

THE AMERICAN ARCHITECT

VOL. CX

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NUMBER 2139



LOOKING SOUTH ON FIFTH AVENUE FROM FORTY-EIGHTH STREET

Characteristic of Fifth Avenue in its transformation from a restricted residence section to a shopping center.

SHOP FRONTS

NO feature of the exterior of a building accents more insistently the commercial value of good architecture than the shop front. Every retail dealer, either owner or tenant, realizes the advertising value of an attractive store premises, and as the shop front may be said to be "the eyes of the store," it is regarded as highly essential that its design and furnishing shall be of such high character as to dignify and give added value to the wares that are displayed within.

Retail merchandising in the United States has been developed to a point of

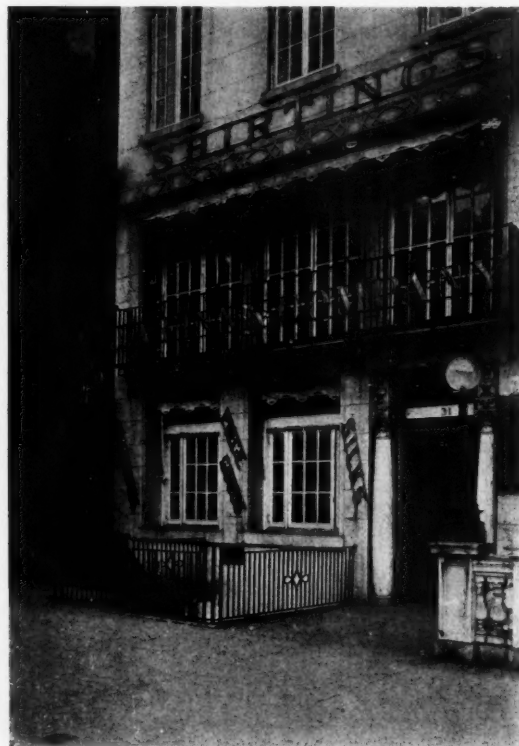
highest efficiency, and in the progress of this development it was early recognized that to command attention to the articles for sale it was necessary to provide a setting that would attract a class of buyers of means and discrimination, and with them, other classes who, through curiosity, would be led to visit a well patronized and luxuriously furnished store. These features of modern retail merchandising have reached their highest phase in shops where the luxuries of life have been on sale, and the jewelers and silversmiths, the fashionable milliners and dressmakers and other similar lines have vied, one with

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the other, in the sumptuousness of their shops.

The period of appeal to the passer-by is not limited to hours of daylight, but in the Fifth Avenue shopping section of New

York, and more recently in the newly developed Madison Avenue district, the illumination of shop fronts and windows serves to attract people at night to neighborhoods that have heretofore been more or less deserted after business hours.



A LOWER MADISON AVENUE SHOP FRONT

This shop is located near Twenty-fifth Street, where is the area comprised between Twenty-third and Twenty-sixth streets. There are located, the Metropolitan Tower, Dr. Parkhurst's Church, the Appellate Court and the former Jockey Club. The original residence occupation may be noted in the last remaining dwelling on the left.

In the development of the shop front there has been created, through the insistence of shopkeepers, a certain architectural inconsistency for which architects have often been censured by unthinking critics, but for which they were not willingly responsible.

In order to provide the wide expanse of glass or display frontage, it has been necessary to tear out the logical supports of piers and front walls and carry them on beams or girders at the second or third floor level, as the case may be. These beams are in turn supported on slender steel columns at corner or side of front, and even these slender supports are frequently encased in mirrors to render them less conspicuous. We have therefore the seeming support of many stories simply on the attenuated metal corner bars and the large plate glass windows. The architectural purist will not regard these conditions with approval, and in a sense he is right, but as a rule the great attractiveness of the shop front, with its well arranged wares, serves to distract atten-



A CANDY SHOP

The mosaic decorations indicate the nature of the occupancy.

tion from an architectural untruth and, as is often the case in other matters, the spectacular presentation of the appeal obscures the real point of the argument.

Knowing these facts and ignoring their presence, we are able to regard the shop

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front as a simple element of architectural design, created to serve a certain well defined purpose.

Another architectural inconsistency in the modern shop front when executed as an alteration is that very often it is at variance in design with the upper stories of the building. Here again the architect is seldom responsible, as the shopkeeper, with certain ideas as to the period style that will best exploit his wares, will be

mental vision the building is, to them, all shop front.

