building is divided by fire walls into twenty-four sec-



HELLERAU

tions, each of which contains a fireproof stair hall. Otherwise, with the exception of a tile roof and exterior masonry walls, the construction is of wood and plaster. As there are never more than three apartments per floor adjoining these stair halls, and as the building is only four stories high, the chances for escape, in the event of fire, are considered sufficient to permit of thus lowering the cost of the building.

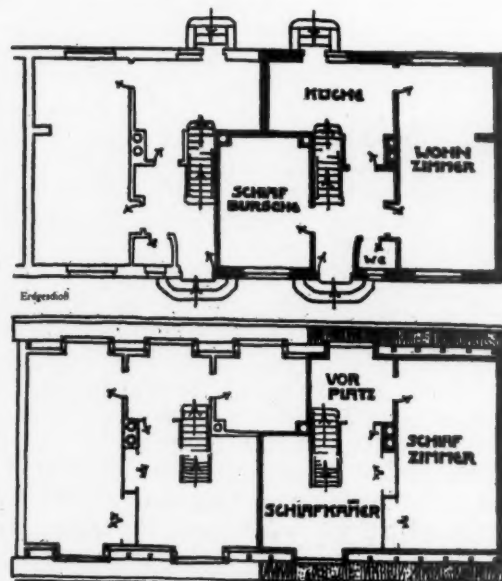
The rooms are carefully planned to permit of an economical placing of furniture, and, with the exception of the small chambers or "Kammer," are generally seventeen feet long, and in width vary from ten to twelve feet. This shape allows for two and even three beds, a wash stand and a clothes press, for closets, as we know them, are sparingly introduced. The window area in each room is never less than ten per cent. of the floor area, and as there are no small courts or light shafts whatsoever, fresh air in abundance and plenty of light make each apartment a wholesome abode. While not every family is provided with a complete plumbing outfit, it has at least always a toilet to itself. In some cases the bath rooms open out of the kitchen, an arrangement no doubt open to criticism, but inasmuch as sunlight and air are as essential to good sanitation as are well calked pipes, and as the greatest possible economy of floor space, consistent with propriety, must obtain in buildings of this type, mere circumvention of such objections would result in extravagance. Bedrooms and kitchens, which are, at the same time, living

rooms, are placed, where possible, toward the south or the west, and for this reason the stair halls are found either on the north or east. A small built-in cupboard, a gas stove for summer cooking, and a coal stove for winter cooking and heating, complete the kitchen appointments. And no family is without its own balcony. One detail is worthy of mention. The main entrance door to each apartment has, in the upper panel, a small hinged sash so that women, when alone, may receive through them packages

without danger of intrusion.

With the exception of the space allowed for the Kindergarten, the ground in the court is divided into small allotment gardens, of about thirty square yards each, which are rented to tenants for \$2.50 per year. These gardens are much appreciated and yield, besides pleasure to those who enjoy working in them, enough fresh vegetables to make their maintenance well worth while.

In management, the society leaves as much as possible to the tenants. Each group of twelve families elects its represen-



TYPICAL PLAN OF COTTAGES, HELLERAU

tative who serves without pay, and at weekly meetings the small details of adjustment are considered. Complaints of one kind or another do not concern the society officers, much to their advantage and that of the tenants.

The building cost approximately eighteen cents per cubic foot, and although the value of the land was low, the cost of street improvement was considerable. In spite of the low rentals, however, the investment pays four per cent. interest.

The Society, under Herr Mund's direction, has also built a number of cottages which are very attractive indeed. They contain a living room in the front, and a kitchen in the rear, and three bedrooms on the upper floor. A cellar under the entire house contains a small laundry and a store room. The bath tub is probably used but once a week [for its] location is not sufficiently convenient to promote more frequent ablutions. It is set in the kitchen floor, suspended from the joists, so that the rim is several inches below the finished flooring. A trap door hides it from view during the day, and also gives to the occupant the use of the six square feet when the tub is not in use. The tenants are most appreciative of their

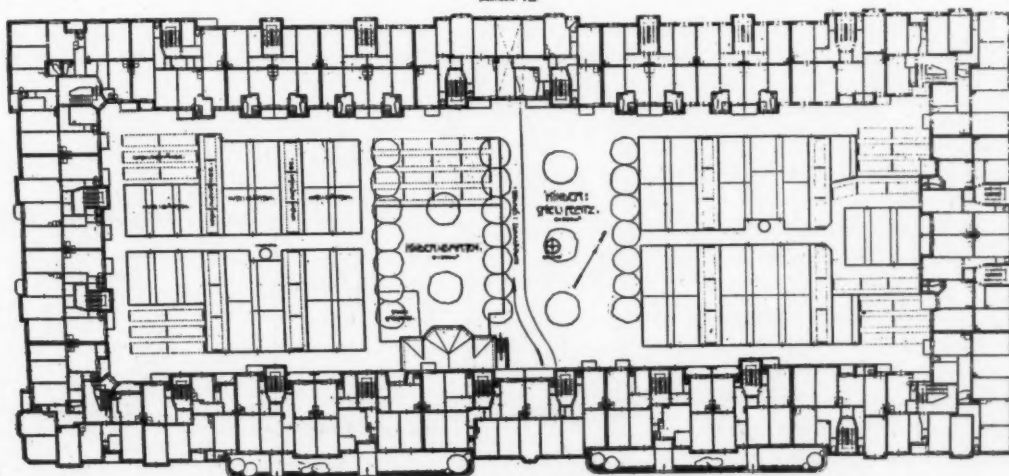


DACHAUER STREET APARTMENTS, MUNICH

homes and show it by enhancing the beauty of the street by coöperating in decorative planting.

Twelve societies are engaged in erecting workingmen's houses in Munich; and at Perlach, not far distant, is contemplated the erection of a Garden City, resembling in many ways the scheme of Howard.

A German Letchworth has now been most successfully in operation for three years. On property ideally located for the purpose, as far as clean air, nearness to a large center, and freedom from possible encroachment are concerned, Hellerau has made most wonderful strides, and is one of the sights in the environs of Dresden well worth the attention of any tourist. The



GENERAL PLAN, DACHAUER STREET APARTMENTS, MUNICH

THE AMERICAN ARCHITECT

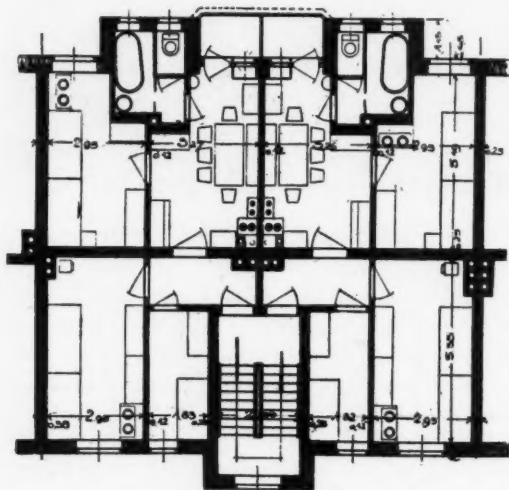
new town lies about four miles from the heart of the Saxon capital, is protected on two sides by crown forests, on one side by the military drill grounds, and on the third by land, too hilly to ever develop into building property. Furthermore, being about 300 feet above the level of Dresden, and the prevailing winds blowing toward

ing through the estate, is now extended to its intended full length.

Attractive stores face the market place, and before many years a post office, school building, and an amusement hall will completely surround the square. Although considerable variety in architectural expression obtains, the individual character of the houses is never other than German. White or cream colored stucco walls, green, solid shutters, and red tile roofs are the three dominant notes, which not only give Hellerau a clean, cheerful appearance, but also suggest a unity of purpose and an appreciation of the ugliness of neighborhoods where harmony in buildings is not considered. The horrible jumble of architectural styles, which is the dominant and irritating note in American cities, and which supposedly expresses individual freedom, will never distress the inhabitants of this Garden City.

Rentals are based on a six per cent. profit. A four-room house, having a kitchen and living room on the first floor, two bedrooms on the second floor, and a laundry and storage space in the cellar, and having on each floor about 560 square feet, rents for \$70 a year. The annual ground rent in the district set aside for workingmen's cottages, is only four and one-half cents per square yard. Five-room houses rent for \$100, exclusive of ground rent.

In the district for the comparatively well-to-do, six-room houses, with bath and laundry, rent for \$250 a year; and twelve-room houses, with every convenience, rent for \$700 a year. Annual ground rents in this district are nine cents per square yard.

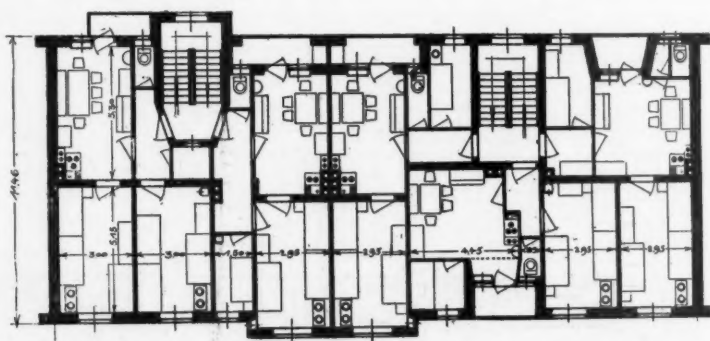


FOUR-ROOM APARTMENTS, DACHAUER STREET APARTMENTS, MUNICH

the city, fresh, invigorating air greatly adds to the desirability of this location as a building site.

The financial scheme of Hellerau is quite similar to that of the English prototype; a land possessing society leases on long terms to share-holding tenants, and a partnership building society erects the buildings, subject to the approval of a commission composed of six prominent architects.

