

THE AMERICAN ARCHITECT

VOLUME CV

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18, 1914

NUMBER 1995



KRUPP COTTAGES, ESSEN, GERMANY

THE FIBRE OF THE NATION. PART VI

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

NO discussion of German housing of working people is complete without reference to the many villages begun and maintained by private enterprise. Of these the eighteen colonies belonging to the Krupp Works in Essen are the largest, the best known and the most elaborate. The Friederich Krupp Cast Steel Works were begun on a small scale in 1810 and struggled through many years of anxiety and tribulation until about 1850 when, with the greater develop-

ment of local coal mines and a wider use of their products, the fortunes of the firm began to rise rapidly. In 1848 but seventy-two men were employed; and in 1912, there was 60,000 men on the pay roll. The housing capacity of Essen, which had been a village of 3,000 inhabitants, was entirely inadequate for the great influx of laborers, and the consequent need of homes provided a splendid opportunity for gain to land speculators and usurers. Congestion in its worst form

THE AMERICAN ARCHITECT

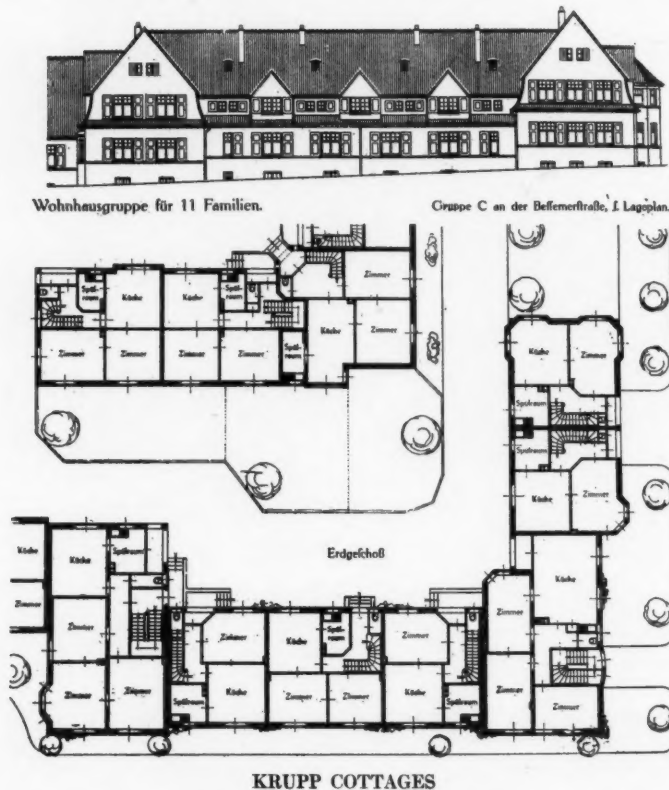
naturally resulted. Cholera epidemics, immorality, and unspeakable filth made the lot of the laborer unbearable, and he saw in labor agitators the only ray of hope.

To overcome these evils, and also because of a deep fellow-feeling for their men, the Krupps began in 1871 their first colony, and erected in three years 2,358 dwellings. The high price of land forbade the adoption of the cottage system in these earlier seven groups, and an insufficient water

great majority of these dwellings are of two or three rooms. In 1901, out of 4,083 dwellings 1,660 had two rooms, 1,869 had three rooms, and 448 had four rooms. Yearly rentals for two-room dwellings are from \$15 to \$20, for three rooms \$30 to \$55, and for four rooms \$45 to \$90. Weekly wages vary from \$4.50 for common labor to \$10 for moulders.

The capital expended for these buildings, exclusive of ground value, was \$4,000,000, and another million was spent for housing workmen engaged by the firm in departments other than the steel works. For almost twenty years no additions were made to these colonies, but soon after 1890, the rapidly growing business required considerable increase in labor forces, and the need of more colonies became pressing. In 1894, "Kolonie Alfredshof" consisting of 232 homes was built, and Friedrichshof with 200 homes followed in 1899. Other and smaller colonies were begun and older ones enlarged from time to time. Altenhof, numbering 186 homes, was erected for pensioners, and the widows and orphans of former employees, none of whom pay rent. Here the efficient and loyal end their days in beautiful quiet surroundings, free from care and fear of the rent collector. The houses are in plan similar to those of the other colonies, but they are never over two

stories and often but one story high. In the individual beauty of the houses, as well as in charm of location and parking, Altenhof is quite the equal of the other later colonies, as for instance Margarethenhof and the Emscher-Lippe colony. In these, the influence of the revived interest in town planning is very apparent. The streets, open spaces, the vistas, and planting have been most carefully considered and architecturally, complete harmony has been established in spite of very considerable diversity. None of the family houses erected since 1890 have less than three rooms



system necessitated placing building within a small radius. The tenements themselves are as attractive as institutional appearing structure can be, and they are a great improvement over similar houses of the same period. They do, of course, suffer by comparison with the newer colonies. The Cronenberg colony was built for the cheaper labor, and consists of a number of barracks, two and three stories high which contain each from thirty to forty apartments, with one entrance to every six of them. A small park and gardens add a bit of cheerfulness to the otherwise severe neighborhood. The

THE AMERICAN ARCHITECT

and most of them have four or five rooms.

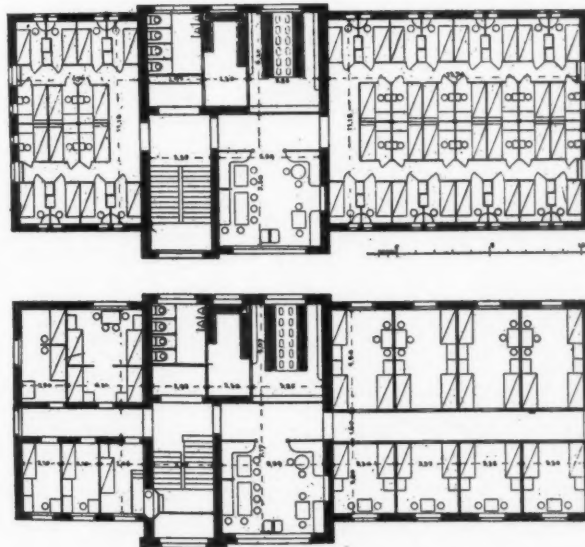
There are also a number of lodging houses where several thousand unmarried men are taken care of, and where they have, at a moderate cost, all the usual advantages of a club; that is, smoking and lounging rooms, dining halls, libraries, and writing rooms are provided.

Then there are community stores in each colony, hospitals, public baths, a general library, schools, both primary and high, an insurance department, and a bank, fire departments, water works, etc., all supported, either entirely or in part, by the firm. All this solicitude for the welfare of the laborer is strictly a matter of business, not of philanthropy. It is not even a matter of "prosperity sharing" such as obtains in Port Sunlight. But through the advantage of having at hand large sums of money to invest (at interest), the firm has been in position to help the employees to get far more for their rent than they could if they depended on individual effort; through co-operative stores, financed by the firm, they can considerably reduce the cost of living; through the assistance of the firm they enjoy many social advantages, far beyond the pale of the ordinary laborer.

How far we, in the United States, shall profit by the examples of England and of the Continent, and how much they may inspire us to make possible the pursuit of happiness, other than political happiness, for that huge army of struggling toilers, is a matter for local decisions. We, like our foreign cousins, now recognize the need as an economic rather than a philanthropic one; we appreciate the ineffectiveness of our elaborate school systems in the making of good citizens, when the influence of the home is diametrically opposite; we plainly recognize all the extravagant evils incident to slums and excessive rentals; our seers are daily warning us of impending social upheaval. Appeal to the thinking

public for consideration of this problem is no longer a cry in the wilderness, and it can safely be prophesied that within another decade remedies, both in municipal legislation and in more wisely planned buildings and districts, will be energetically applied in every section of the country.

Beside protecting ourselves against deterioration of the "fibre



KRUPP LODGING HOUSE FOR UNMARRIED MEN, ESSEN

of the nation," we must also keep sound and strong that large foreign fibre which is constantly being woven into our social fabric.

Those highest foreign ideals we should welcome as additions to our American ideals, and from their union develop the finest citizenship the world has yet known. But that cannot be done under the housing conditions which now obtain in those dis-



KRUPP COTTAGES

tricts to which the newcomers are drawn.

They and the native wage-earners should be shown the advantages of coöperation, and the inevitable results of improvidence; speculative builders should be encouraged to provide better buildings both in plan and in construction; and municipalities must stamp out or require alterations in all buildings which sanitary inspectors may consider uninhabitable.

It is estimated, that in this land of opportunity, 10,000,000 people are much of the time underfed, poorly clothed, improperly housed, and we are told that] "an otherwise strong, sound country cannot long survive, when a large proportion of its people find it difficult to live happily and in wholesome surroundings." May we heed the warning before it is too late.

(THE END)

WHITE ANTS AND THEIR DESTRUCTION OF WOOD

There has been little experience in this country of the ravages of white ants on the timber used for construction purposes. The ants are occasionally a source of considerable annoyance in houses where they are difficult to exterminate. There are seven species of white ants in this country that are known to do damage to wood. Their powers of destruction are seen when they attack a tree. They reduce it to the appearance of a coarse honey comb in a comparatively short time. In all tropical countries the number of species and their destructive powers are very much greater and inestimable damage is annually done

by these small ants. In Panama are a number of very small species which have proved extremely destructive to practically all wooden structures. They frequently attack the furniture in houses and often cause very serious damage before their destructive work is detected. The structural timbers and interior finish material of churches, schools, offices, and dwelling houses of both rich and poor are attacked. Goods in warehouses of various kinds are destroyed continually. Casks of all kinds, sugar hogsheads, and corks of bottles are all subject to the ravages of these mites. Books, clothing, and the majority of household articles are nowhere safe, and the loss to the inhabitants throughout tropical America is of an immense amount, and

THE AMERICAN ARCHITECT



ALTENHOF, ESSEN, GERMANY

the expense continually incurred is enormous. Those who have studied the life history of these ants have found that certain species can thrive successfully in other and often cooler countries than in the one of which they are native. A very destructive species, *Myrmica domestica*, was accidentally introduced into parts of France a number of years ago and since that time they have caused untold damage.

There are millions of feet of foreign timber used in this country annually, and the chances are that some destructive white ants will sooner or later be brought here. Under these circumstances, it seems important that full inquiry should be made as to the most probable means of preventing their introduction, and the kinds of wood most likely not to be attacked by these ants ascertained. Experiments are now being conducted in parts of West Virginia, where a number of woods which are said to be immune are being tested in especially designed ant pits. Foreign, as well as native woods, are in the pits.

As a rule, all the softer woods, as might be expected, are the first ones to be destroyed. If for some reason or other a particular piece is left untouched for years,

when removed to another situation, it will be quickly destroyed. Teak wood from India is particularly immune to the attack of ants. In a general way it seems that the woods belonging to myrtaceous family of plants resist the ravages of these ants better than those of any other group. While the well-known blue gum (*Eucalyptus globulus*) readily perishes, there are a number of woods belonging to this large group of trees that are said to be entirely free from attack. A number of tropical American species are reputed to be proof against these ants. The West Indian locust (*Hymenaea courbaril*), green heart (*Nectandra rodioei*), Comino (*Aniba perutilis*), Spanish cedar (*Cedrela odorata*), sapodilla (*Achras sapota*), white dogwood (*Piscidia erythrina*), and mammee apple (*Mammea americana*) are among those which are said to escape the ravages of these ants. The hard woods which seem the most capable of resistance are in general expensive, and the aim should be to find something which will render the softer woods, such as our pines and other construction timbers, safe. It is believed that proper impregnation with tar oils or creosote will prove a perfect remedy.