The saunterer through the shopping center of New York who views with architectural eyes the latest developments of shop fronts, will, we believe, be impressed with the careful study that has been given them and the large expenditure of artistic skill in design that has been evolved.

There are, unfortunately, but few instances where the entire façades of build-



LOOKING SOUTH ON FIFTH AVENUE FROM FORTY-SIXTH STREET

Note the dwelling house sandwiched between two buildings. This house originally had a high brown stone stoop, which has been sheared off as an encroachment.

insistent on the carrying out of his wishes in the matter. Hence, when the transformed structure is viewed from a point where the entire façade may be seen, the result is not always satisfactory, and in fact is many times very disquieting. But, as shop fronts are often the only part of a building that interests the throng of shoppers that frequent the locality, it is doubtful if they ever give much attention to the remainder of the building, and in fact it may be assumed that in their

ings built for retail merchandising present the same excellence throughout. It would seem as if such important object lessons as to the value, as a business asset, of good architecture, would be so impressive as to lead to a generally well designed building. But the saunterer will not have proceeded far in his tour of observation to discover that in the majority of cases the shop front has received all the artistic attention, while the upper stories are of the most commonplace character.



REMODELED SHOP FRONT FOR A CANDY STORE

Its pure white effect while advertisingly good is not harmonious with its surroundings

NEW YORK'S SHOPPING DISTRICT AND THE SHIFTING OF TRADE CENTERS

PROBABLY no city in the United States has undergone more rapid and radical changes in its development than that part of Greater New York on Manhattan Island. An item in the daily press states that two well known residences on Fifth Avenue between Fifty-second and Fifty-ninth Streets have been purchased by leading firms of retailers and that the houses will soon be razed and large buildings for retailing purposes erected on the sites.

It is not more than twenty-five years since Fourteenth Street on the south and Twenty-third Street on the north marked the practical boundaries of New York's shopping district. Within these limits were to be found the retail stores of greatest importance and as a consequence the neighborhood was the resort of the

retail purchasing population, and rents were accordingly high.

The later location of the garment making trade in this neighborhood worked disadvantageously to the shopping trade, and the more important stores started an exodus to a neighborhood farther uptown.

Many of the more prominent retail firms moved to locations on Fifth Avenue and established a new center along that thoroughfare with a southerly limit at Twenty-third Street, extending north to about Fortieth Street. The high class of trade that moved into this locality and the organization of an association of retail merchants soon created in this new zone a shopping district that has been called the highest in class to be found in any city in the world. This invasion of what had formerly been the most restricted and

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highest class residence section on Manhattan Island resulted in a marked advance in real-estate values in that district, and the desertion of the Fourteenth to Twenty-third Street zone caused an equally marked decline.



A SHOP FRONT IN MARBLE AND IRON
Typical of the better class of shops on Fifth Avenue.

While in the general result, as affecting taxation values, it may be said to about strike an even balance, the loss to owners due to depreciation in the old section has amounted to millions of dollars.

It was these conditions that prompted the recently enacted zoning law, which, it is hoped, will have a tendency to restrict the separate commercial activities to specific zones and prevent in the future the sudden and material shifting of centers and fluctuation in values.

It now appears that retail tradesmen aspiring to the highest class of trade believe it is necessary to secure a Fifth Avenue location. This may be said to be illustrated by the fact that when one of

the established retail stores moved north to Thirty-fourth Street, near Fifth Avenue, a few years ago, it secured an entrance to its store through the first story of a Fifth Avenue office building, so that it might be able to announce a Fifth Avenue address. While between the present center at Thirty-fourth Street and Fifth Avenue to the recently acquired properties at Fifty-second Street already referred to are located many high-class retail stores, they are more or less scattered, and between them will be found the many fine houses of old New York families who are still loath to relinquish a home that is associated with the memories incident to many generations of occupancy.