Factory sites are to be sold, instead of leased, with the understanding, however, that the society shall repurchase, at the original price, any land which is to be devoted to workingmen's homes. During the first three years, *i.e.*, between 1909 and 1912, about 300 houses have been erected, and contracts have been let for 300 more. New side roads are being built, and the main wide avenue, wind-



THREE-ROOM APARTMENTS, DACHAUER STREET APARTMENTS, MUNICH

THE AMERICAN ARCHITECT

There is, as yet, but one factory in Hellerau, that of the Deutschen Werkstätten. The buildings, like many of the cottages, were designed by Professor Riemerschmid, who has admirably succeeded in expressing strictly utilitarian needs artistically. If in the planning of future factory groups, an equal degree of attention will be given to design, and if continuance of the now complete harmony in appearance which obtains in the entire village can be assured, Hellerau will indeed be an attractive place to live in.

Although only the larger attempts to meet housing demands have been discussed in this article, smaller operations along these lines are by no means precluded. One of these, Freie Scholle, near Berlin, is of special interest in so far that the houses are not built in a line but are staggered, permitting in this manner a more economical use of the land. Houses here hold from two to four families each, and in no case are two entrance doors placed near together or even on the same side. Considerable privacy is thus assured, not only in the house

but also in the small garden, which for each family is about four times as large as the ground floor area of the apartment.

And many similar new towns and workmen's districts are as well worthy of description or at least mention, not that they perhaps contain more information, but because of the deep thought and care expended on them. However, we can only indicate the extent of the interest which housing has aroused in the fatherland.

During the last decade over \$100,000,000 have been loaned by the empire, the various kingdoms, and insurance companies to building societies; in addition, municipalities are loaning to such societies great amounts, or are themselves building workmen's houses, and a number of cities, such as Ulm, Mannheim, Frankfurth a/M., Dortmund and Stuttgart are carrying out town extension policies by purchase of land. For example, Ulm now owns eighty per cent. of the land within its borders, Aix-la-Chapelle owns over 4,000 acres, Brunswick about 3,500 acres, Stettin over 12,000 acres. These are taken merely at random.

DEMERARA MAHOGANY

DEMERARA mahogany of British Guiana, South America, is the trade name of the wood of a tree botanically known as *Carapa guianensis*. It is a large tree, ranging from sixty to ninety feet in height, and from two to three feet in diameter. The trees are without branches for from one-fourth to one-third of their total height. They generally have clean symmetrical trunks for twenty to thirty feet, and logs or timbers from fifteen to twenty inches square can often be obtained. The bole is free from knots, and unlike that of many of the trees producing mahogany-like woods, is not buttressed.

This tree is confined chiefly to the dense forests along the rivers and the coast of Trinidad, Colombia, Venezuela, the Guianas, and parts of Brazil. It grows very abundantly along the Demerara River in British Guiana, and for this reason is called

Demerara mahogany, though it is not mahogany at all. It never grows in pure stands, but is scattered through dense forests of many species. Seldom, in fact, are more than from four to eight trees found on an acre. Little is known concerning its average rate of growth to maturity, but it is probable that trees of merchantable size, say twenty-four inches in diameter, are about 150 years old.

The wood of this tree is known by a number of local names, of which Carapa is perhaps the most common. This name has been corrupted into cropaud, and crappo, from which is derived the trade name crabwood, commonly applied to this wood in the English markets. In Brazil the tree is called andiroba, angiroba and nandiroba. In the American trade it is sold for mahogany and in order to distinguish it from the true kind it is commonly referred to as Demerara mahogany, because Demerara is the port from which it is largely shipped.

In grain, color, strength, and specific gravity, the wood appears to be intermediate between Spanish cedar (*Cedrela odorata*) and true mahogany (*Swietenia mahagoni*). Cedar, however, is much lighter, its specific gravity being .474, Demerara mahogany showing .689, while true mahogany is sometimes as high as .84. Demerara is not very strong, but it is quite tough, moderately heavy, durable, and has a pleasant brown color, rather dark, with a grain somewhat more open than that of genuine mahogany. While it is said to warp, check, and often twist when exposed to sudden changes in atmospheric moisture, these defects are usually not observed after the wood has been thoroughly seasoned.

The pith rays of Demerara mahogany are quite numerous, but very narrow, so that the wood when quarter-sawed does not show any very remarkable figure and probably is quite as handsome flat-sawed as quarter-sawed; in the opinion of some it is handsomer. The wood has another advantage over a number of mahogany substitutes, which adds to its value, in that it is easily worked. This quality, combined with its rather pleasing color, commend it for inside finish as well as for cabinet-making. It has been used quite extensively for that purpose in England for a good many years, and just now when the favorite woods are rather costly, Demerara mahogany should make a valuable addition to the list of inside finishing woods of the better class.

While Demerara mahogany is generally recognized among furniture men as an inferior grade of cabinet wood, it is nevertheless employed for making expensive furniture. It is usually stained and darkened more or less so that one can not deny that it makes pretty fancy looking furniture. It is a serviceable wood and possesses many really good qualities. It may be recommended not only to the cabinet maker but also to the builder of small means, who wishes a substantial hardwood for interior finish. The wood has an extensive use in the region where it grows. It is sawn into scantling, boards, and planks, and is split into shingles and staves. Its chief native use is for beams, rafters, and for furniture.

THE FUTURE OF VENICE

THE question of overcrowded population is a particularly serious one for cities like Venice, whose building area is not capable of indefinite expansion. To be 30,000 in excess of the number for which it has adequate accommodation is to be faced with a problem in special circumstances which render it by no means easy of solution. This is the problem which we are told is now giving rise to some discussion amongst those responsible for the future of Venice. In this future the whole civilized world is interested, for the charm of Venice is one of those things that have come to be looked upon as the common heritage of mankind. New York, confronted with much the same problem, solved it in its own way—a way which we hope will not prove acceptable to the Venetians. Suggestions, we understand, have been made for building at Lido and on the mainland, but whatever may be proposed we feel confident that the ultimate decision will be influenced by the wisdom of preserving the beauty inherited from the past.—*The Builder*.

RECENT LEGAL DECISIONS

CONTRACTOR'S RECOVERY ON DESTRUCTION OF BUILDING BY FIRE

A building under erection was accidentally burned before completion. It was held that the contractor was entitled to recover, in an action on *quantum meruit*, such part of the contract price as the cost of the work done and materials furnished bore to the cost of the whole work, and materials agreed to be done and furnished, and it was error to deduct from the contract price for the whole work the amount it would have cost, at the time of the fire, to complete the building according to the contract. The fact that the building was destroyed four days after the date appointed by the contract for its completion would not prevent the contractor from recovering, the owner having consented to the work continuing after the date fixed for completion.

A provision in the contract required the owner to keep the building insured

(Continued on page 160)

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A PROTEST AGAINST ANNUAL STATE "LICENSE" FEES

THE registration and licensing of any class of professional men, and specifically of architects, is presumably intended to provide a public safeguard against dishonest and incompetent practitioners, and incidentally furnishes a measure of protection to the repute of the profession. Certainly the expense of determining the qualifications of an individual seeking to enter a professional field, and also the cost of his registration should be borne by the applicant,—for, provided he be competent, it is no concern of the state whether he enters the field or not. It is therefore not the duty of the state to bear the expense of proving and officially recording an individual's competency to practice.

However, having proven his competency, the architect, as such, has fulfilled his technical obligations to the state. Thereafter, the supervision of his practice would seem to be a function of the state police power, the expenses of which are chargeable to the community at large. Notwithstanding this obvious principle, in at least one state each of the thousand or more practitioners is required to pay, in addition to the registration charges,

a substantial annual "license" fee to the state treasury or forfeit his certificate of registration. Such a tax is justified only on the assumption—in this case groundless—that the architect in the practice of his profession uses more of the public property or service than does the average citizen. The license fee of the expressman is justified for the reason that he uses the public streets as a large part of his business equipment; theatrical performances are justifiably taxed because they require considerable police and fire protection which cause large, direct public expense.

Similar justification for a tax on the practice of architecture appears to be lacking. Practitioners in law and medicine are not "licensed" by the year as are hucksters and cab drivers, and the practice of architecture is certainly no more frequently the object of state regulation than are these other professions. Consequently, it would seem that architects in the one or more states where an annual tax is levied on their practice have cause to protest against an iniquitous form of class legislation.

Tentative legislation on this subject in another state provides for a fee estimated to cover only the expenses incident to examination and registration; no annual tax is required of the practitioners.

When the much-needed, nation-wide, uniform legislation covering this entire subject is enacted, it is greatly to be hoped that it will not require the unjust annual "license" fee.

A WORLD CENTER OF COMMUNICATION

A DREAM of empire more dazzling than Napoleon's is conceived by Hendrik Christian Andersen and given expression in a volume *de luxe* recently acquired by the New York Public Library. Inspired by a patriotism that knows no national boundaries, yet without proposing to violate the political sovereignty of existing states, Mr. Andersen champions "the creation of a world center of communication," a new city in which all things that make for world progress shall be unified, strengthened and given universal publicity. Homes for all such

THE AMERICAN ARCHITECT

existing institutions are to be grouped in three centers of physical culture, art and science. Besides nine years of untiring effort on the part of the author himself, over forty architects, engineers, sculptors and painters have been employed in the preparation of the work under the direction of M. Ernest Hebrand, architect of the French government. As the plan has already greatly interested world leaders it is obviously not to be merely "a vision that appeareth for a little time and then vanisheth away."