THE AMERICAN ARCHITECT

CONDITIONS OF SUCCESS IN PRACTICE

In an address to students of the Royal Institute of British Architects, Mr. Reginald Bromfield, president of that body, sums up what, in his belief, are the conditions that are necessary to success in the practice of the profession of architecture.

His observations, in part, follow:

"The practice of a modern architect is so complex that there are many branches of it which have little to do with architecture, but demand practical business aptitude and high integrity. I am glad to say our calling has never lacked such men—men that hold a high and honourable place in our esteem. But I am not dwelling on this aspect of our work. I am thinking of architecture as a fine art. Now, there are two conditions of success or failure, and by success I do not mean the building up of a plethoric practice—I mean the development of the artist himself, that self-realisation which is the aim of every true artist. The conditions are: natural aptitude for the art, and enthusiasm and faith in your art. It should be recognized far more clearly than it is in modern life than an artist is, *ipso facto*, a rare and exceptional being, and his work a fruit that does not grow on every tree. Other men may be able in commerce, more skilful in administration, more efficient in action. They will find themselves and their work. But here and there is found one with exceptional imagination, observation, skill of eye and hand, who sees in the common aspect of things, in form, in colour, deeper meaning than is revealed to others; who, if he is a painter, finds in what to an ordinary man is a pleasant landscape new possibilities of colour and form; or, if he is an architect, catches in the plan and purpose of a building, possibilities of rhythm and proportion, of mass and composition, that would never occur to minds of narrower range, not trained to search for these qualities, or to endeavor to embody them in the visible forms of building. Special qualities and endowments are necessary if a man is to become a good architect which are not necessary in the case, say, of what is generally called business. I

do not want to discourage you by putting up an impossible standard; all I suggest is that there should be, to start with, some such aptitude as I have sketched, in order that your labors may not be in vain, and result in disillusionment when it is too late to turn back."

RECENT LEGAL DECISIONS

DECISION OF ARCHITECT—EFFECT

The specifications for the erection of a public building provided that if any discrepancies should appear in the plans and specifications they must be referred to the architect for correction, and that his decision and that of the construction board should be final and binding on the contractor. The architect and the board decided that certain items of marble and tile work done by a sub-contractor were required by the specifications, and should not be allowed as extras. It was held that this decision was, in the absence of fraud or mistake, binding on the contractor and on the sub-contractor, who had contracted to do the marble and tile work according to the plans and specifications.

Caldwell & Drake v. Pierce, Kentucky Court of Appeals, 157 S. W. 692.

SURETY COMPANY'S BOND—STRICTLY CONSTRUED IN OWNER'S FAVOR

The Colorado Supreme Court holds that a contract of suretyship of a "surety company," that is, a corporation organized to make bonds for profit, must be construed most strongly in favor of the obligee. A bond conditioned on a building contractor performing a contract which required him to provide all material and perform all the work obligates the contractor and surety to pay for materials. On the contractor failing to pay, and liens being claimed established, and foreclosed, and the property of the owner ordered sold, the surety is liable, though the judgments have not been paid.

Empire State Surety Co. v. Lindenmeier, Colorado Supreme Court, 131 Pac. 437.

THE AMERICAN ARCHITECT

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Founded 1876

PUBLISHED EVERY WEDNESDAY BY

THE AMERICAN ARCHITECT (INC.)

No. 50 Union Square, New York
(Fourth Avenue and 17th Street)

G. E. SLY, PRESIDENT

E. J. ROSENCRANS, SECRETARY AND TREASURER

Address all communications to "THE AMERICAN ARCHITECT"

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In the United States and Possessions (Porto Rico, Hawaii,
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TEN DOLLARS PER YEAR, POSTAGE PAID
ALL OTHER COUNTRIES . . \$12.00 PER YEAR
SINGLE COPIES (Regular Issues), 25 CENTS

CHICAGO OFFICE, Hearst Building
Page A. Robinson, *Western Manager*

Entered at the Post-office, New York, as Second-class Matter

VOL. CV MARCH 18, 1914 No. 1995

MAKING THE SPECIFICATION A DEFINITE AND POSITIVE DOCUMENT

It is with no small degree of satisfaction that we note increasing evidences of progress in the movement inaugurated by THE AMERICAN ARCHITECT some years ago, for the adoption of definite specifications. Among these are indications that the fervor of at least two of our esteemed contemporaries has at last been aroused. Possibly our frequent iteration of the principle that if an architect is fully competent to handle a given commission he is necessarily informed as to the materials and equipment best suited to the requirements of the case, and will serve his clients' interests by specifying them outright, has convinced other journals of the wisdom of such a course. Or perhaps independent investigation has shown that it is only a question of a comparatively short time when to do otherwise than fall in line with this growing tendency toward definite and unequivocal specifications will amount to being classed as a reactionary. At any rate further discussion and endorsement of the subject is welcomed, although the half-hearted support given by an editorial of some length appearing in the February number of an architectural journal pub-

lished in the East might leave some doubt concerning the personal convictions of the writer. For example, after enumerating a number of reasons for the definite specification by name of trademarked goods, and the omission of the pernicious "or equal" clause after the name, he proceeds to rehearse the threadbare arguments that once were used to bolster up and excuse a practice that was founded largely on ignorance and rascality, neither of which exists to-day to an extent that constitutes it a factor in the determination of the matter. Of course where the law forbids the specification of a trademarked material, there is nothing that can be done except to obey the law and in the meantime work for its repeal and the enactment of one less archaic. The objection to a definite specification however on the ground that manufacturers would take advantage of it to increase prices, reflects not only upon the manufacturer's honesty but also upon his intelligence. Few manufacturers indeed are there who have gone through the years of work and expense involved in developing a product, placing a trademark upon it, advertising it and securing its recognition and adoption by architects of standing who would then risk certain elimination from all future specifications by adopting the course suggested, even though there was no moral question involved. They are altogether too far-seeing a class of business men to fall into such an error, and we predict that our contemporary will some day recognize the injustice of its implied charge.

The third objection to the definite specification is equally indefensible. It is in effect that materials should not be specified by name for the reason that some brands of goods or varieties of equipment are more easily obtainable in certain localities than others, and the specification of a particular brand or variety might thus increase the cost unnecessarily. Of course such argument is utterly puerile; for it is the obvious duty of any architect to inform himself concerning the availability of materials for any operation before either writing the specifications, or completing the drawings. Not to ascertain the possibilities of local materials and secure full information concerning those afforded by local markets would be as

THE AMERICAN ARCHITECT

culpable as to complete plans and specifications without knowledge of the topography of the site, its environment, the nature of the materials upon which foundations must rest, the climate of the locality, the kind of labor obtainable or other data necessary to an intelligent solution of the problem in hand. It has generally been suspected and sometimes charged that architects have not infrequently adopted the indefinite form of specification by reason of ignorance of actual conditions or requirements, but we have never before

noted an admission that the statement was true, and a serious defence of such practice in an architectural journal. In fact if it were not for the concluding statement that the writer found himself unable to advise definitely and in all cases that materials should be specified by trade names without the addition of the words "or equal," we would be inclined to believe that the argument had only been presented to insure the adoption of the definite specification by showing how pitifully weak and untenable was the position of those who opposed it.