Within the now established northern boundary of the shopping district at



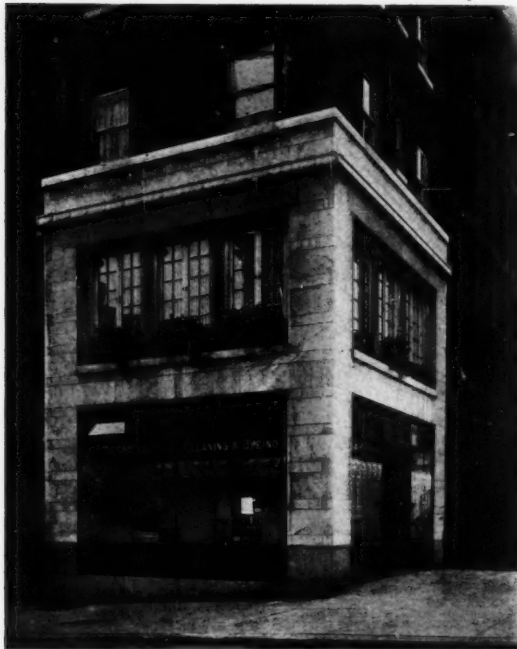
A PROMINENT ART SHOP ON FIFTH AVENUE

Fifty-second Street is located St. Patrick's Cathedral, and just north, at Fifty-third Street, St. Thomas' Church and the University Club.

If the northward progress should be

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maintained to Fifty-ninth Street—and there are a few shops already located in that locality—there will be presented a condition seldom encountered in other large cities. We shall, for example, wit-



A MADISON AVENUE SHOP FRONT EXTENDING THROUGH TWO STORIES

ness the conduct of funerals, weddings and formal religious services such as may take place on week days, amid the moving throngs of shoppers.

And in this "milling around" of the shopping trade there has been an equal unrest in other branches of business. The Wall Street, or financial, district has in a sense been undisturbed, and as there is a very large investment in buildings in that section, it probably will remain where it is for many years, but to meet the demands of certain speculative classes, banks and brokers have opened branches in this shopping district.

The leather trade has also kept close to that district east of City Hall Park known as "the Swamp," but the district immediately on the west, where the crockery

and glass men congregated, is now almost deserted by them. The wholesale dry goods and woolen trade has left a neighborhood south of Canal Street that was identified with that line of business for almost a century and is now to be found along Fourth Avenue north of Union Square.

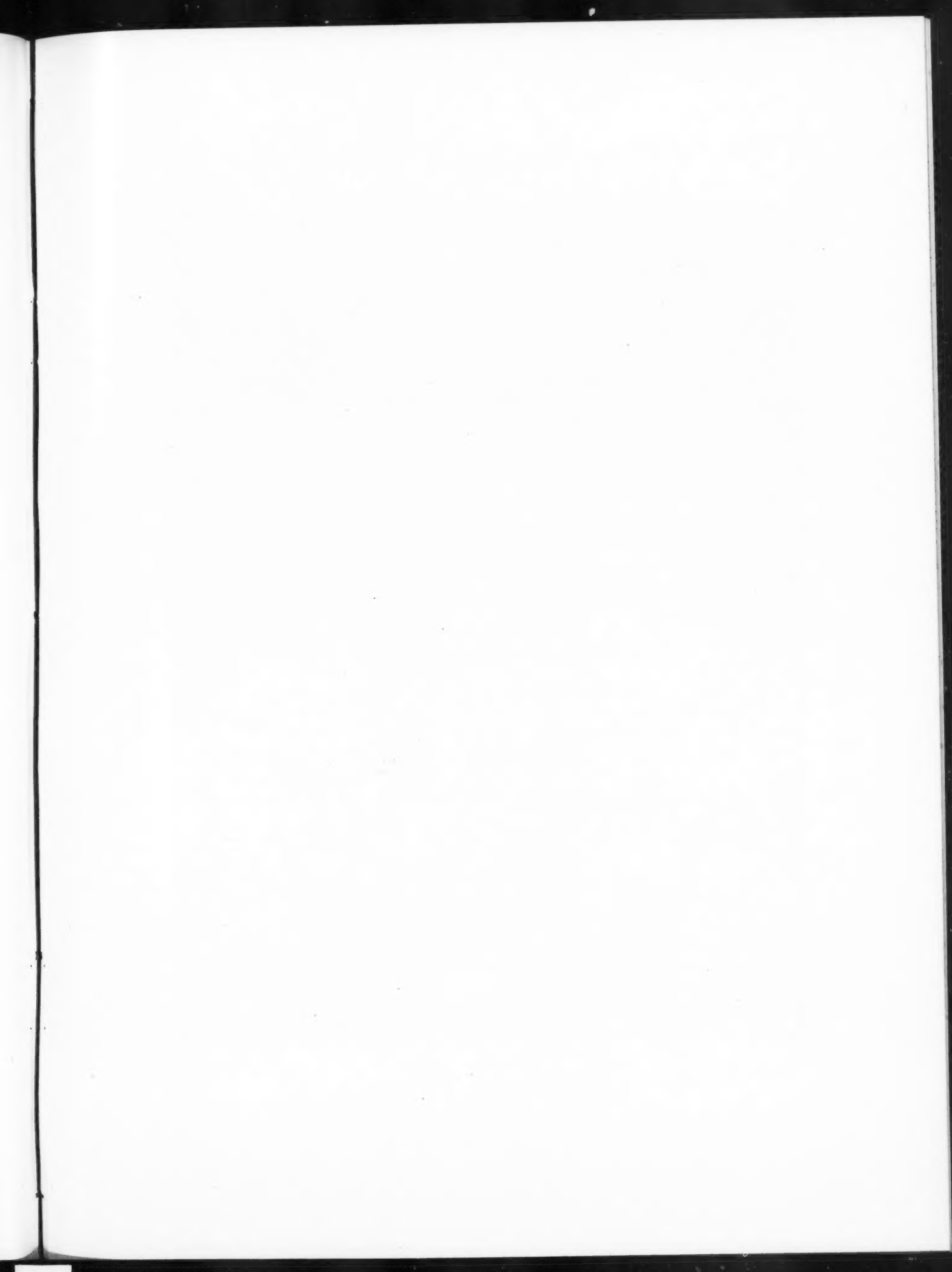
All the traditions as to location that for years served to erect a sentimental barrier to obstruct the trespass of alien occupations have been cast to the winds, but with the new building zone law in operation it is believed greater stability will be afforded in future.