The question may well be raised, however, whether this arbitrary centralization of all tools of progress would really effect the end sought. There is a world's Peace Tribunal at the Hague, Paris very justly claims to be the center of art, and London the focus of commercial interests. New York is symbolic of commercial enterprise and Boston of culture. The list might be extended very fully. This varied location of world embracing interests assures travel, and, consequently, maximum contact of world leaders, which after all seems to be the object sought by Mr. Andersen. He rightly argues that mutual understanding

and sympathy are fostered by intimate contact of minds working together in a worthy cause. This result is, however, being rapidly and most effectively realized through commercial relations, pleasure travel, scientific, art and philanthropic congresses, the telegraph and international press associations. The idea of bringing a comparatively small number of persons together in one permanent center seems more applicable to former times when means of travel and communication were not so general as today or so full of promise for the future. Mr. Andersen believes that existing institutions are too scattered and difficult of access, that there is too little unity of organization to make any general harmony of action possible, and that therefore the creation of a common center uniting all international endeavors upon the widest lines of practical utility would be largely welcomed as a decided step in advance. Certainly the motive is most worthy, but we question the successful realization of the plan until, through existing agencies, the nations of the world have become more cosmopolitan than at present.

RECENT LEGAL DECISIONS

(Continued from page 158)

during the progress of the work, the policies to cover all work incorporated in the building and materials for the same, in or about the premises, and to be made payable to the parties "as their interest may appear." Policies were taken out in the joint names of the owner and the contractor's and also in the owner's own name. It was held that the value of the contractor's insurable interest at the time of the fire must be determined by the contract price, so that they could recover out of the insurance monies received only the amount due under the contract, and not an amount equal to the cost of the work and materials incorporated in the building. They were entitled to the fair value of lumber owned by them and bought upon the premises at the time of the fire to be used in the building, although it had not then been attached thereto. *Anderson v. Shattuck*, N. H. S. C., 81 Atl. 781. (J. S.)

DEFINITION OF "WORK" IN A BUILDING CONTRACT

A building contract provided that no alterations should be made "in the work," as shown by the drawings and specifications, except upon the written order of the owner. "Work," in an action on the contract, was defined to be the product of labor and material combined which terminates in the execution of the contract, and applies to all the work done under the contract. This meaning was supported by certain expressions in the contract, as "Take down the work which the contractor shall condemn"; "the contractor shall cover and protect the work from damage by the weather"; "the contractor shall maintain insurance on the work." It was held that a substitution of ivory hard wall plaster for lime plaster was an alteration in the "work" within the meaning of the contract, requiring a written order from the owner.

Trustees v. Andrew & Thomas, Maryland Court of Appeals, 82 Atl. 452. (J. S.)

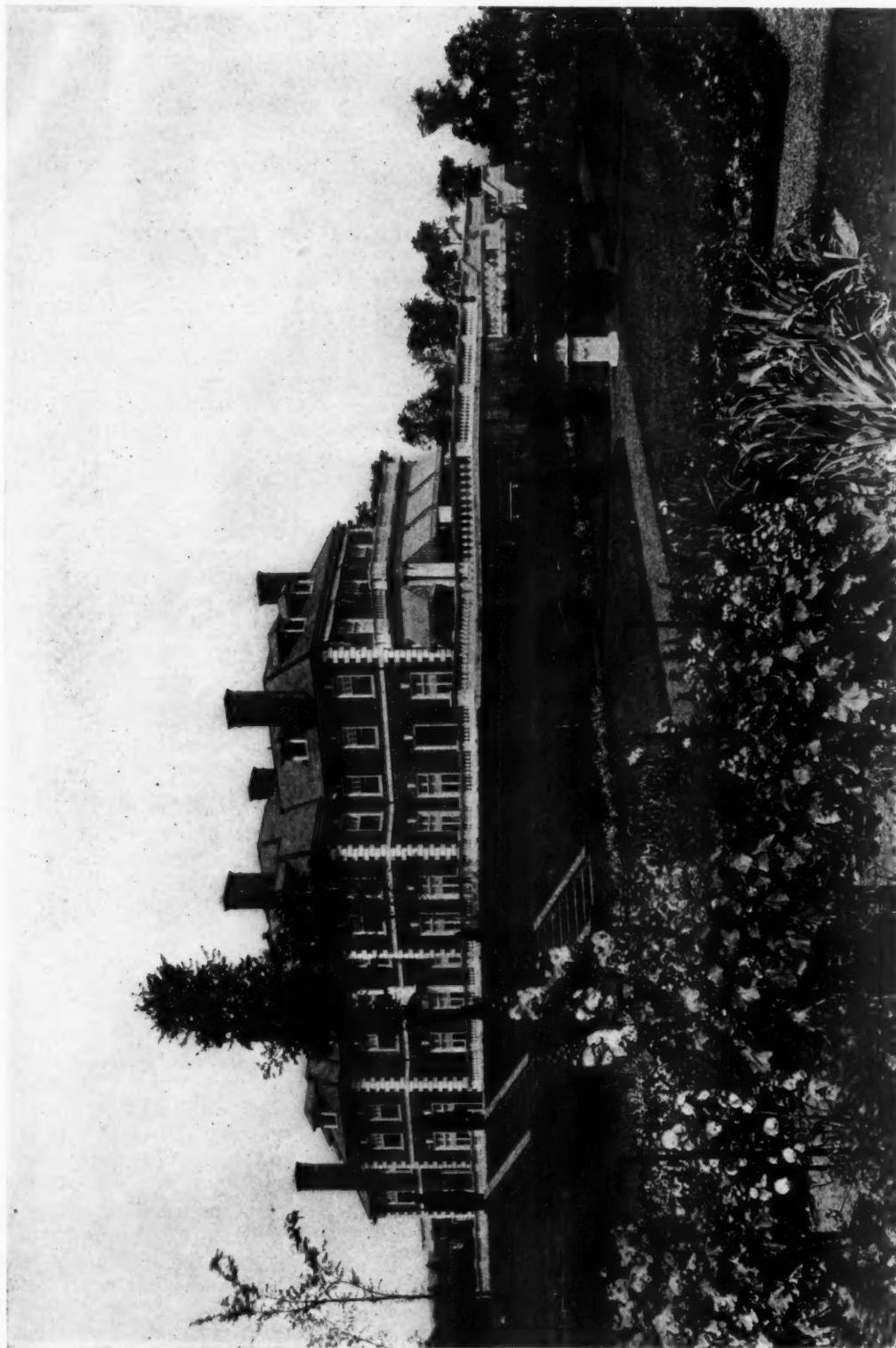
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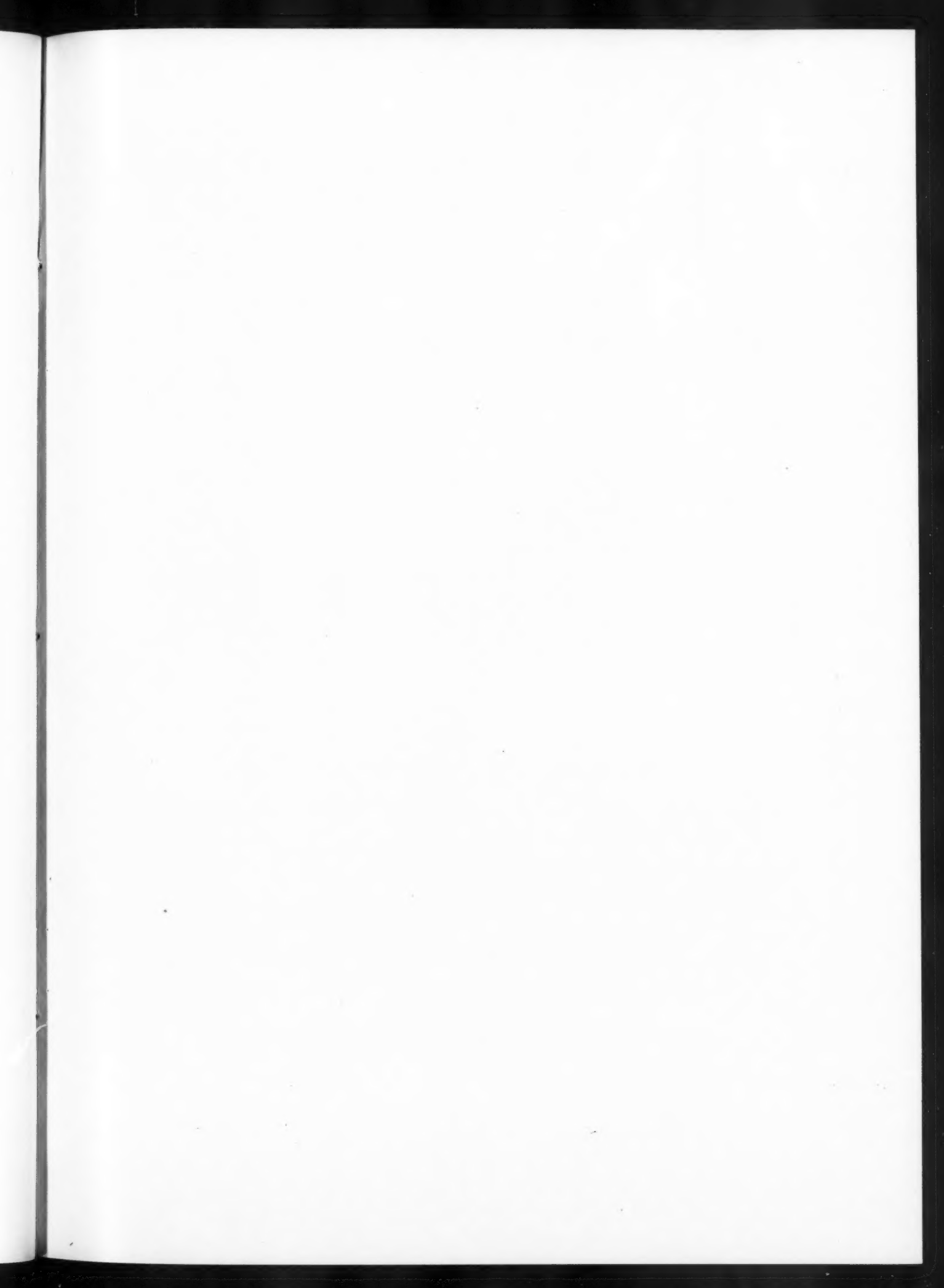
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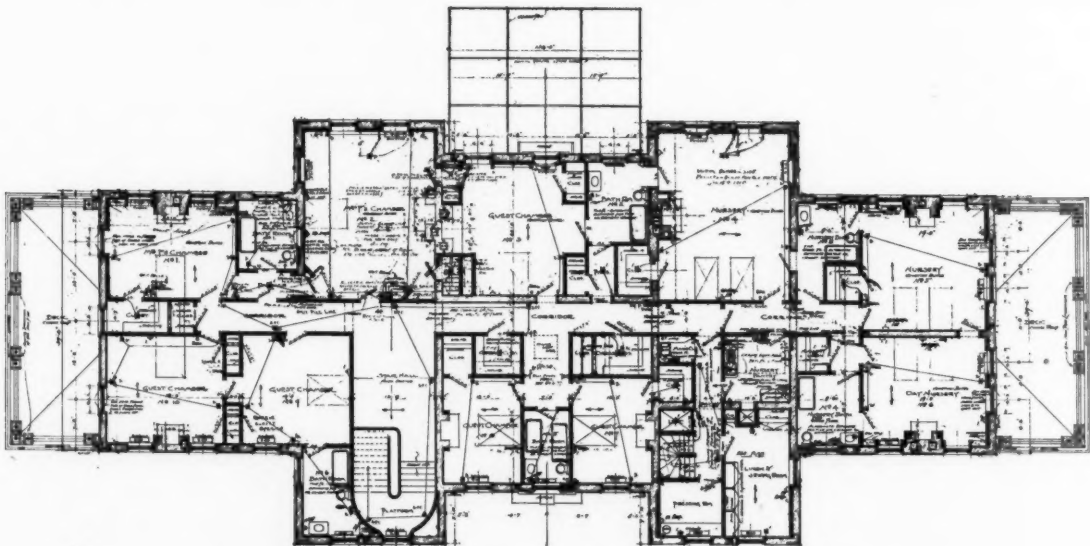