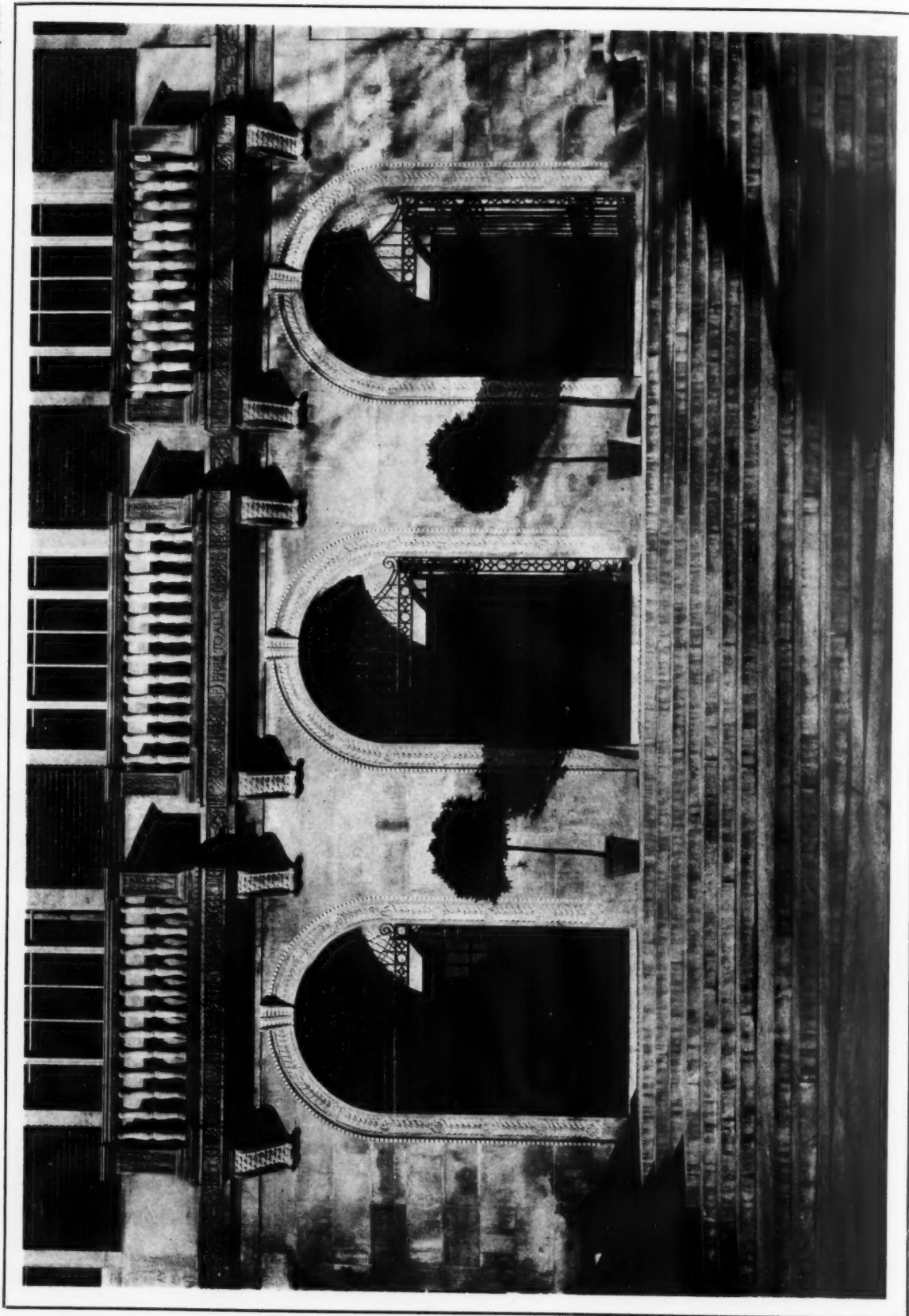


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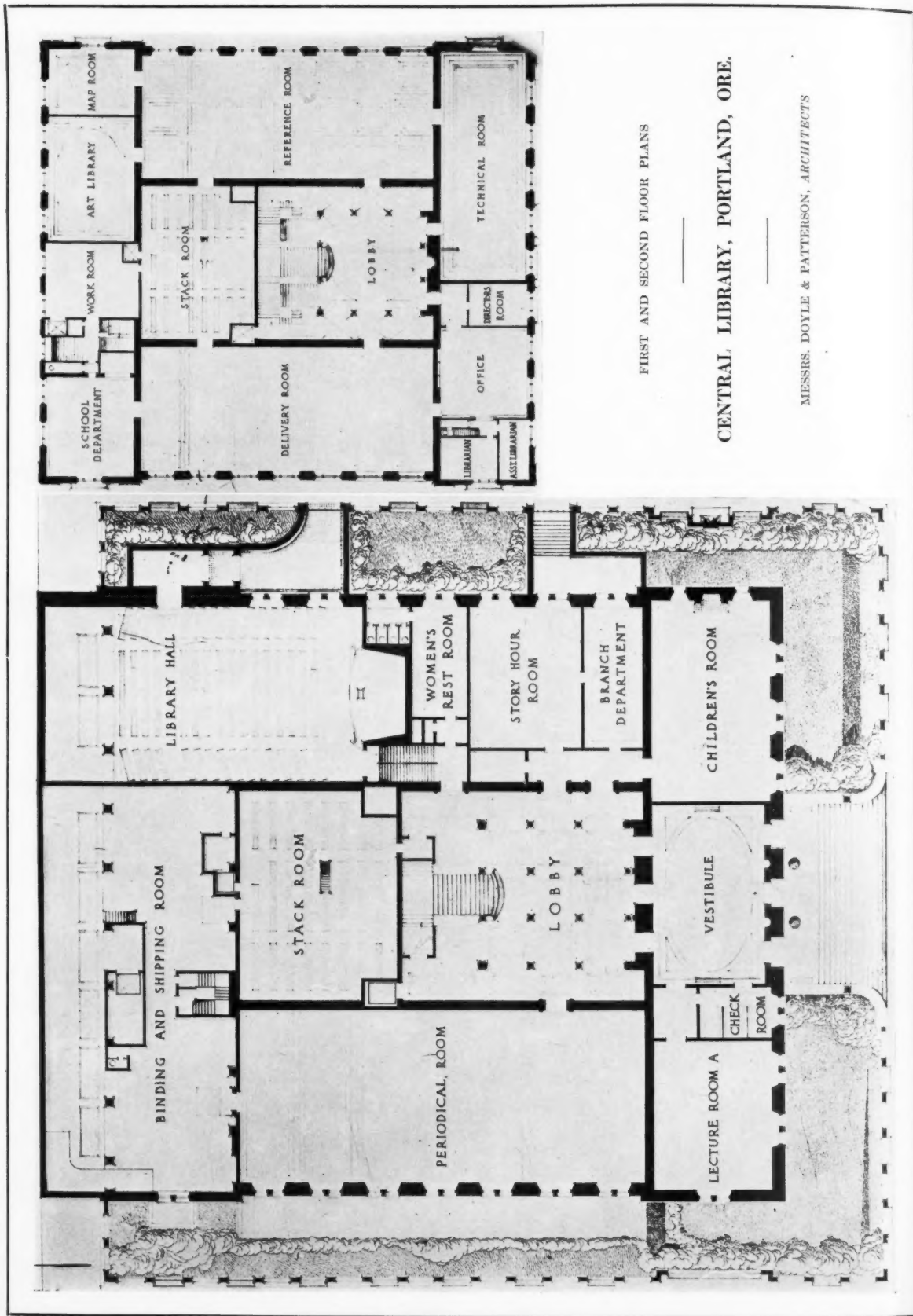


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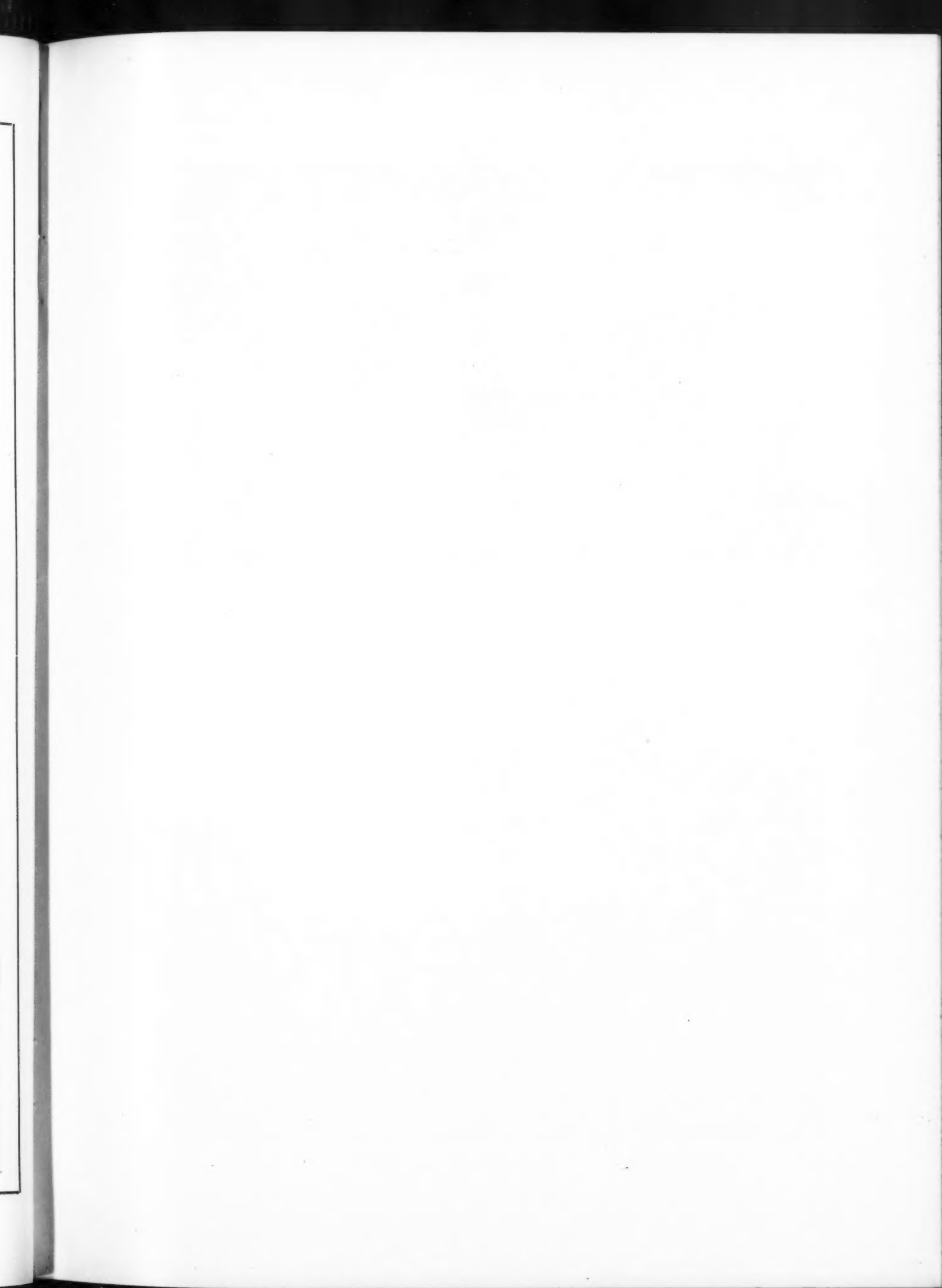
STANDARD CHURCH BUILDINGS, KENTLAND, OHIO.
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FIRST AND SECOND FLOOR PLANS