The Handbook of the Illinois Society of Architects

To architects, particularly those practicing in Illinois and contiguous states, the nineteenth annual edition of the Handbook issued by the Illinois Society of Architects will have considerable reference value. The scheme, admirably developed, is to furnish architects with such items of technical information as are always coming up in practice. In fact, the book is a *vade mecum* encyclopædia in character. For example, building ordinances are printed together with the various amendments up to the time of going to press. This information in itself will prove the value of the work, as it saves time and presents accurately and concisely the exact information desired. A comprehensive index to building ordinances enables a busy man to reach with the least delay the section desired.

Sections of the code with reference to specific work are also a feature of the book—electrical inspections, gas fitters' rules, regulations for wiring buildings, and, in short, the many questions that arise either during the period of planning or writing specifications are all very clearly set forth.

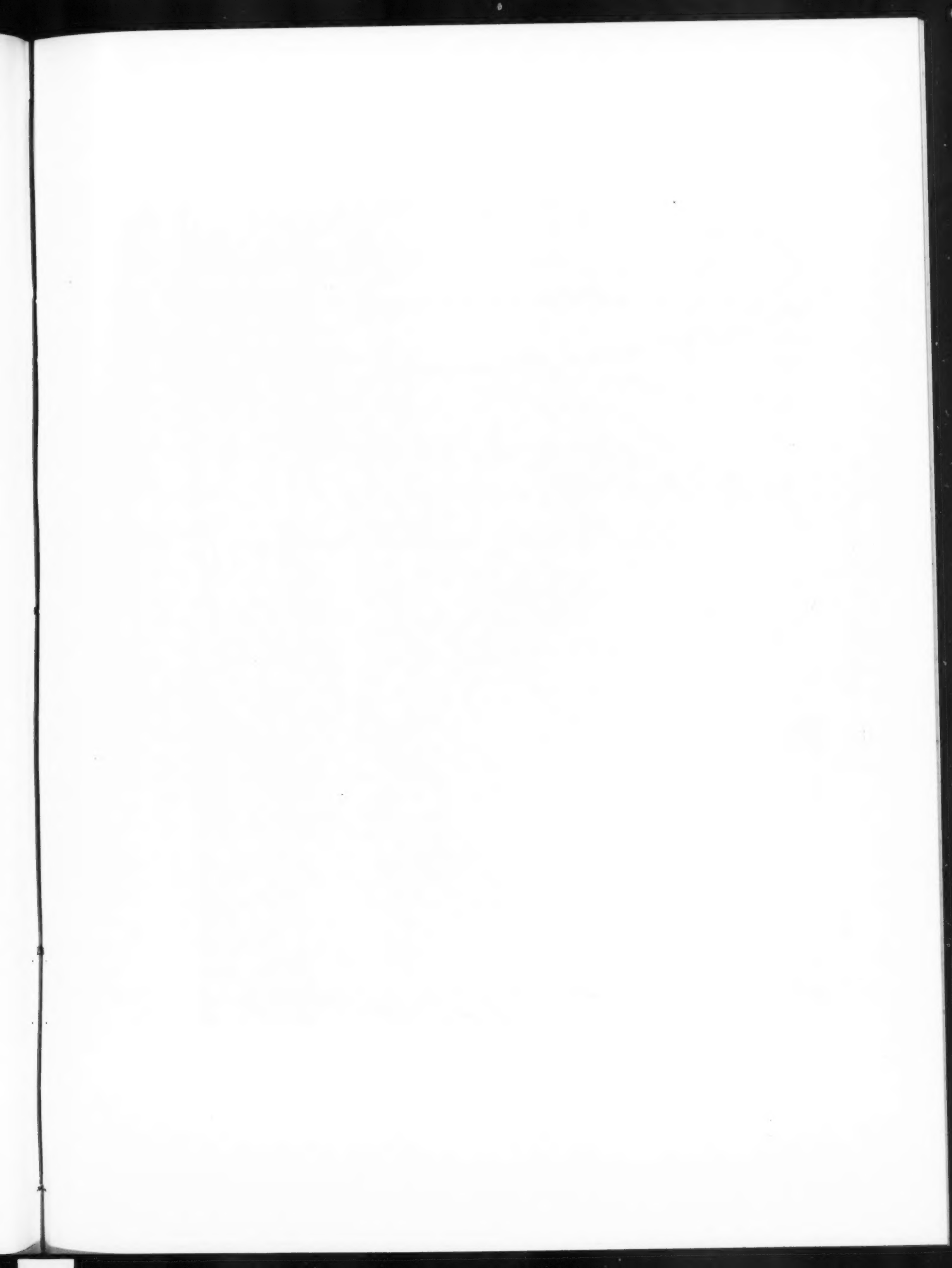
For further particulars of this reference work address H. L. Palmer, Financial Secretary, 19 South LaSalle Street, Chicago.