HOUSE OF HARRIS FAHNESTOCK, ESQ., LENOX, MASS.
MESSRS. HOPPIN & KOEN, ARCHITECTS





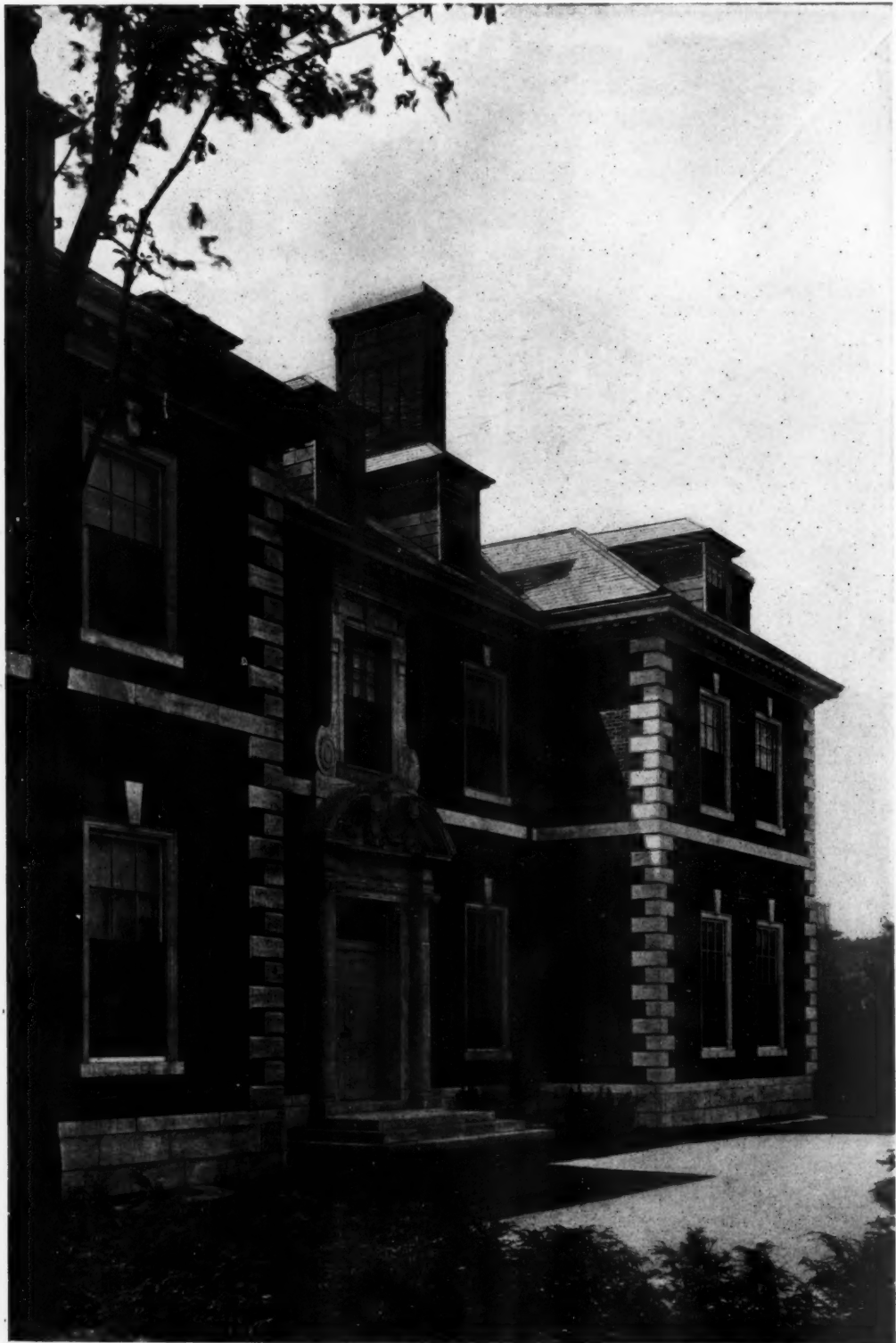
REAR VIEW



HOUSE OF HARRIS FAHNESTOCK, ESQ., LENOX, MASS.