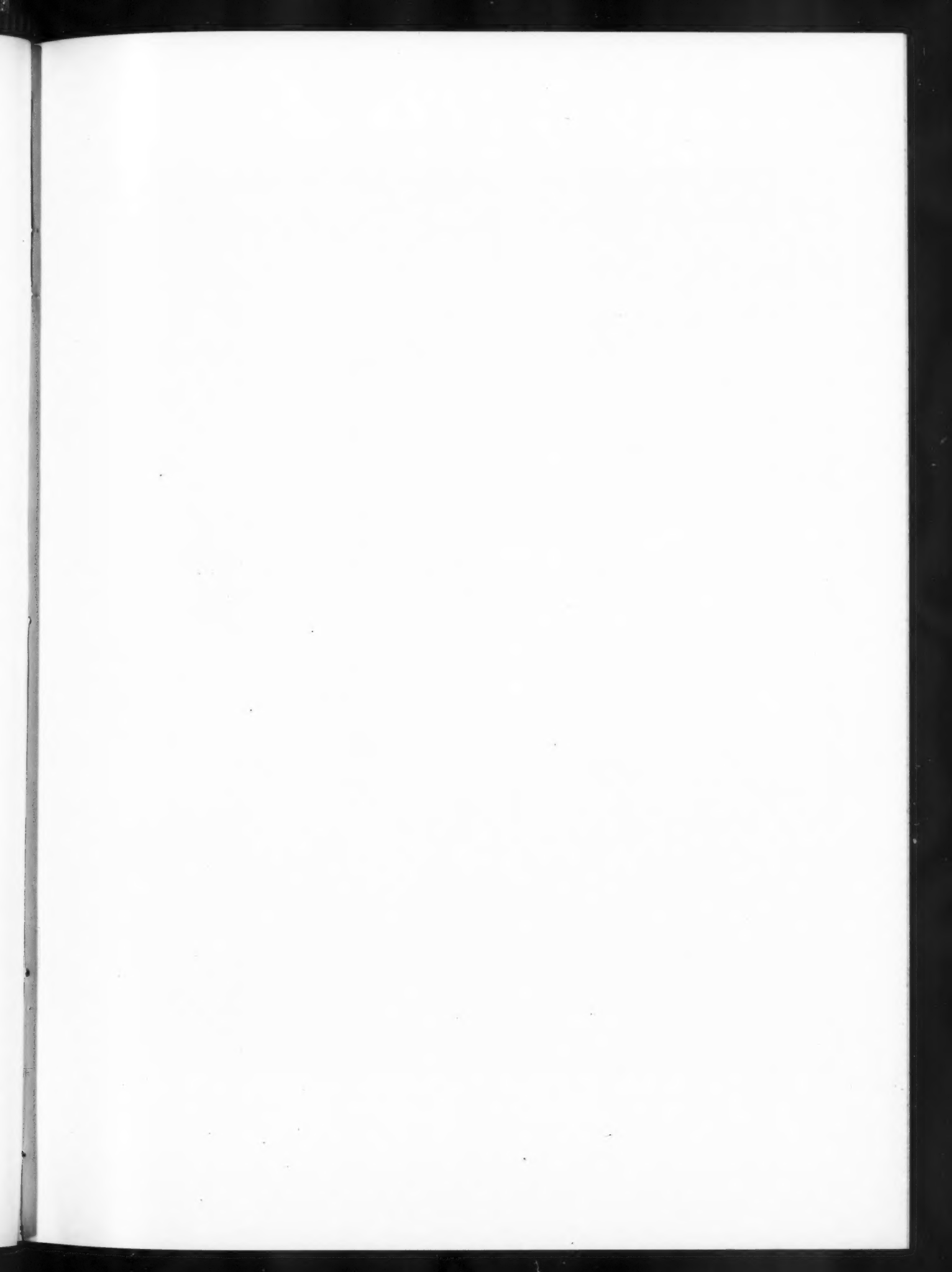
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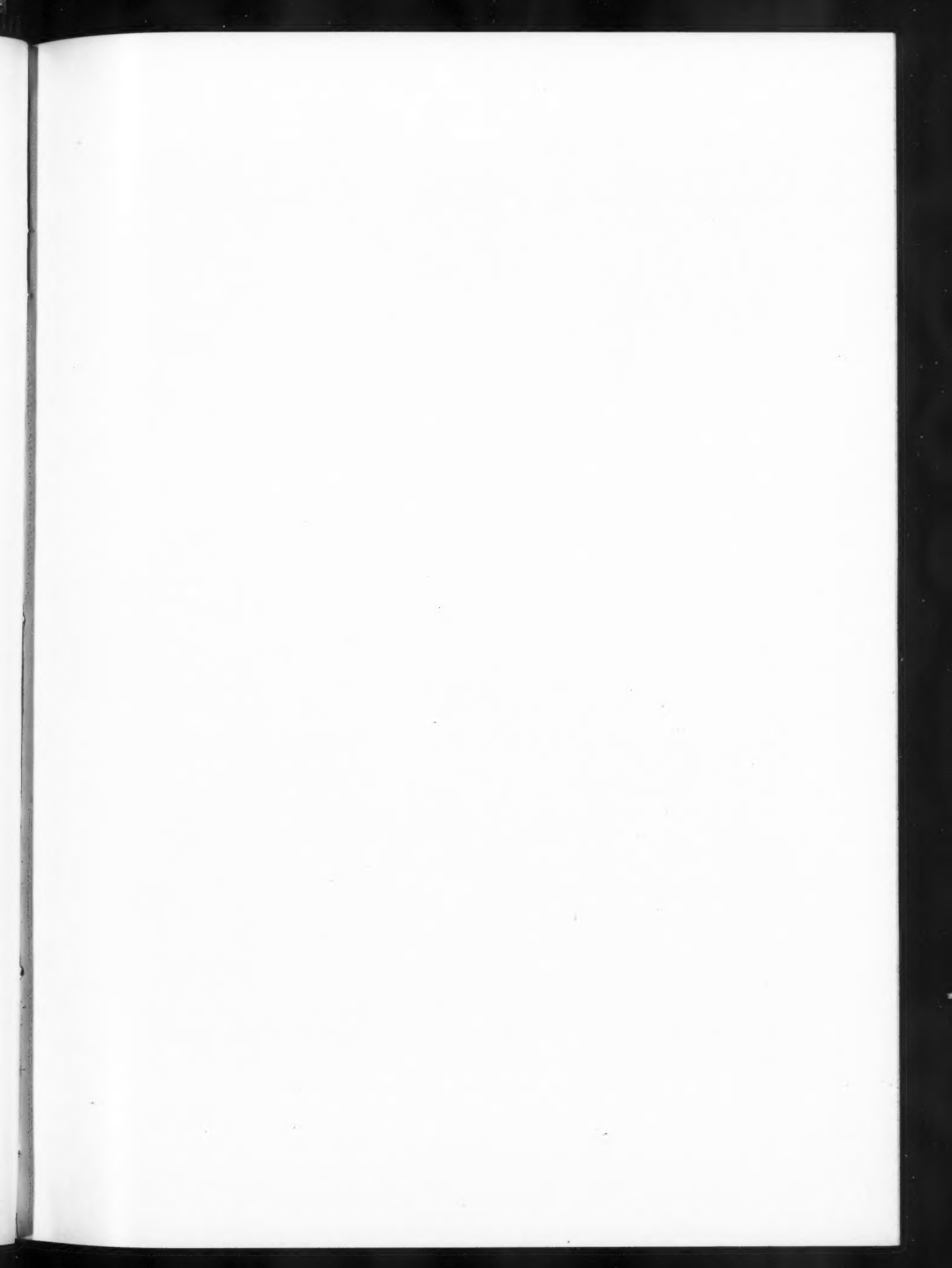
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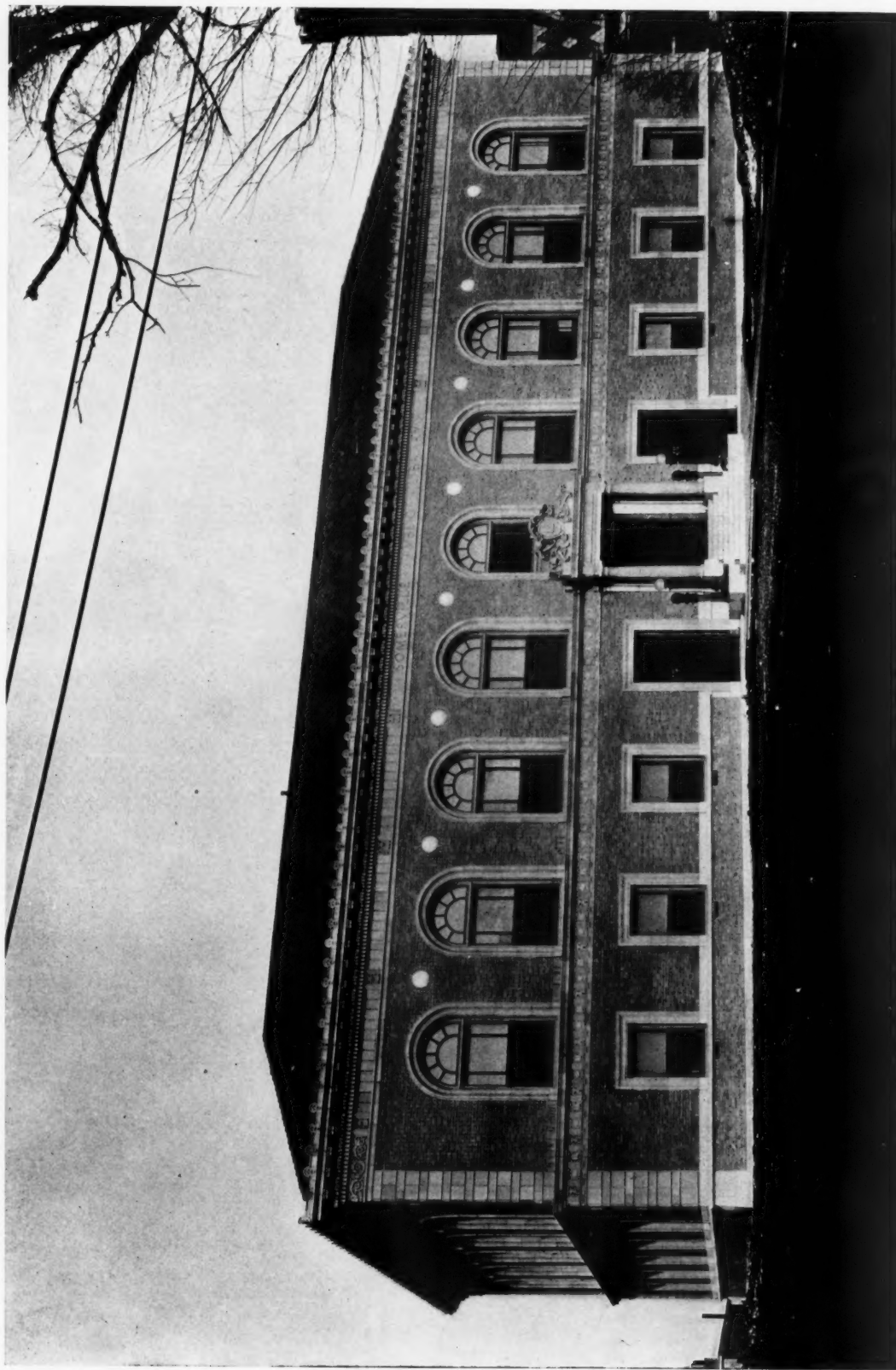