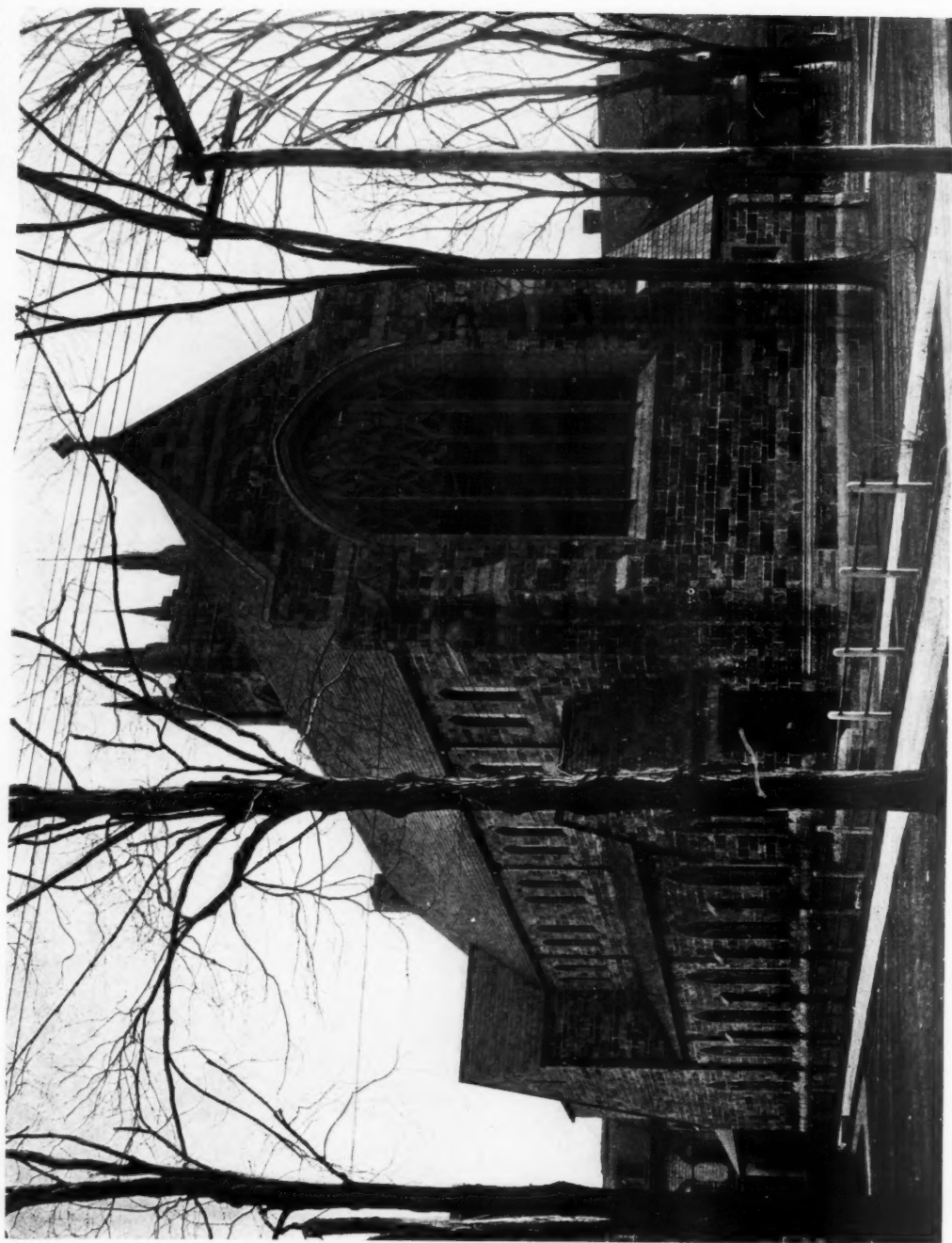




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