MESSRS. HOPPIN & KOEN, ARCHITECTS

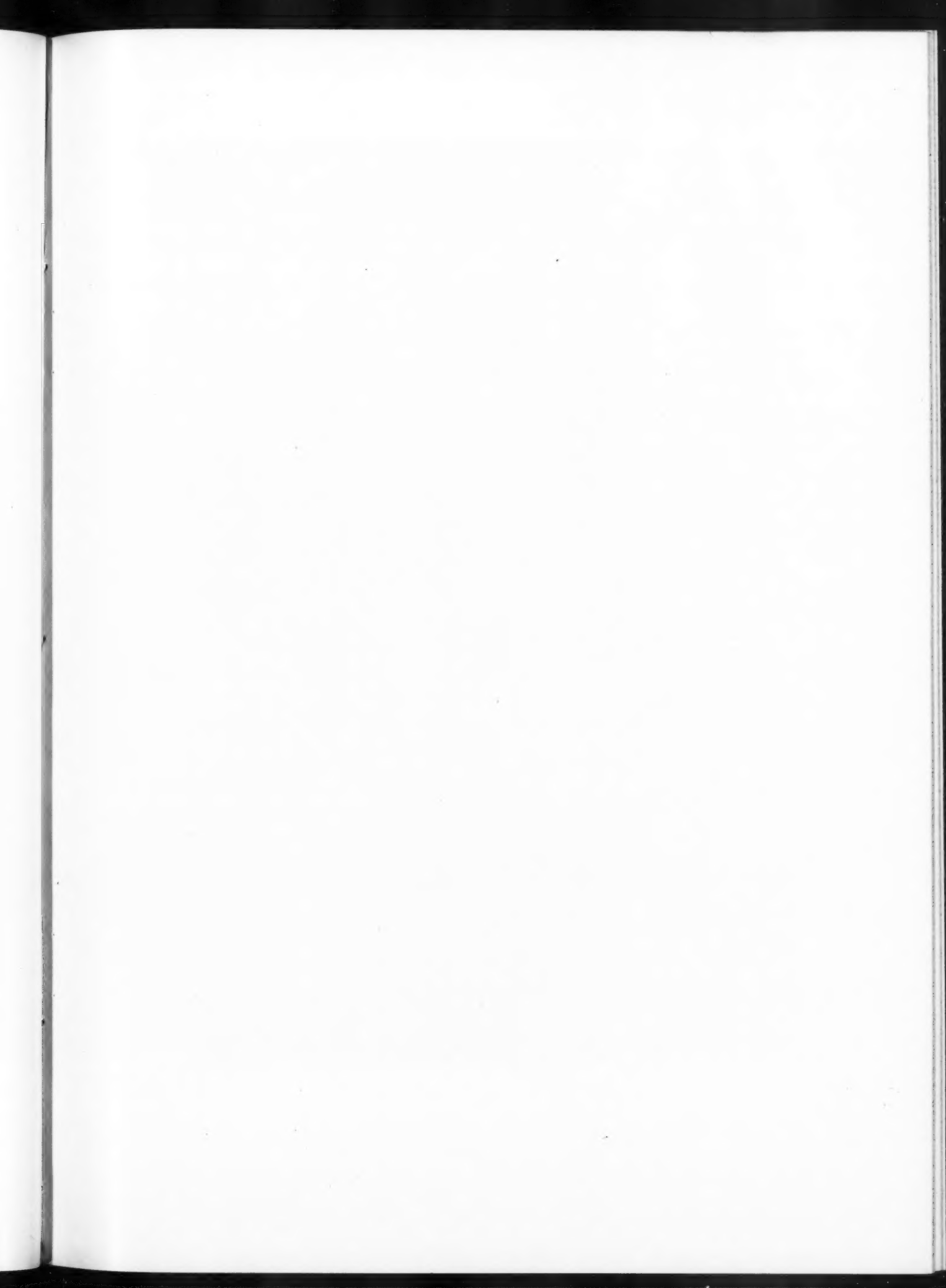


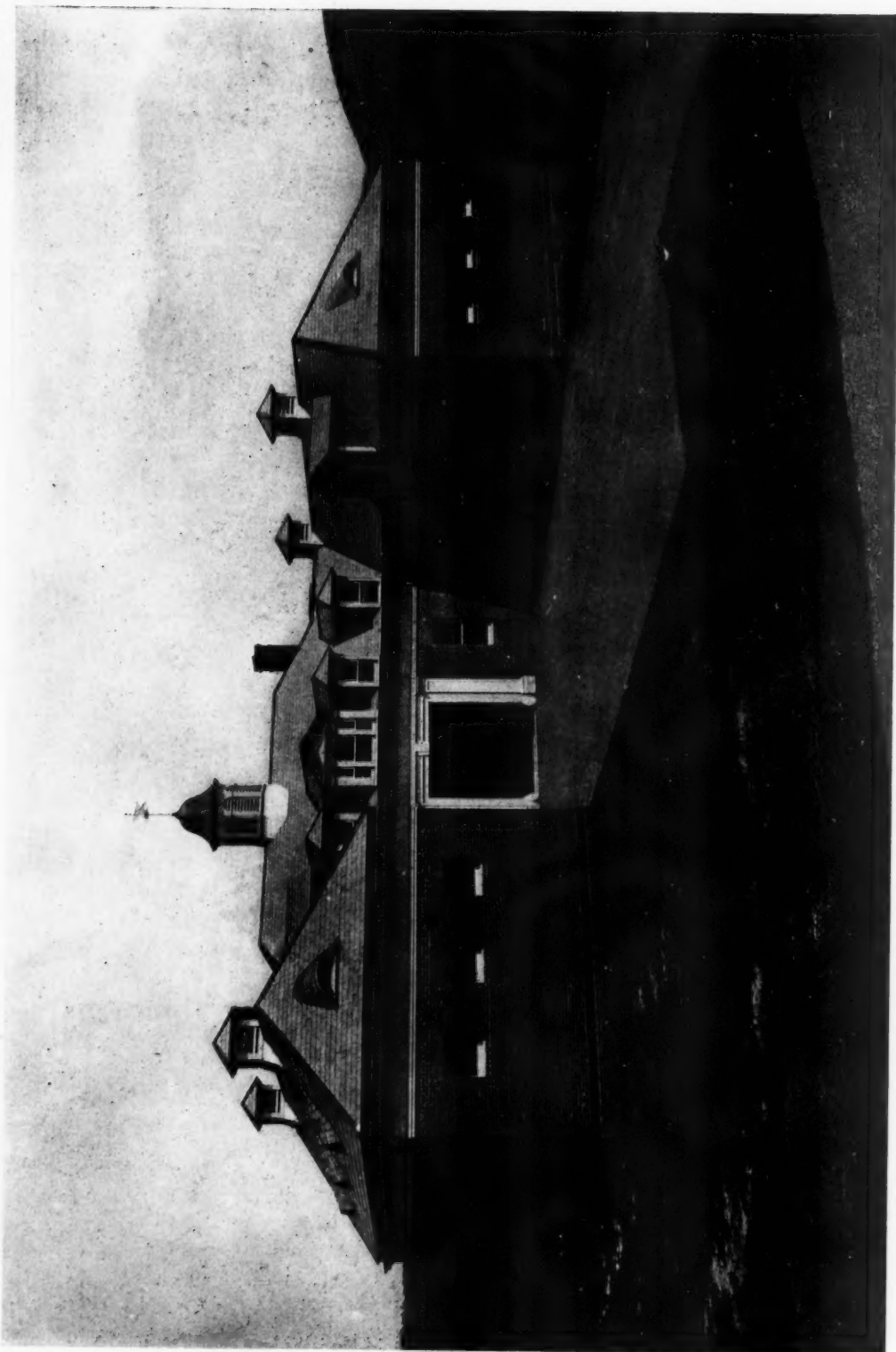


DETAIL FRONT ENTRANCE

HOUSE OF HARRIS FAHNESTOCK, ESQ., LENOX, MASS.

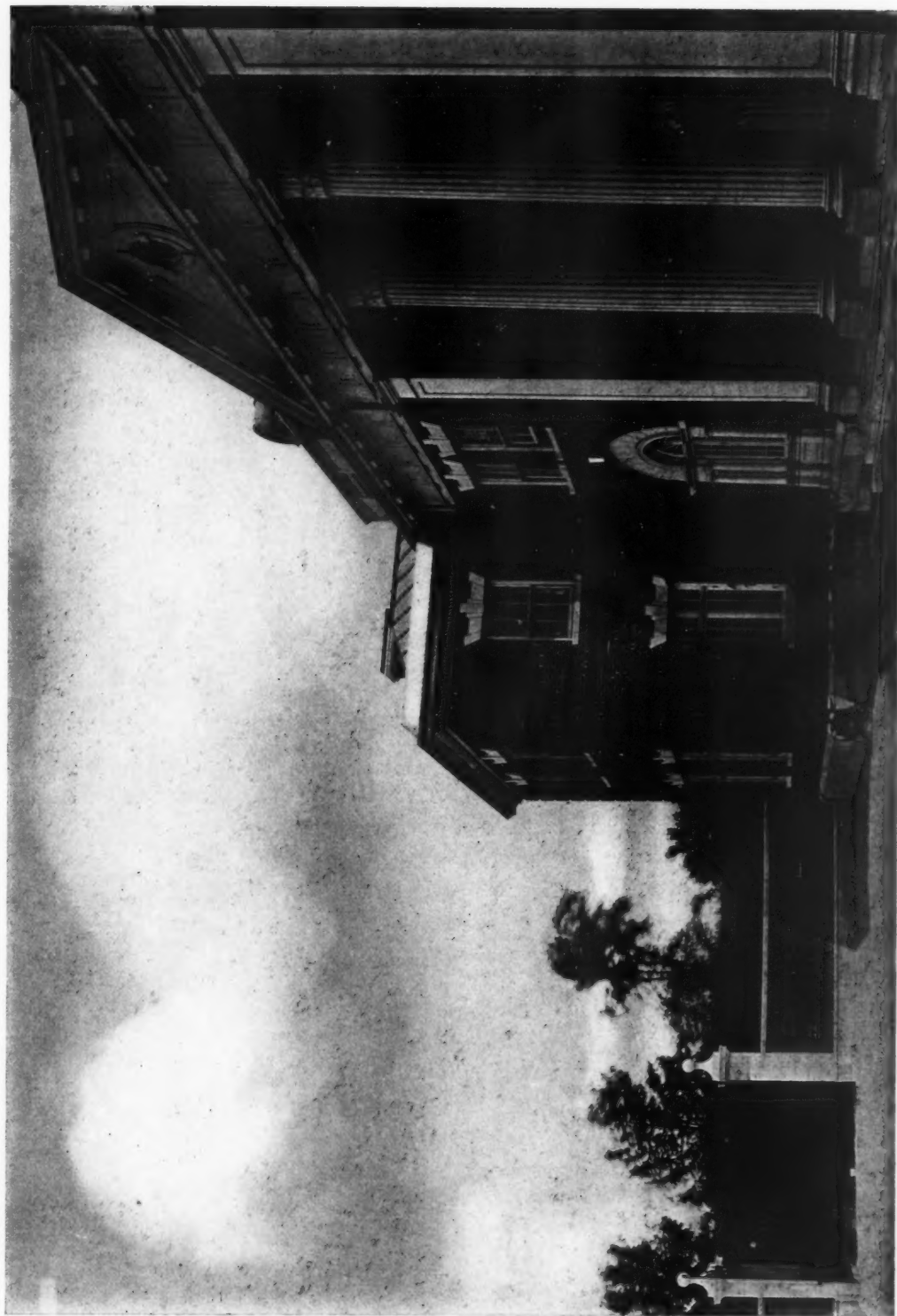
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STABLE OF HARRIS FAHNESTOCK, ESQ., LENOX, MASS.