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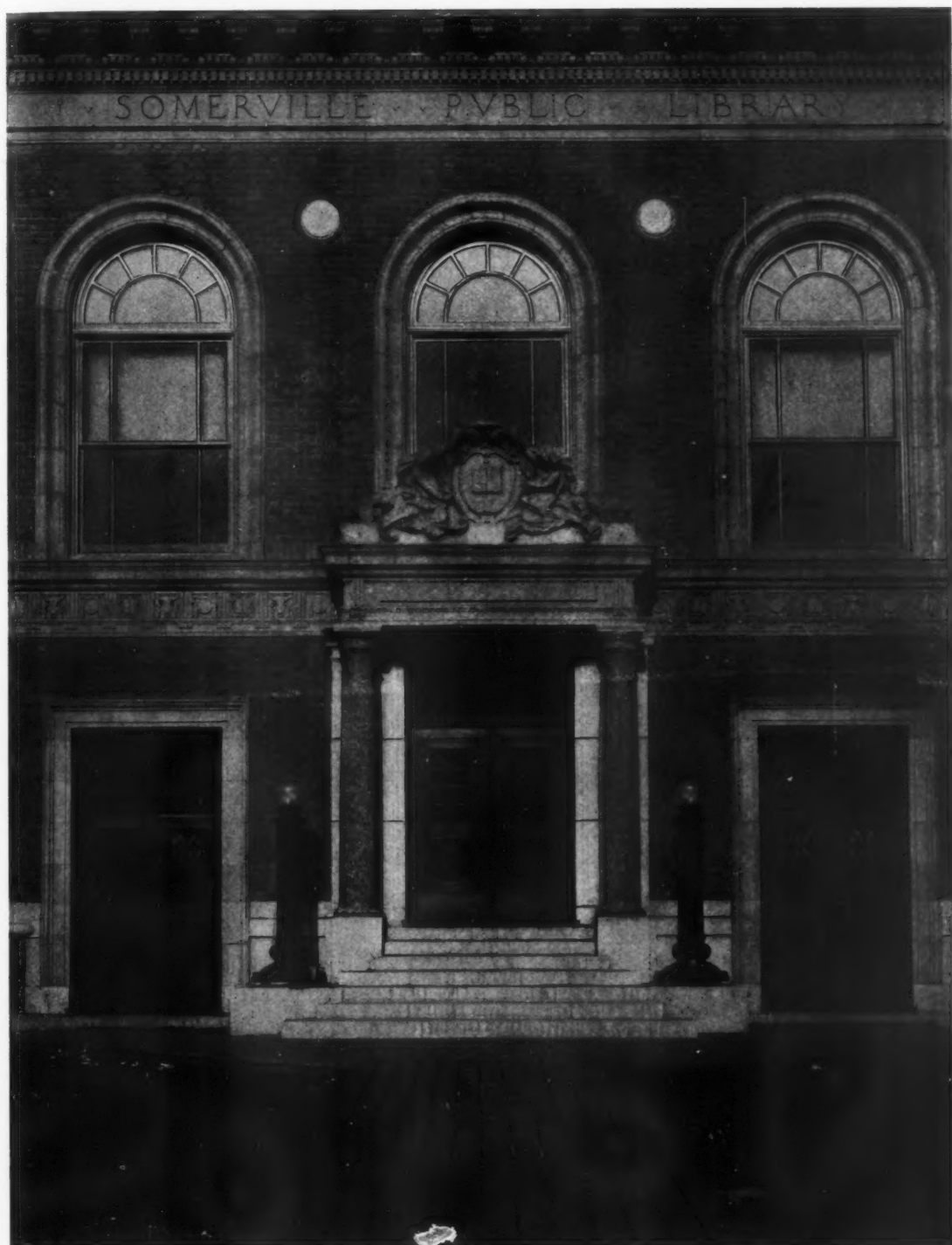
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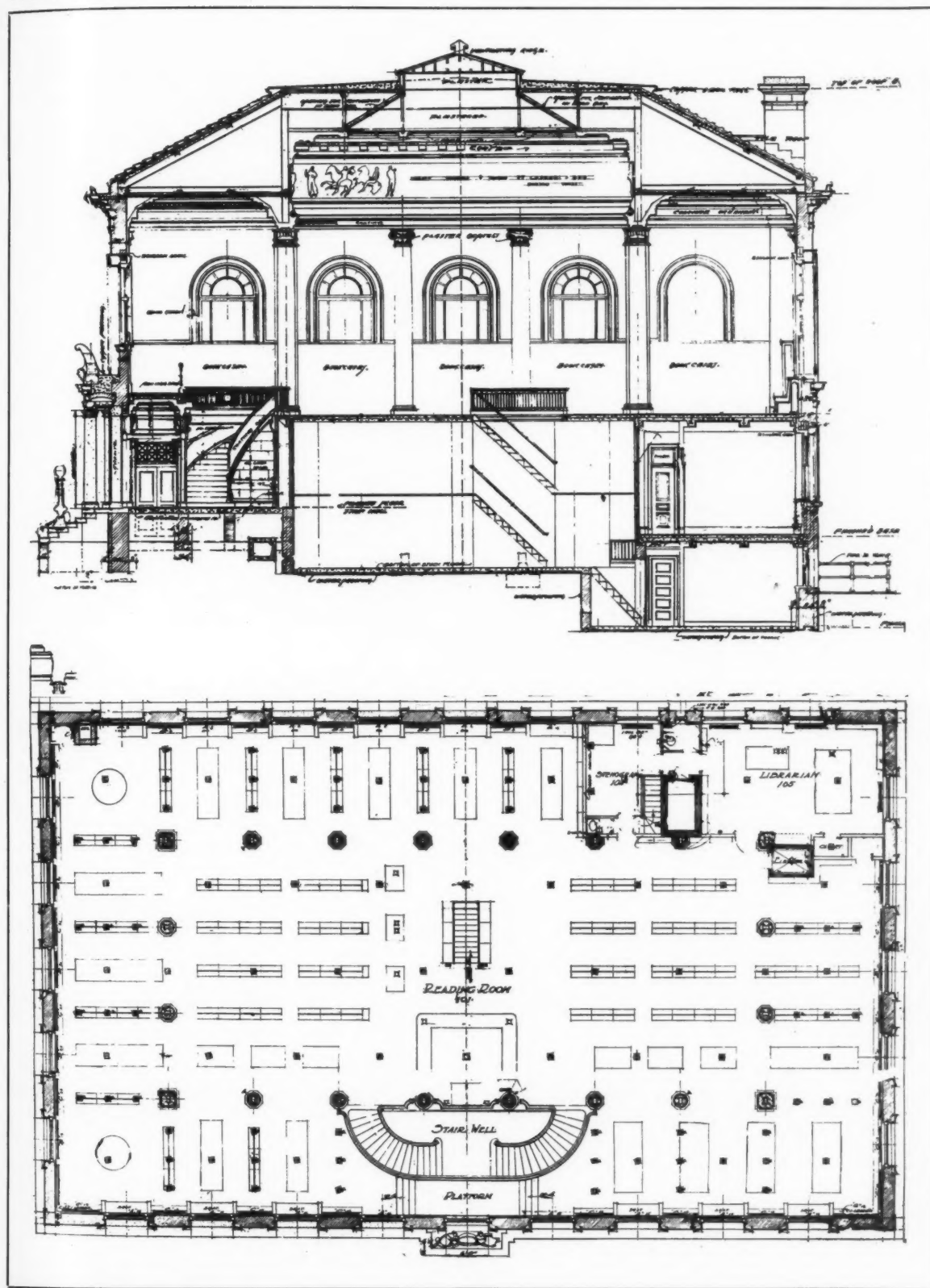
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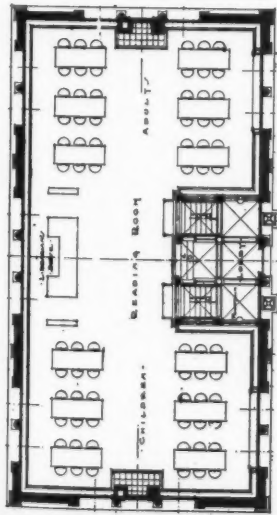
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TRANSVERSE SECTION AND FIRST FLOOR PLAN

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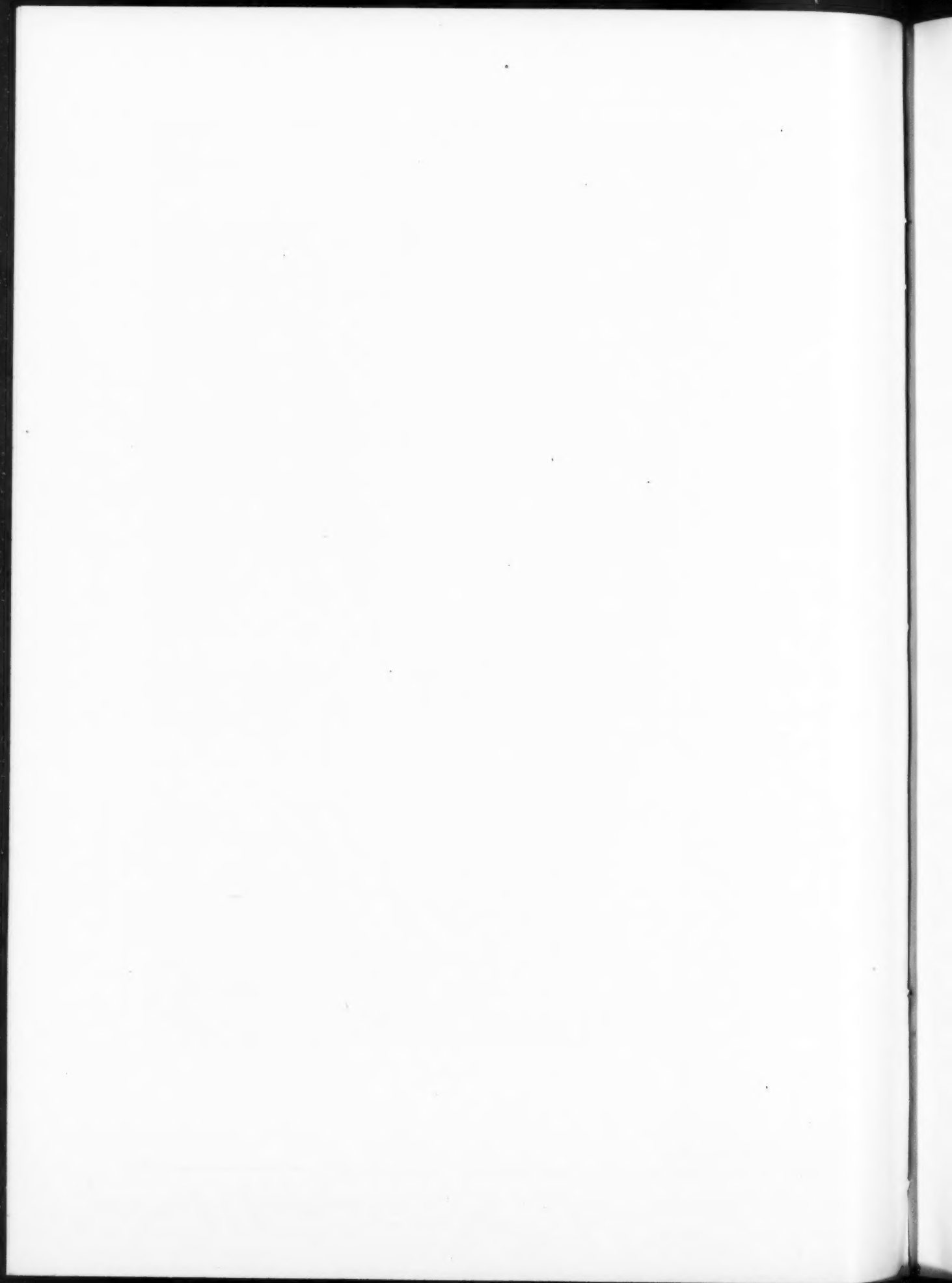
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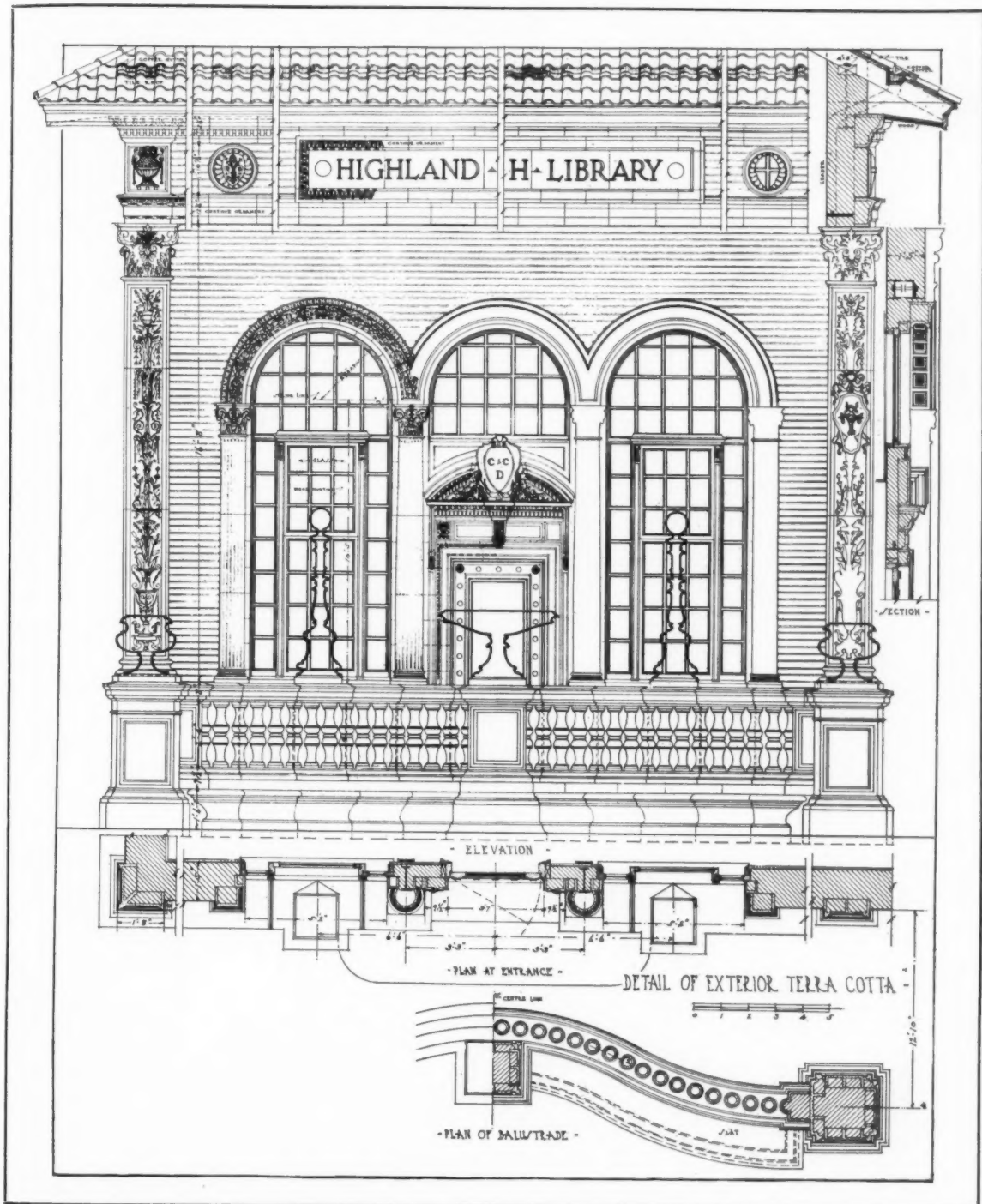