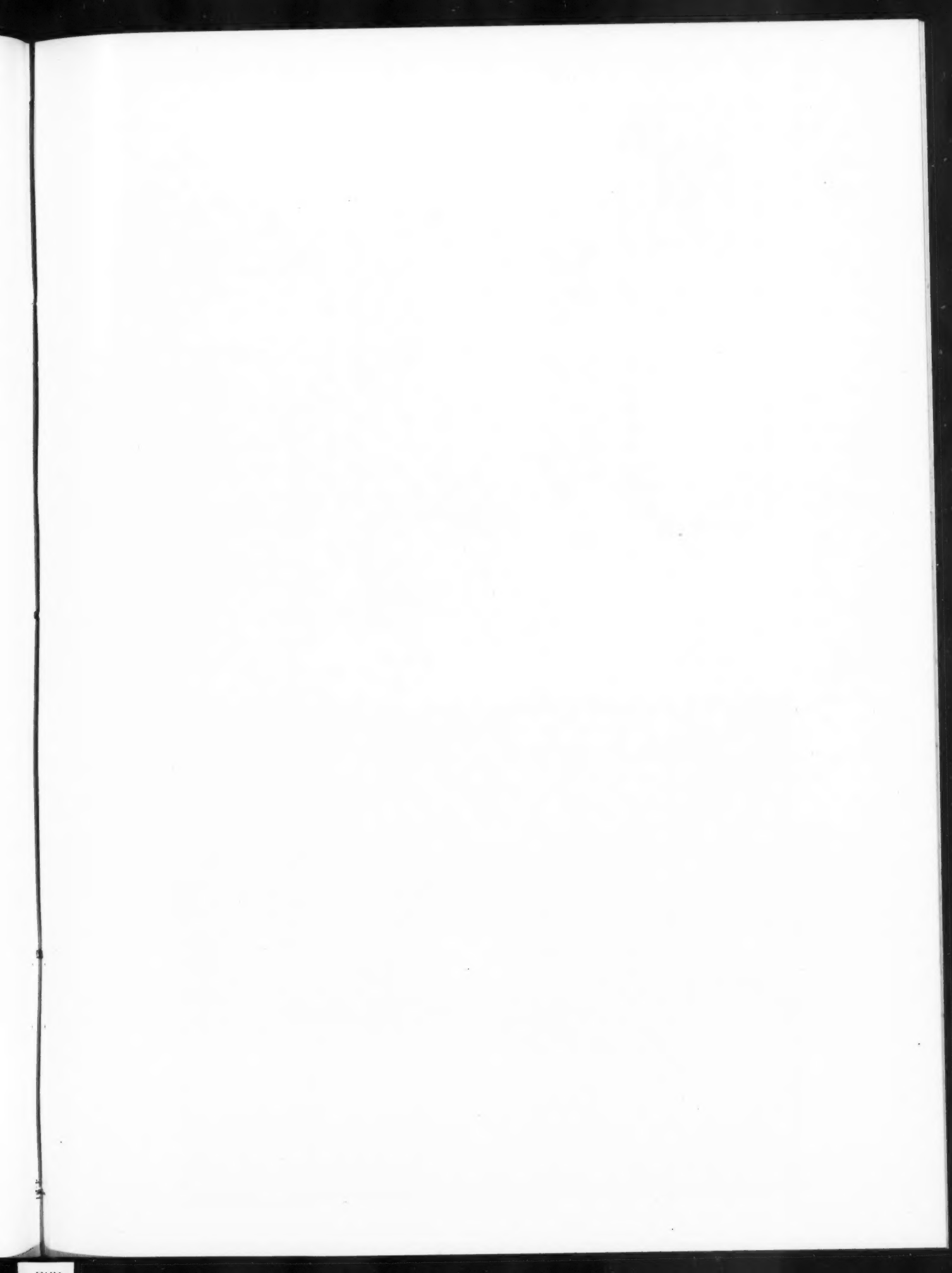
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