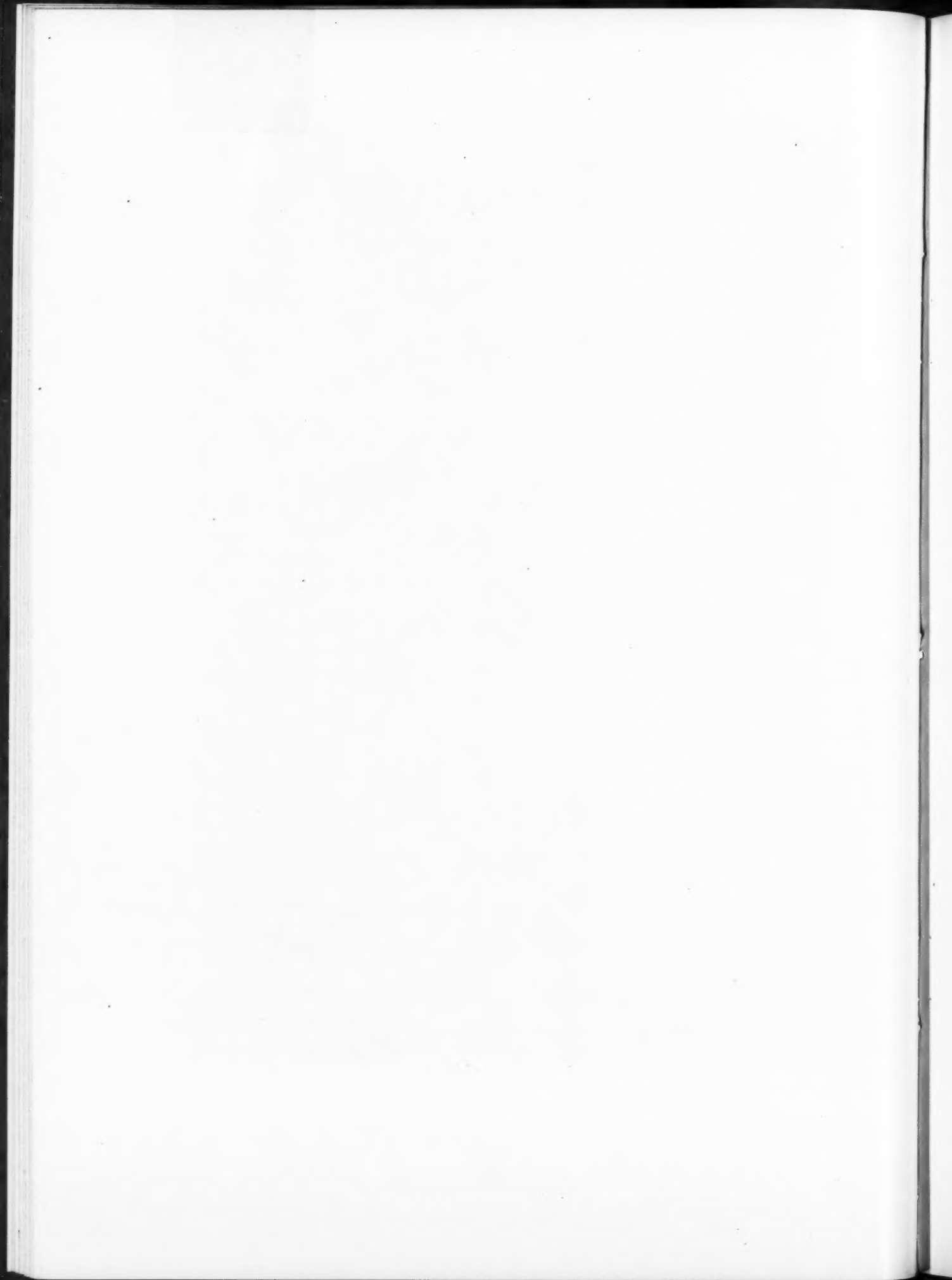
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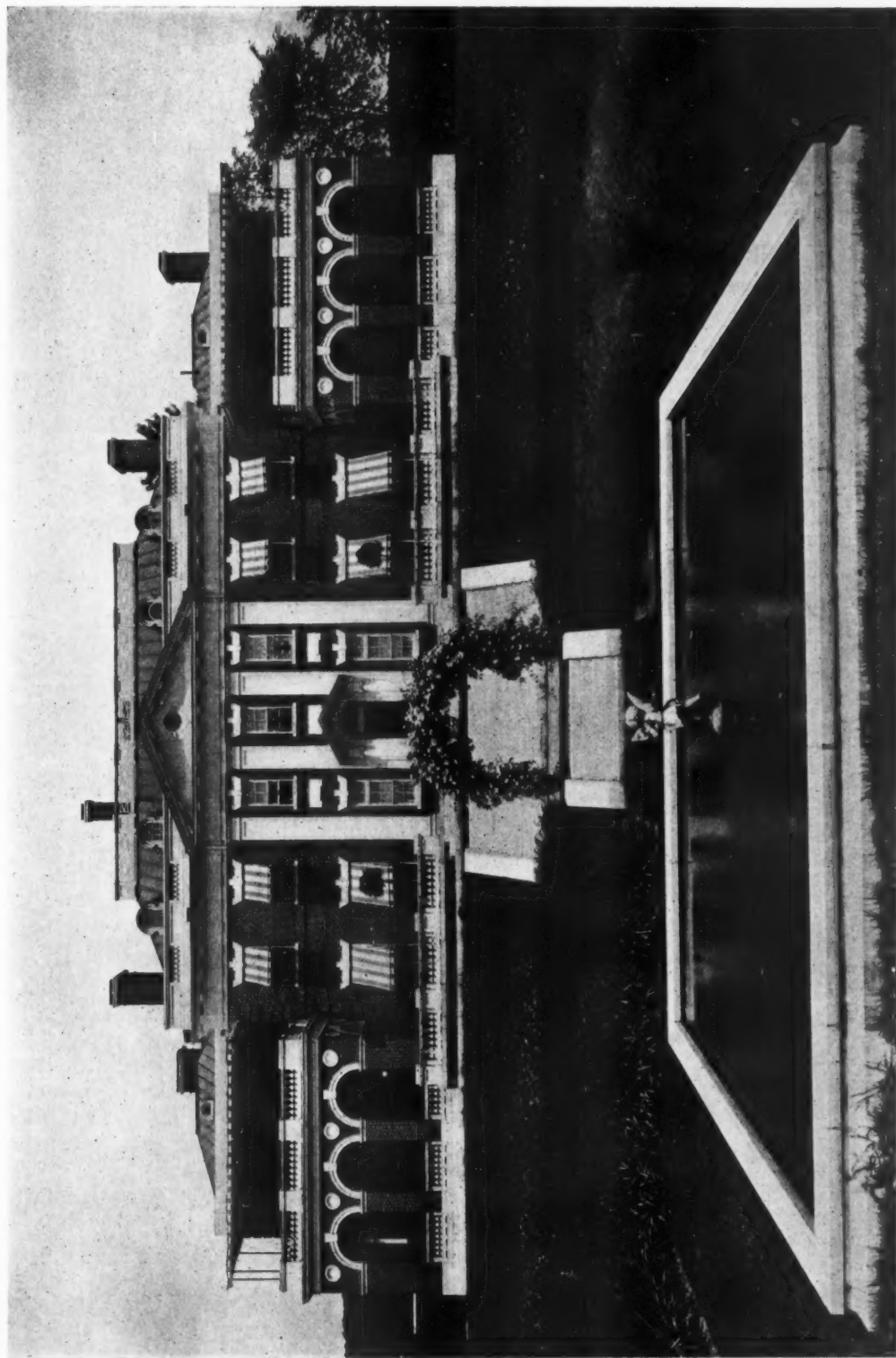


ENTRANCE FRONT

HOUSE OF NEWBOLD MORRIS, ESQ., LENOX, MASS.

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REAR VIEW

HOUSE OF NEWBOLD MORRIS, ESQ., LENOX, MASS.
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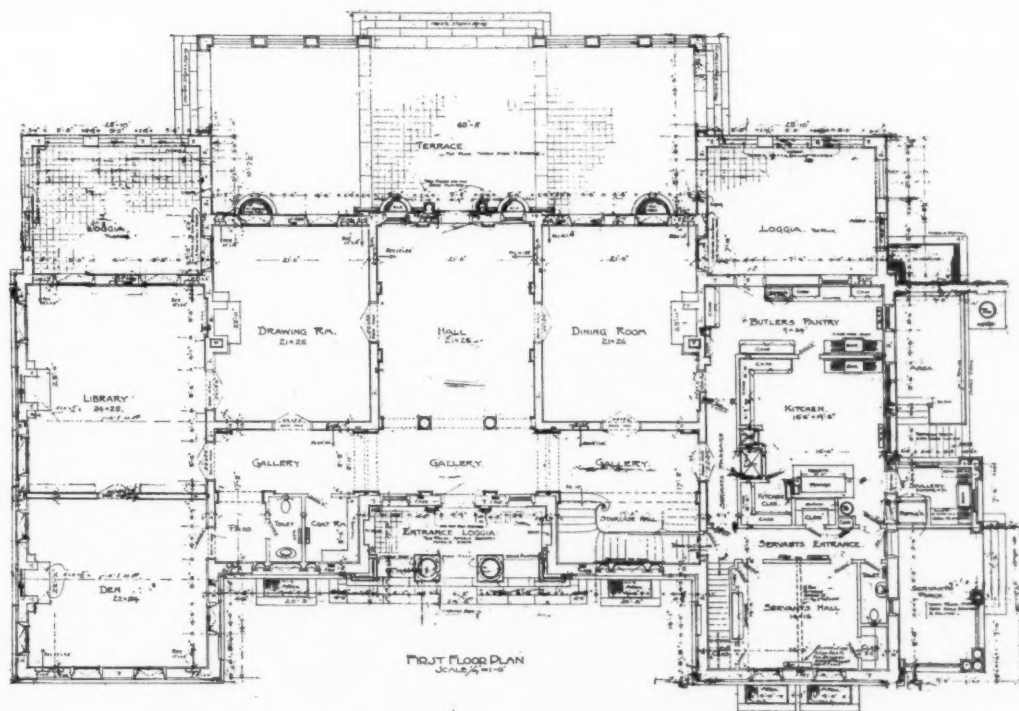
DETAIL, REAR ENTRANCE

HOUSE OF NEWBOLD MORRIS, ESQ., LENOX, MASS.