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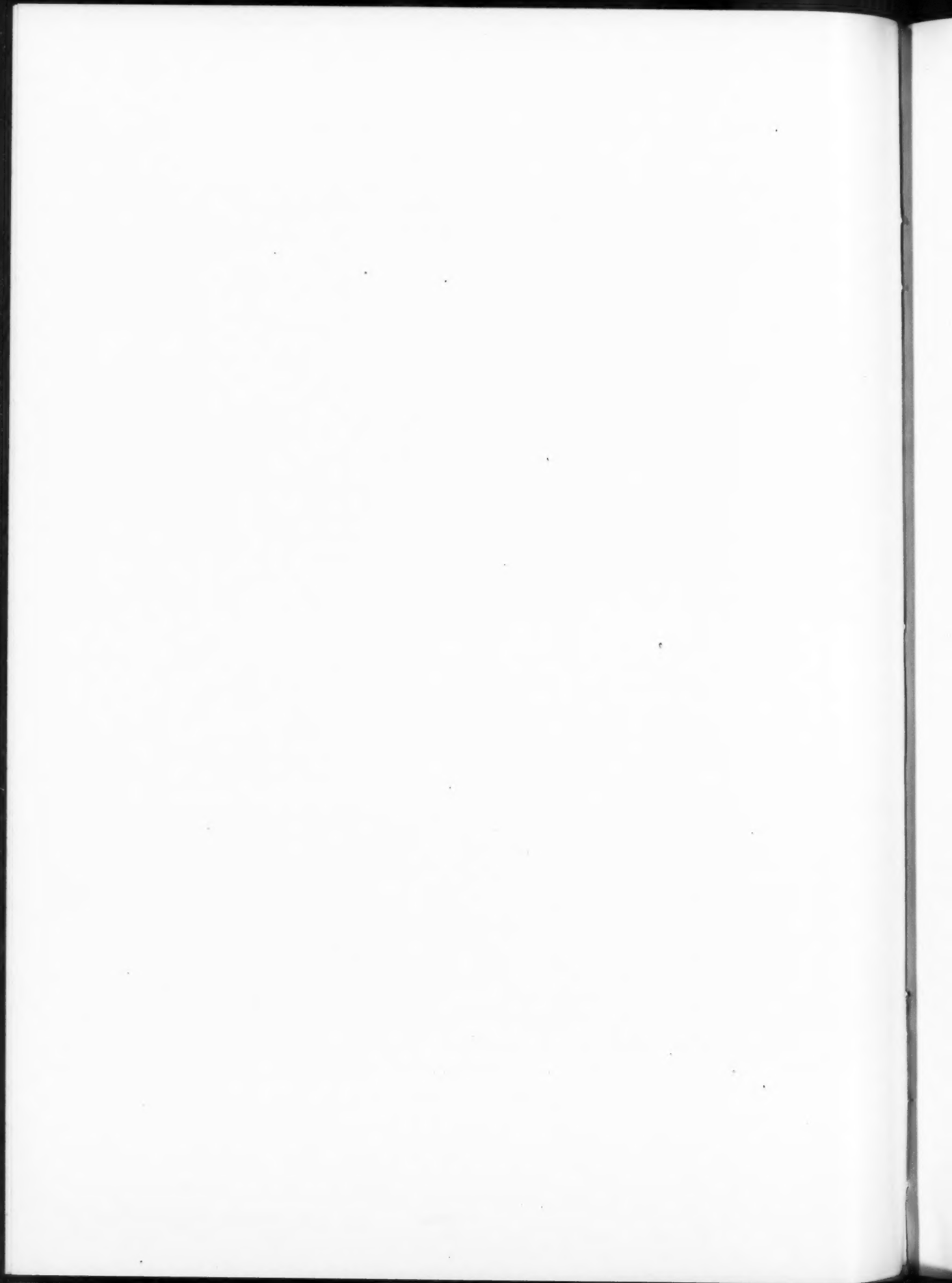
Fawn colored terra-cotta, cream and tan brick with Indian Red mortar joints, raked one-half inch, each alternate course headers. Frieze of same brick white flush joints, terra-cotta inserts.
 Roof red, gray, gun-metal and tan and green tiles.

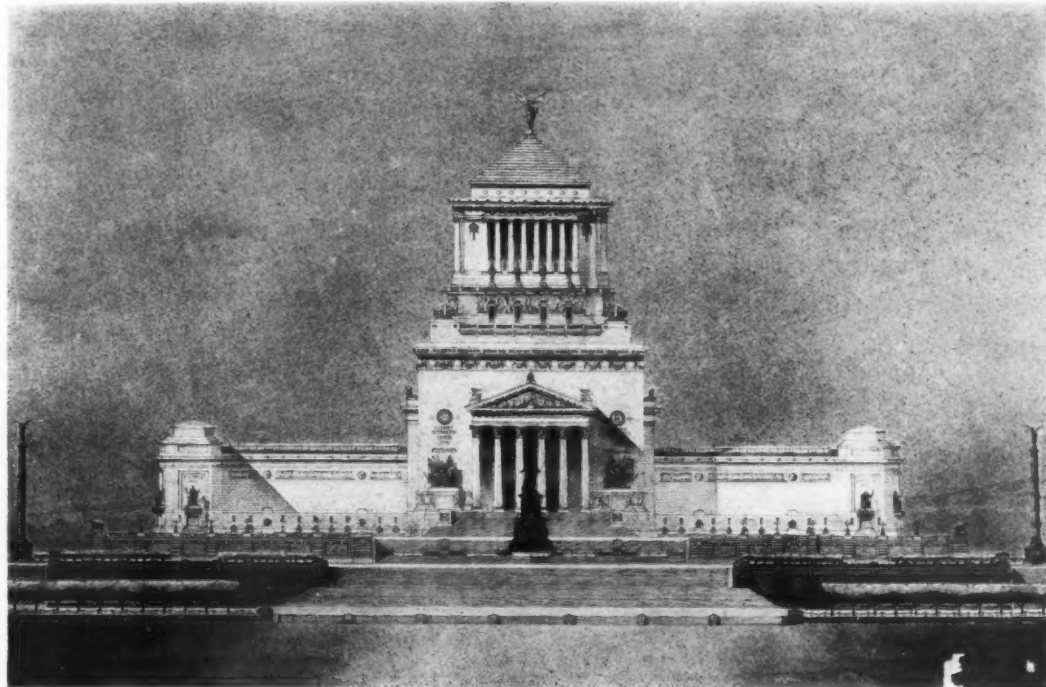




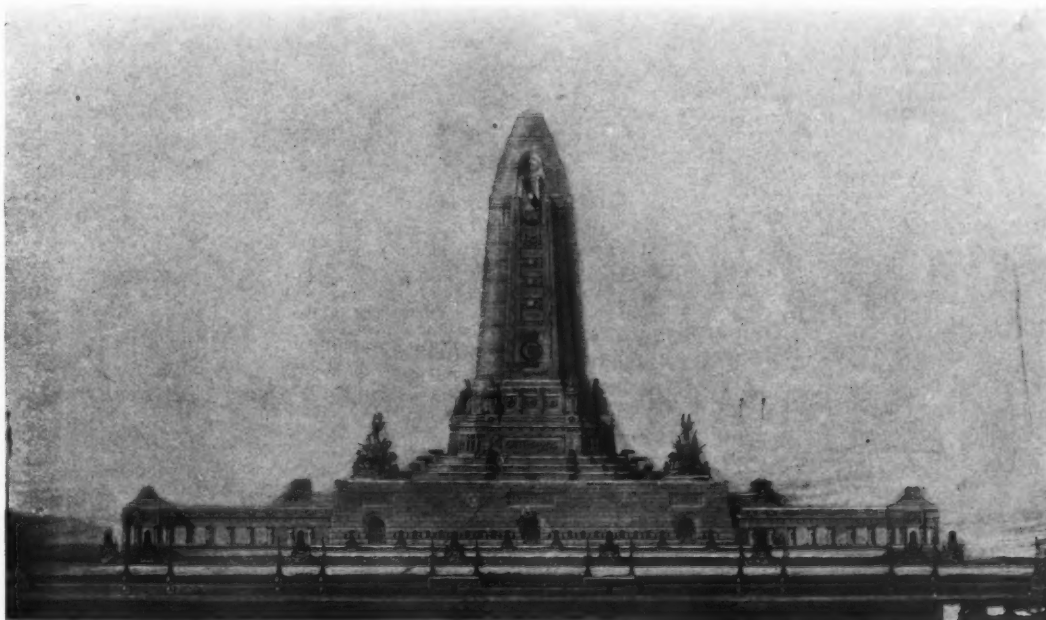
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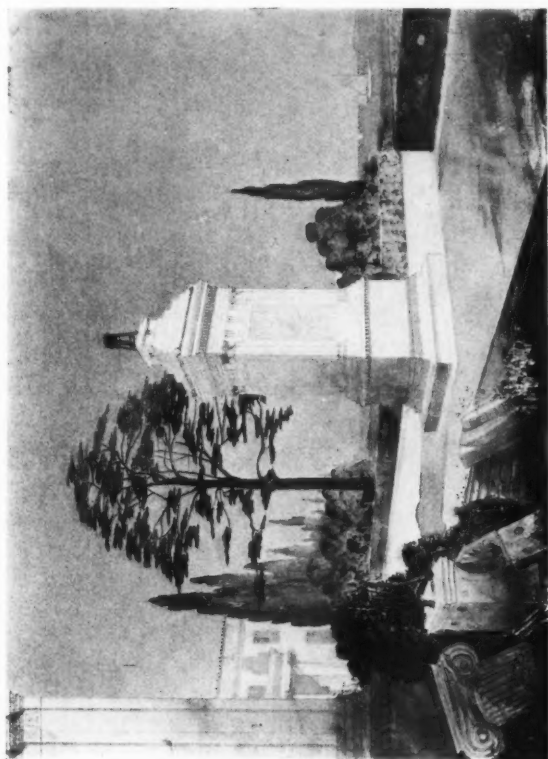