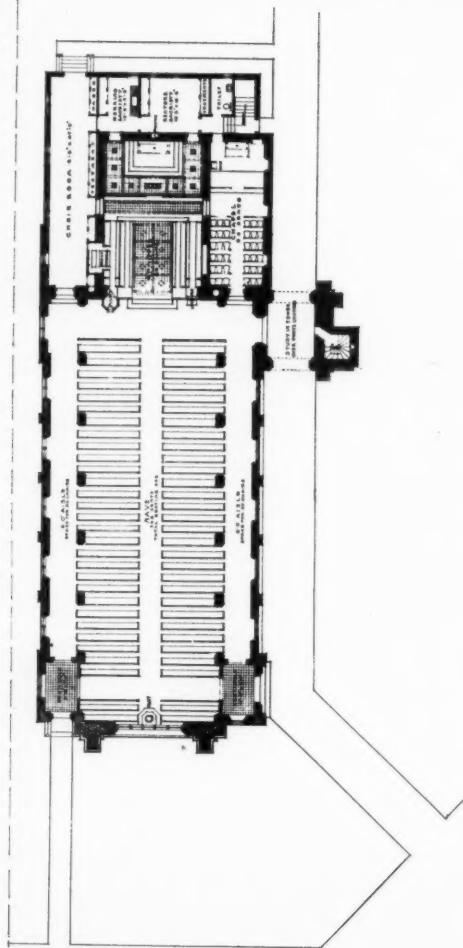
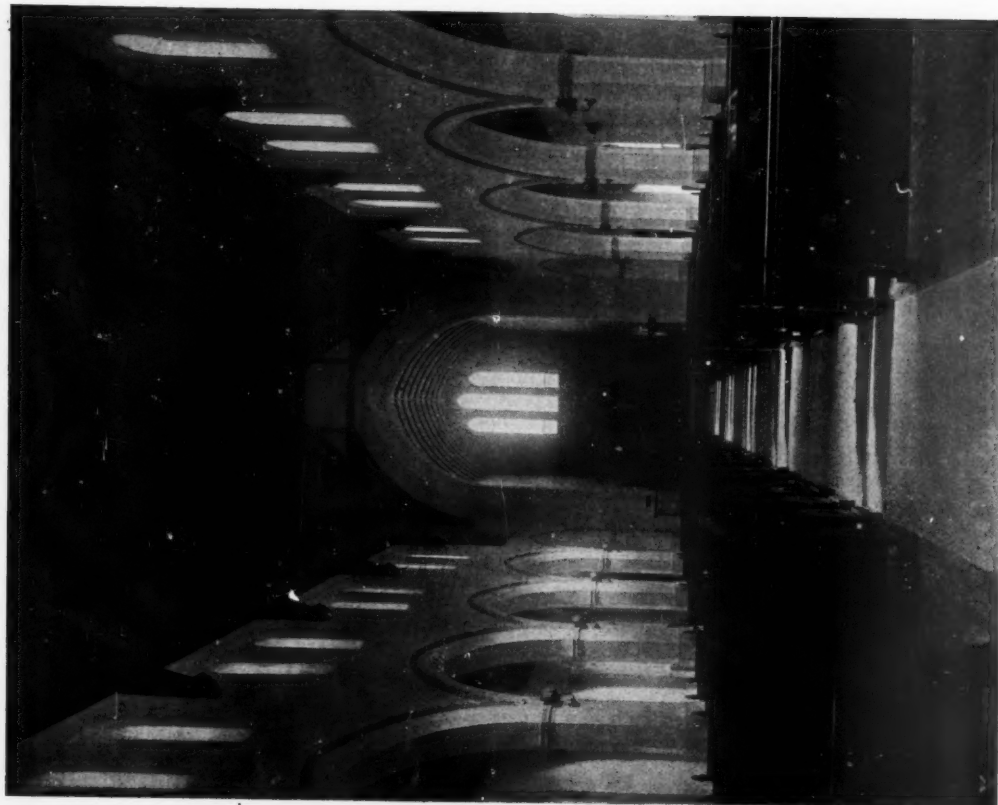