MESSRS. HOPPIN & KOEN, ARCHITECTS



VIEW SHOWING HALLWAY, DINING ROOM AND STAIRCASE HALL



HOUSE OF NEWBOLD MORRIS, ESQ., LENOX, MASS.

MESSRS. HOPPIN & KOEN, ARCHITECTS

CURRENT NEWS AND COMMENT

AN ENGLISH VIEW OF A MUCH DISCUSSED QUESTION

TRANSFORMING PROCEEDINGS OF TECHNICAL BODIES INTO A LURE FOR ADVERTISERS

We clip the following from our contemporary, *The Builders' Journal* of London:

We rather shrink from saying anything that may be attributed to interested motives; but we think there is a good deal in what our contemporary, the *Surveyor*, says, in its last issue, about the transformation of "Proceedings" of professional societies into "Journals," and accepting advertisements for such. It would seem that the Institution of Municipal and County Engineers contemplates such a change. The *Surveyor* urges, in what it believes to be the highest interests of the Institution, that the acceptance of advertisements for the periodical record of the deliberations of such an organization is certain to lead to misinterpretation on the part of advertisers, may lead to imputations when surveyors recommend their authorities to avail themselves of the goods or services of such advertisers, and is lowering to the status and dignity of the profession. We do not say this is so; but we do know in other directions it is thought to be so by some advertisers who have resented pressure it is not easy to resist.

THE PAIN OF LABOR

MR. GEORGE GRAY BARNARD'S WORK FOR THE HARRISBURG CAPITOL

Mr. George Gray Barnard, the sculptor to whom was intrusted the modeling of the heroic groups of statuary representing "Labor," designed to be placed on either side of the entrance to the Pennsylvania State Capitol, at Harrisburg, has completed his work in a manner that has received unqualified commendation by the most authoritative critics that have viewed it. His plaster models are finished and are ready to be duplicated in enduring marble; but, owing to the extravagances that ran riot in the furnishing of the Capitol at Harrisburg the money that should have been set aside to complete Mr. Barnard's figures has been dissipated in paying, at most exorbitant prices, for a lot of indifferent interior furnishings.

Meantime, Mr. Barnard's models are collecting dust in the marble yards at Carrara, where we learn from an article in *The House Beautiful* that the "Italians hear with amazement that America has run out of money." The two models referred to represent each "The Joy of Labor" and "The Pain of Labor." The result of Mr. Barnard's own experiences would seem to qualify him to express in the latter group some of the vexatious annoy-

ances that have been his since he unselfishly proceeded to execute a contract, which, at the outset, he knew could only result in money loss, even if it brought him artistic fame.

RHODE ISLAND CHAPTER, A. I. A.

At the Annual Meeting of the Rhode Island Chapter of the Institute, the following officers were elected for the ensuing year:

President, Norman M. Isham; Vice President, Eleazer B. Homer; Secretary, John Hutchins Cady; Treasurer, Wayland T. Robertson.

The Chapter voted to endorse the establishment of local planning boards for cities and towns within the State of Rhode Island, and directed the Committee on Civic Improvements to prepare and report at the next meeting of the Chapter a form of bill to be presented to the legislature.

THE EDUCATIONAL POSSIBILITIES OF ART MUSEUMS

The Metropolitan Museum of Art, of this city, has issued an illustrated catalogue of Romanesque, Gothic and Renaissance sculpture under the editorship of Joseph Breck, Assistant Curator in the Department of Decorative Arts. Mr. Breck has set about his editorial task with seriousness, and has produced a textbook of these particular exhibits that enables the general public to secure their full educational value. In fact, throughout the Metropolitan Museum during the past few years, this policy seems to have been followed, and, as a result, the various collections are something more than the usual unintelligible presentations that are the rule in similar institutions. It is to be supposed that museums of this character are maintained in order to educate the public along the various lines of exhibits. To surround them with an ultratechnical atmosphere is to afford no means of intimate knowledge of the things and their relation to the periods during which they were created and decreases the usefulness of an institution. The policy of the directors of the Metropolitan Museum is one that, if more generally followed throughout the country, would increase to an immeasurable degree the educational value of art museums.

ART AND PROGRESS

The August, 1913, issue of *Art & Progress*, though somewhat late in its appearance, is, nevertheless, a very interesting number. It deals specially with museums and contains a series of interesting articles on important buildings of this

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type throughout the United States. The illustrations are particularly well rendered and present good examples of the smaller art museums.

BENJAMIN ALTMAN'S BEQUEST

NEW YORK CITY TO RECEIVE A NOTABLE ART COLLECTION

Under the will of the late Benjamin Altman, the City of New York will soon receive his art collection, valued at between ten and fifteen million dollars.

This collection is, perhaps, second in size to that of the late J. Pierpont Morgan. Unlike Mr. Morgan, Mr. Altman chose to dispose of his collection specifically by will. Mr. Morgan's collection rests in the care of his executors, whose final decision as to its disposition has not yet been announced.

Mr. Altman's collection, it is stated by competent critics, is the most representative in its various departments that has ever been gathered by one man in this country. With a rare sense for the various phases of art, Mr. Altman exercised qualities in gathering his collection that few collectors have displayed. Nothing but absolutely perfect and unqualifiedly authentic specimens could find a place in this wonderful gathering of art objects. Naturally, a collection founded on such principles would be a notable one. It may be safely stated that when Mr. Altman's bequest is placed in the Metropolitan Museum, the public will have access to the finest single collection of art to be seen anywhere in the world.

COMPETITION BY CITY OF PITTSBURG

A competition is about to be held by the city of Pittsburgh, Pa., for a courthouse annex and city hall, combined. The program has been prepared by Mr. Cass Gilbert, consulting architect for the City Council. Plans must be filed by noon, December 20th. Address Pittsburgh Industrial Development Commission, Farmers' Bank Building, for further particulars.

COMPETITION DECIDED

A competition held by the Walnut Street Business Association, Philadelphia, Pa., for best designs for a row of business buildings, has resulted in the following awards: First prize, Edward H. Wigham; second, John E. Harbison; third, Harry Basch.

The spirit shown by this association is worthy of the attention of similar organizations throughout the country. The purpose was to show the willingness of the business element to co-operate in the activities going forward for civic betterment. The many designs submitted are object lessons in the commercial value of good architecture and if the lesson taught is heeded, will result in transforming the present monotonous business thoroughfares into attractive and architecturally good city streets.

WINTER EXHIBITION, NATIONAL ACADEMY OF DESIGN

The winter exhibition of the National Academy of Design will be held in the galleries of the American Fine Arts Society, No. 215 West 57th Street, New York, December 20th to January 18th, both inclusive.

It is gratifying to note in the program of the exhibition that the south gallery will be devoted entirely to the exhibition of sculpture.

Exhibits will be received only on December 1st and 2d, from 9 A. M. to 5 P. M., and varnishing day will be on December 19th, from 9 A. M. to 12 noon.

ANNUAL CONVENTION OF THE INSTITUTE

As previously announced, the annual convention of the Institute will be held in New Orleans on December 2d, 3d and 4th. The Grunewald Hotel has been selected as headquarters, and as there will probably be a large demand for rooms it is suggested that members secure accommodations in advance.

The principal topic to be considered at the convention will be the enactment of a law by which the government may secure men of the greatest ability in the architectural work of the United States.

Circulars containing program, together with full information, may be had on addressing Glen Brown, Secretary, The Octagon, Washington, D. C.

PERSONAL

Mr. J. T. Johnson, Indianapolis, has, it is stated in press dispatches, been chosen to design the Indiana State Building at the Panama-Pacific Exposition.

Mr. H. L. Huntington, formerly of the firm of Huntington & Sears, Chattanooga, Tenn., has taken offices in the Fisher Building, where he will practice his profession.

Messrs. Warren R. Briggs and Edward B. Caldwell, Jr., architects, Bridgeport, Conn., announce that they have formed a co-partnership for the practice of their profession. Their offices will be in the Security Building.

Mr. Thomas Harding, architect, announces that he has opened an office in the Southern Trust Building, Little Rock, Ark., where he will practice his profession. He desires to receive manufacturers' samples and catalogues.

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 CONVENIENT DEVICE

The Hart & Hegeman Mfg. Company, Hartford, Conn., are manufacturers of electrical fittings described and illustrated in a recently issued pamphlet to be had on application.

Among the goods shown is a device that affords convenience and saves frequent vexations and petty annoyances. This is a door switch for closet doors, which automatically turns the light on and off as the door is opened or closed. By this means, groping for a switch is avoided, and there is no danger of absent-mindedly leaving the light turned on when the door is closed. These and other equally important though inexpensive fittings all tend to make the well appointed building and contribute to comfort, convenience and economy.

LUBRICATORS

The line of lubricators made by the Detroit Lubricator Company, Detroit, Mich., is illustrated and described in catalogue No. 35, issued by this Company for free distribution.

These lubricators are made, it is stated, for various kinds of service and are standards throughout the world. The makers claim that the high quality maintained is by exact processes of manufacture, combined with long experience, and a determination to produce only the best devices of their kind. They will forward a catalogue on request.

VENTO HEATERS

The American Radiator Company, whose offices are located in the principal cities throughout this country and Europe, have prepared a book of Engineers' Data on Vento Heaters, for free distribution. This work, it is stated, is a compilation and digest of various complex problems, and has been made by the Engineering Department of this Company.