L. FENTNOR, SECOND MEDAL, ATELIER WARE

CLASS "A"—III PROJET (Problem in Design), A MEMORIAL BUILDING
STUDENT WORK, SOCIETY OF BEAUX-ARTS ARCHITECTS



E. A. SALOMONSKY, THIRD MEDAL, ATELIER COLUMBIA



L. M. GIROUX, THIRD MEDAL, ATELIER COLUMBIA

CLASS "A" AND "B" ARCHÆOLOGY—III PROJET (Problem in Design), AN ATHLETIC SHRINE

STUDENT WORK, SOCIETY OF BEAUX-ARTS ARCHITECTS

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1913-1914

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OFFICIAL NOTIFICATION TO S.B.A.A. STUDENTS OF AWARDS MADE IN THE JUDGMENT OF FEBRUARY 24TH, 1914

The Committee on Education in New York and its Local Committee in San Francisco received 144 Preliminary Sketches and 66 Sets of Final Drawings in the:—

CLASS "A"—III (Problem in Design)

"A MEMORIAL BUILDING"

The following received Second Medal: L. Fentnor, Ware, New York City; V. A. Frid, U. of Pa., School of Architecture, Philadelphia, Pa.; H. P. Bergen, J. P. Wilson and C. J. Gander, Columbia University, New York City; R. E. Coate, Cornell University, Ithaca, N. Y.; A. H. Megrail, Philadelphia Atelier, Philadelphia, Pa.; Thos. Bendell, C. Kennedy and S. Neubauer, U. of Pa., School of Architecture, Philadelphia, Pa.

The Class "A"—III Project Competition, subject, "A Memorial Building," showed a very fair average of drawings. While no drawings seemed worthy of a "first medal" ten "second medals" were awarded and many of the "mentions" showed considerable merit. The jury wishes once more to warn the students against radically changing their esquisses, also against making too indefinite esquisses. Seven students were thrown "H. C." in this competition and several more were on the line; at least two of them were given to otherwise excellent drawings which might have received medals had the esquisses been adhered to.

The Committee on Education in New York and its Local Committee in San Francisco received 141 Preliminary Sketches and 35 Final Drawings in the:—

CLASS "A" & "B" ARCHÆOLOGY—III Problem in Design

"AN ATHLETIC SHRINE"

The following received Third Medal: E. A. Salomonsky, L. M. Giroux, L. M. Beckett, G. Lindsley, F. B. Montanaro and W. Scholer, Columbia University, New York City; G. Fulton, Jr., Drexel Institute, Philadelphia, Pa.; C. E. Keyser, Philadelphia Atelier, Philadelphia, Pa.

The chief defects noticeable in the drawings submitted in the current archaeology problem were a failure to adhere strictly or correctly to the prescribed Greek character and a very general tendency to force the scale; much more architecture being crowded into the limited ten feet than was reasonably possible.

The presentation of the drawings was not up to the usual standard.

The Committee on Education in New York and its Local Committee in San Francisco received 28 Sketches in the:—

CLASS "A"—III Rendered Sketch

"INTERIOR OF A BALL ROOM IN AN AMERICAN EMBASSY IN A FOREIGN COUNTRY"

The following received Mention: L. Morgan, Hiron, New York City; R. W. Hube, Hornbostel, New York City; R. M. Johnson, and Robt. Pallesen, Ware, New York City; J. E. Stanton, San Francisco A. C., San Francisco, Cal.; S. L. Jory, Univ. of California, San Francisco, Cal.

A miserable set of drawings was presented for the "Interior of a Ball Room in an American Embassy in a Foreign Country." The designs were out of scale, and presented without imagination or skill and with little or no evidence of a knowledge of good architecture.

The Committee on Education in New York and its Local Committee in San Francisco received 3 Drawings in the:—

CLASS "A" & "B" ARCHÆOLOGY—III MEASURED DRAWING

L. Joseph, Third Medal, "Doorway of the Jumel Mansion," Columbia University, New York City; O. J. Southwell, Third Medal, "Tomb Monument of Ilaria del Carretto," Carn. Inst. of Tech., Pittsburgh, Pa.; B. Broude, Mention, "Torch Bearer in the Gardens at Versailles," Carn. Inst. of Tech., Pittsburgh, Pa.

The Committee on Education in New York and its Local Committee in San Francisco received 54 Sketches in the:—

CLASS "B"—III Rendered Sketch

"A MONUMENTAL GROUP OF BUILDINGS IN A ZOOLOGICAL PARK"

J. VanAlst, Jr., First Mention, Hiron, New York City; R. E. Hatfield, Mention, Boston A. C., Boston, Mass.; P. F. Esser, Mention, Bennett-Rebori, Chicago, Ill.; B. Broude, Mention, Carn. Inst. of Tech., Pittsburgh, Pa.; D. J. Cameron, Mention, Ware, New York City.

The Class "B" students showed a somewhat better grasp of the requirements of the Zoological Park plan than has marked previous Esquisse-Esquisses, but the majority were thoroughly immature. The "first mention" design showed thought and good indication. Patrons are requested to give many of these problems to their students.

CURRENT NEWS AND COMMENT

WASHINGTON, D. C., CHAPTER A.I.A. OFFERS PRIZE TO UNIVERSITY STUDENTS

The Washington, D. C., Chapter of the Institute has announced that it will award a prize of funds necessary for a trip to New York City, to the student of George Washington University, school of architecture, whose work in design, based on the year's course of construction, shall be considered the best.

CINCINNATI CHAPTER, A.I.A.

At the recent meeting of the Cincinnati Chapter of the Institute, Professor J. E. Harry, of the University of Cincinnati, was a guest and addressed the Chapter on the subject of "Local Civic Improvement."

Mr. Henry Cooper resigned as treasurer, and Mr. Newton Tebou was elected to the office. The president announced that a majority of the recommendations, corrections and suggestions as to the new state code, which had been invited by the authorities, had been accepted and inaugurated in the proposed law.

CABINET OFFICERS DEBATE JURISDICTION

WORK ON DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE BUILDING HALTED

The proposed new building for the Department of Justice at Washington, D. C., may or may not be started in the early future. The vicissitudes of this building and the others that it is proposed to erect on the Mall, have been many.

Now that the work is about to begin the question as to whether it shall be under the supervision of the Supervising Architect's office, as desired by Secretary McAdoo, or under army engineers, as urged by Attorney-General McReynolds, is being considered by the House Public Buildings Committee.

Secretary McAdoo told the Committee he wanted the Architect's office to supervise the work and not the army engineers,

asserting the latter, "although they may know all about building railroads and harbors, are not presumed to have technical knowledge required in building constructions."

Mr. McReynolds previously told the Committee army engineers should direct the work and that the Secretary of War should be substituted for the Secretary of the Treasury on the commission in charge of the construction of the building on account of the latter being overworked with "demands on him now almost beyond the limits of any man's capacity."

MASSACHUSETTS PROPOSED MEMORIAL AT GETTYSBURG

The State of Massachusetts has taken steps to insure that the State memorial that it is proposed to erect on the battlefield at Gettysburg, will be the result of efforts of highly qualified men. The commission appointed by the Governor consists of Edward O. Skelton, Augustus J. Hoitt and Ralph Adams Cram.

The design approved is in the form of a memorial arch.

ADEQUATE SALARY AND LONG TERM PROPOSED FOR NEW YORK STATE ARCHITECT

It is stated that a measure will soon be proposed in the New York State Legislature creating a State Department of Architecture and making the term of office of the State Architect six years, with a salary of \$10,000 a year. This measure, it is reported, has the endorsement of the New York Chapter of the Institute. The possibility that politics will be injected into the discussion of this measure, causes its sponsors to feel doubtful of its final passage, but as the measure has received careful attention and the best thought on the subject, strenuous effort will be brought to secure what is believed will be an act that will prevent a recurrence of happenings in the past that have brought the office of State Architect in New York into ill repute.

THE AMERICAN ARCHITECT

A PRELIMINARY COMPETITION FOR GEORGE WASHINGTON MEMORIAL BUILDING IN WASHINGTON, D. C.

Ten architects, it is stated, have been invited by the George Washington Memorial Association to enter a preliminary competition for plans for the proposed George Washington Memorial Building, for which Congress has given a site at Sixth and B Streets, N. W., Washington, D. C.

The architects invited are Messrs. Parker, Thomas & Rice, Baltimore, Md.; Peabody & Stearns, Boston, Mass.; McKim, Mead & White, New York City; Eames & Young, St. Louis, Mo.; Hornblower & Marshall, Washington, D. C.; John Galen Howard, San Francisco, Cal.; John Russell Pope, New York City; Paul P. Cret, Philadelphia, Pa.; Howard Van Doren Shaw, Chicago, Ill., and Warren & Wetmore, New York City.

The program states that the successful competitor is to receive \$1,500, and each unsuccessful competitor is to be paid \$500. The total of \$265,000 has now been raised for the building, and further material subscriptions to the fund are expected in the near future.

THE NATIONAL UNIVERSITY

A National University, to be called the University of the United States, and to be located in the District of Columbia, is provided for in a bill introduced recently in the Senate by Senator Dillingham of Vermont, Chairman of the Senate Committee on the University of the United States.

Senator Dillingham, it is stated, is of opinion that the time has now arrived to begin a vigorous movement toward bringing to a successful conclusion the plan for a national university first suggested by George Washington.

The bill introduced provides for an appropriation of \$500,000 immediately as preliminary toward the purchase of a site, and also that the sum of \$5,000,000 in the treasury be set apart permanently as the principal of a perpetual fund, the income from which shall be used to pay the expenses of the university.

PERSONAL

Mr. J. B. Connellan, architect, Rochester, N. Y., announces his removal to the Triangle Building.

Mr. Morrison H. Vail, architect, Dixon, Ill., announces his removal to new offices at 123 East First Street.

Mr. Noel S. Dunbar, architect, South Bend, Ind., announces his removal to new offices at 230 Washington Avenue.

Mr. Herman J. Duncan, architect, Alexandria, La., has opened an office in that city, where he will practice his profession. He desires to receive manufacturers' samples and catalogues.

Mr. Samuel M. Hitt, who has recently been appointed architect to the Isthmian Canal Commission, will be pleased to receive manufacturers' catalogues and small samples. Address: Culebra, Canal Zone.

Mr. Benjamin J. Lubschez, architect, Kansas City, Mo., announces that he has acquired the assets and good will of the late Adrian Van Brunt, and will continue the practice of architecture as his successor, with offices in the Reliance Building.