It is claimed that the book elevates heating and ventilating specifications to an exact science. Vento Heaters, the makers state, combine high heating efficiency, simplicity of construction and ease of installation, with compactness and durability. They are supplied with stacks of various sizes and for various methods of assembling.

MECHANICAL TOOLS

Catalogue No. 20, issued by L. S. Starrett Co., Athol, Mass., illustrates and describes a line of fine mechanical tools made by this company. Many of these, of a type constantly in use in draughting rooms, the makers state have received the most careful attention in their design combined with the highest degree of accuracy. The pamphlet may be had on request.

DOOR-CHECKS

A series of pamphlets issued by the Norton Door-Check Co., 23 Warren St., New York, illustrates the various patterns made by this company, under the name of "Norton Systems," for the operation of doors. These include not only the liquid and coiled spring door-checks, but also have attachments for holding the door in any desired position, together with various accessories to regulate the operation of doors of all types. This pamphlet will be mailed on request.

PLUMBING SPECIALTIES

A well prepared catalogue, size 9 x 12, cloth bound and of 150 pages, has been issued by the McCambridge-Cooper Co., 315 N. 20th St., Philadelphia, Pa., and illustrates what appears to be a very complete line of sanitary plumbing specialties.

This company states that their line not only meets the demand for improvement in sanitary plumbing, but they have also originated many important devices to be found only in their goods. In addition to careful attention to the sanitary features and the durability of the goods, it would also appear that a very considerable effort has been made to give an artistic and well designed effect to the various models illustrated.

INTERLOCKING TILE

The *Interlocker* is the name of the "house organ" published by The Ohio Clay Company, Cleveland, Ohio, and is devoted to the interests of Denison Interlocking Tile. These pamphlets are published monthly and contain information as to the merits of this form of burnt clay product, its methods of handling and its adaptability to various forms in structural use.

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SELF-WATERING FLOWER BOXES

A catalogue issued by the Illinois Flower Box Co., 180 N. Dearborn St., Chicago, Ill., is interesting as presenting for consideration by the architect a decorative feature for the exterior of buildings that has heretofore been generally confined to such makeshifts as owners or tenants might seek to employ. The flower boxes illustrated in this catalogue are described as "self-watering," and are made with a false bottom, containing a supply of water which automatically keeps the plant placed in the box in a proper state of moisture and promotes their growth, at the same time requiring only occasional attention. These boxes are made in various patterns with a view to their decorative appearance when placed on the outside of the building. The pamphlet referred to may be had on request.

MARINE AND BOILER TUBES

Bulletin No. 16, issued by the National Tube Company, Pittsburgh, Pa., illustrates and deals with the tests to which National Boiler Tubes are subjected. As a boiler is no stronger than its tubes, these tests, which demonstrate the relative value of different types of boiler tubes, are of importance.

MORTAR COLORS

The Warren B. Ferris Brick Co., Columbus, Ohio, are manufacturers of the Ferris Mortar Colors, and these are described with accompanying color cards in a pamphlet that may be had on application. The artistic possibilities in the use of brick are being developed to the highest degree, but many very commendable designs have not met with approval for the reason that the mortar used has failed to be in color harmony with the brick; or, owing to deterioration and fading, has lost the color characteristic that it had when first used. The makers claim that these mortar colors are ground from the finest iron ores, that they possess positive coloring power and unusual permanence. The pamphlet may be had on request.

PROTECTING IRON AND STEEL

The Metal Treating & Equipment Co., Inc., U. S. Rubber Co. Building, New York, have published a pamphlet on the protection of iron and steel against corrosion that may be had on application. This pamphlet describes with much detail the various protecting agents that are used to guard metal against the very insidious action of rust or corrosion. Particular stress is laid on the "Standard Galvanizing Process," which, it is claimed, possesses all the advantages of electro galvanizing without any of the objectionable features that are said to sometimes attend that process.

ELECTRIC ELEVATORS

Electric elevators manufactured by the A. B. See Electric Elevator Co., 220 Broadway, New York, are illustrated by views of actual installations in a comprehensive catalogue that has just been issued for free distribution. Particular attention is directed to a house elevator, so simple in its methods of operation, it is stated, that children can use it with absolute safety. Catalogue may be had on request.

A PORTFOLIO OF TERRA COTTA DETAIL

The Midland Terra Cotta Co., manufacturers of architectural terra cotta, Chamber of Commerce Building, Chicago, have issued a portfolio containing a series of plates, 10 x 14 inches in size, that will be of more than ordinary value to architects in the detailing of architectural terra cotta. These plates comprise details of standardized ornaments with figured dimensions of cornices, copings, store fronts, door and window trim and other features in the construction of which terra cotta frequently is used, all drawn to $\frac{3}{4}$ -inch scale. The construction by which the various members are secured in position is clearly shown in every example presented.

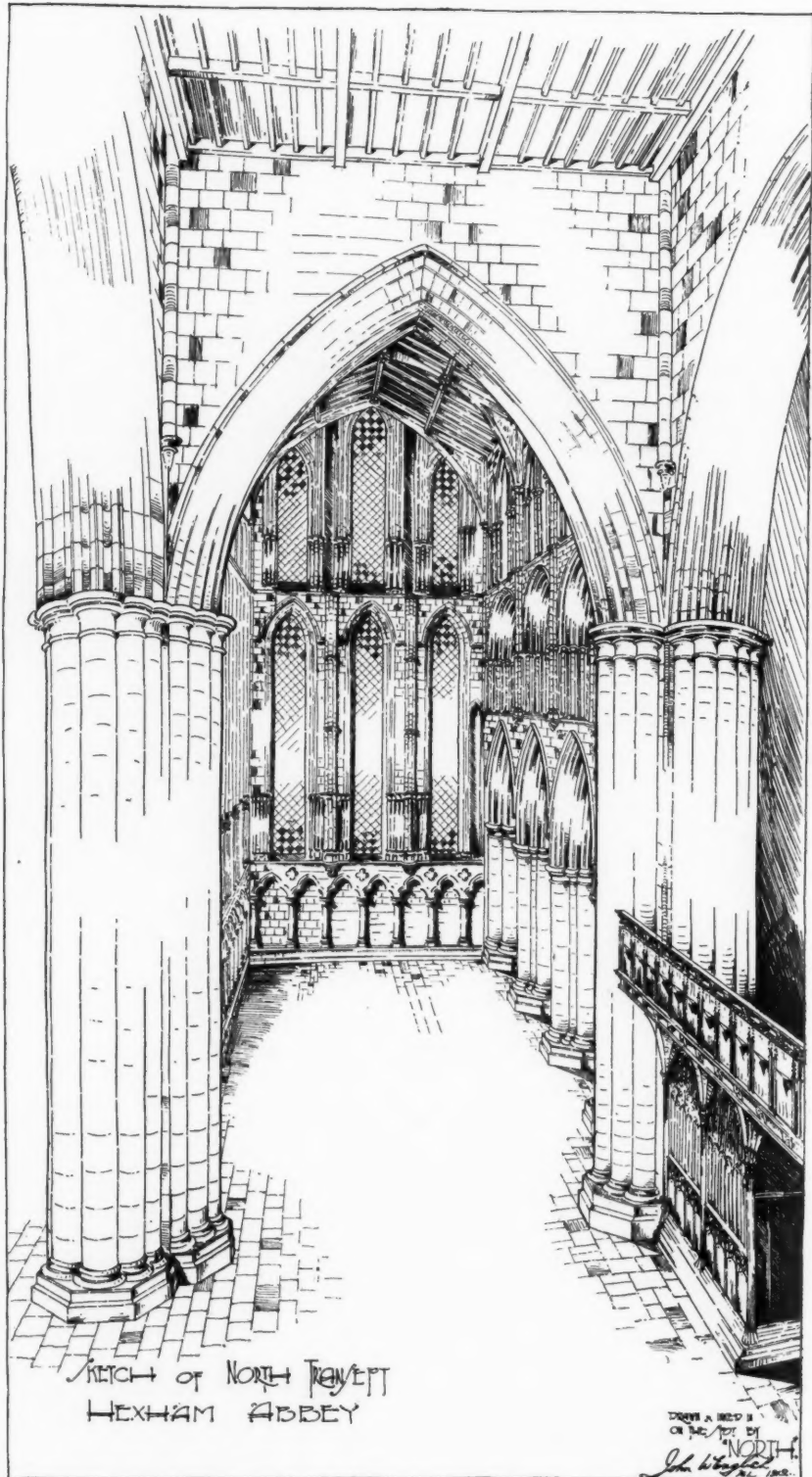
The company states that they have a number of additional plates in preparation which they expect to issue from time to time and which may be added to the portfolio, in order to make it of the greatest use and to keep pace with the latest details in terra cotta construction. This portfolio of details can be secured by architects on application. It cannot be too highly recommended.

HARDWARE IN PERIOD DESIGN

In keeping with the artistic features present in the "Russwin" hardware is a pamphlet recently issued by Russell & Erwin Mfg. Co., New Britain, Conn., that illustrates and describes the special lines of hardware made by this company, to accompany various period styles of architecture. Architects will appreciate the efforts of manufacturers to provide details that will enable them to conserve all the propriety of their designs. Inspection of this pamphlet indicates the very thoughtful care that has been given to each piece; none appears to have been too small to have felt the refining hand of good design.

The book, attractively gotten out in color, with a well-written text on the different periods represented, while prepared primarily to sell, will be forwarded to architects on application, without charge. It will be found a very useful and helpful guide in the selection of these important details in the interior decorative treatment of the modern building.





NO. 1 OF A SERIES OF MEASURED DRAWINGS BY MR. JOHN W. ENGLISH,
ENTERED IN THE GLOVER GOLD MEDAL STUDENTSHIP COMPETITION.
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