Mr. William E. Parsons, who for the past seven years has occupied the post of government architect at Manila, P. I., has just returned to this country. He will enter the office of Mr. E. H. Bennet, Railway Exchange, Chicago, Ill., and associate with him in connection with the work now under way on the comprehensive plan for the city of Ottawa, Ontario.

THE R.I.B.A. GOLD MEDAL

The R.I.B.A. Gold Medal, annually awarded to the man considered to be the most illustrious in the practice of architecture, has this year been given to M. Jean Louis Pascal.

INDUSTRIAL INFORMATION

ANNUAL MEETING, NATIONAL LUMBER MANUFACTURERS' ASSOCIATION

The twelfth annual meeting of the National Lumber Manufacturers' Association will be held in connection with the Forest Products Exposition in the Coliseum, Chicago, Ill., May 5th and 6th, 1914.

BARRETT SPECIFICATIONS

A pamphlet recently issued by The Barrett Mfg. Co., New York, and principal cities, is entitled, "Making Music Under the Right Roof." It illustrates the factories of the Æolian Co. at Garwood, N. J., and contains copy of the correspondence between the architects and their clients with reference to the specification of Barrett Roofs.

Arguments which The Barrett Mfg. Co. believe led the architect to specify this particular roof are given. A copy of this pamphlet and also of Barrett Specification will be mailed on request.

PORTABLE LAMPS AND GLASSWARE

The art of the craftsman in the perfection of design in glass is interestingly shown in a portfolio issued by the Holophane Works, Cleveland, O. There are illustrated many forms of lamp shades for portable lamps made from "Veluria" glass, a product that, it is claimed, permits in its manufacture artistic designs and high efficiency.

The insistence on the part of architects on the harmonies of "period" design in every feature that enters into the interior decorative treatment has stimulated manufacturers to an unusual degree. What can be achieved in this direction is interestingly shown in the pamphlet referred to.

FIRE-DOOR EQUIPMENT

The Stowell Mfg. & Foundry Co., of South Milwaukee, Wis., are makers of a line of accessories for fire-door equipment, illustrated and described in a recently issued pamphlet, to be had on request.

Fire-doors have little value if, when occasion for their use occurs, they are difficult of operation, or the working parts, through disuse, fail to act. The makers claim that this equipment has been specially designed to insure the instant and most efficient operation under every condition when fire-doors become necessary for the purposes for which they were installed.

A TYPE OF AIR-WASHERS

Spray Engineering Co., 201 Devonshire Street, Boston, Mass., have issued pamphlet No. 52, illustrating and describing types of air-washers of which they are manufacturers.

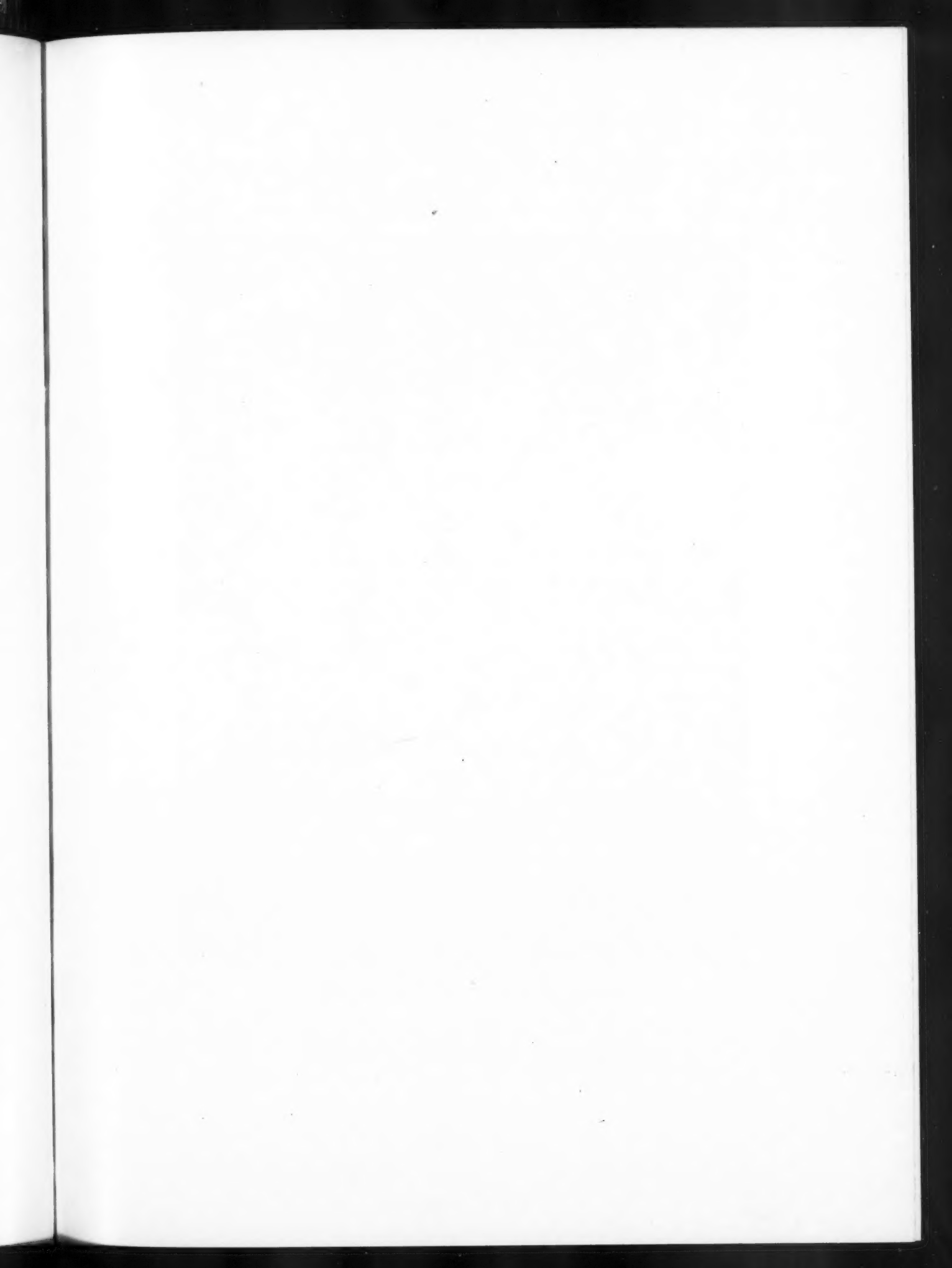
A feature of these washers, to which particular attention is directed, is an improved form of spray nozzle which, it is stated, owing to the fineness of the spray, brings the air and water into the most intimate contact and thus accomplishes the most thorough washing of the air passing through the chamber.

There has recently been evinced an increasing interest and appreciation on the part of the architect in the subject of air cleansing and conditioning. The importance of an air supply itself is hardly greater than to make sure of its proper character, and any information obtainable should be of interest.

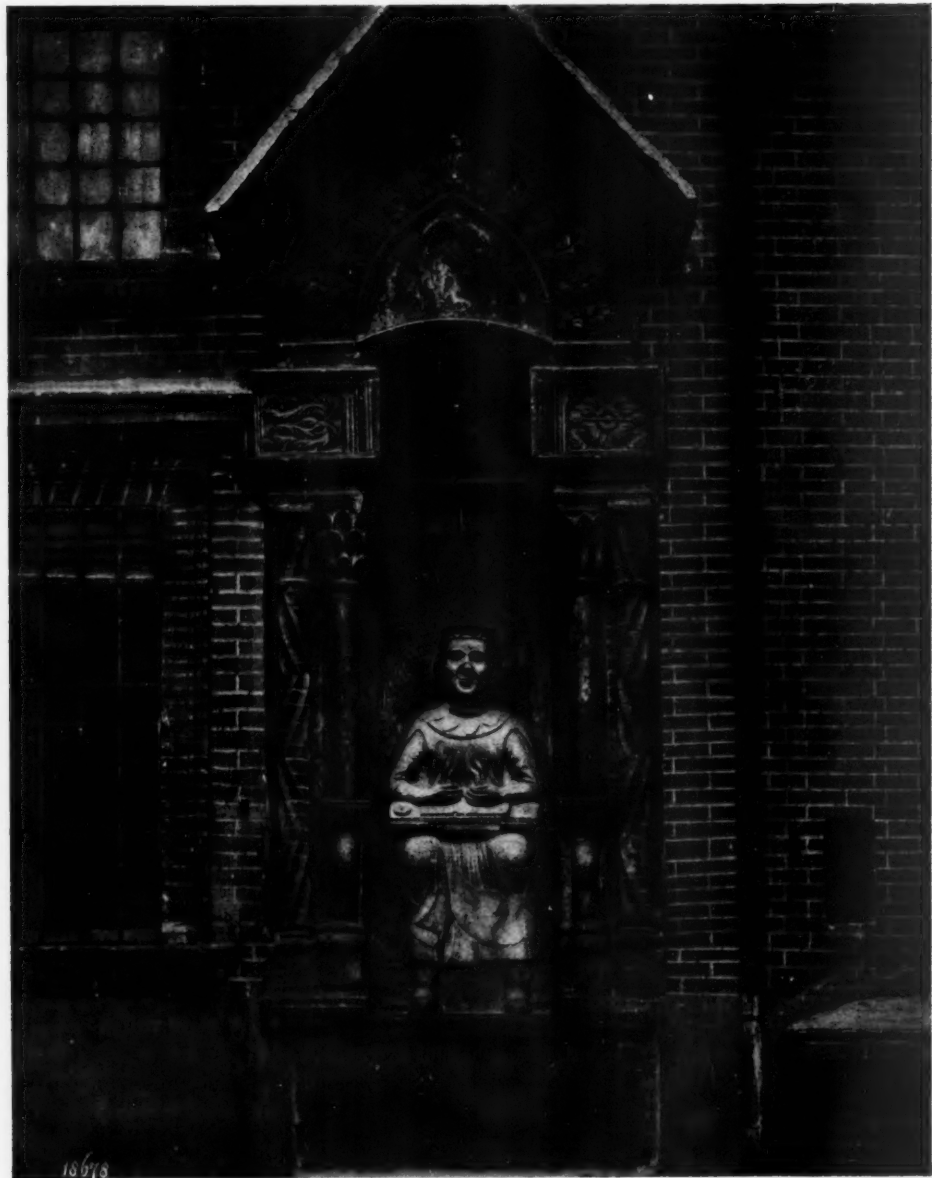
The pamphlet will be forwarded on application.

GRASS RUGS AND CARPETS

It is interesting to note in a pamphlet issued by W. & J. Sloane, New York City, the advance that has been made in the manufacture of rugs and carpets, woven from grasses and fibres. The increasing use of this form of floor covering, especially in country houses and for porch furnishings, would seem to have stimulated makers of these goods in the perfection of an article that would withstand the wear to which it is subject, and also impart a decorative feature but little, if any, less than higher priced coverings. The pamphlet shows a large variety of patterns and colors both in carpet lengths and rugs and will offer decorative possibilities to architects. It may be had on application.



THE AMERICAN ARCHITECT



MONUMENT TO THE POET VIRGIL, MANTUA, ITALY