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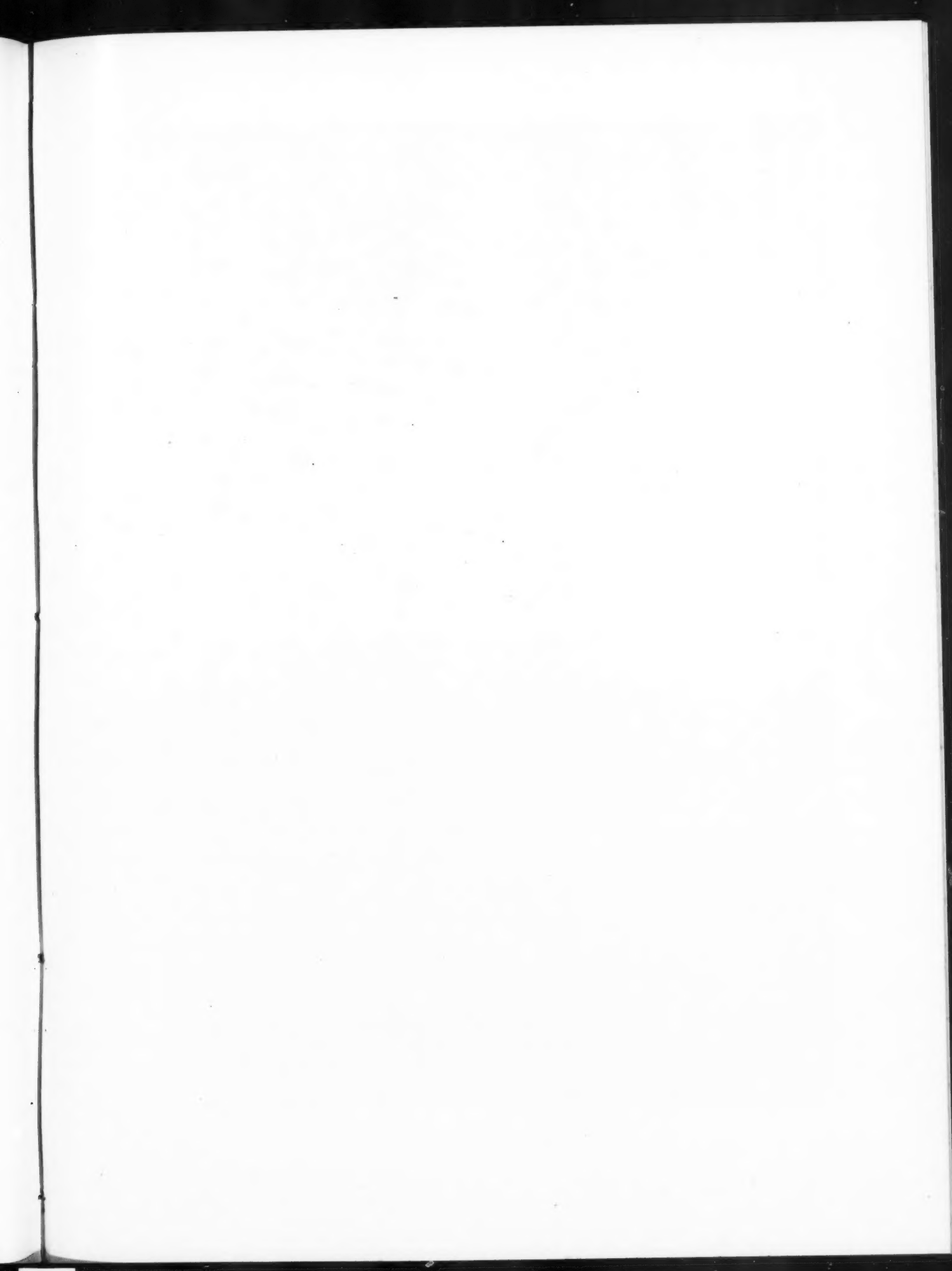
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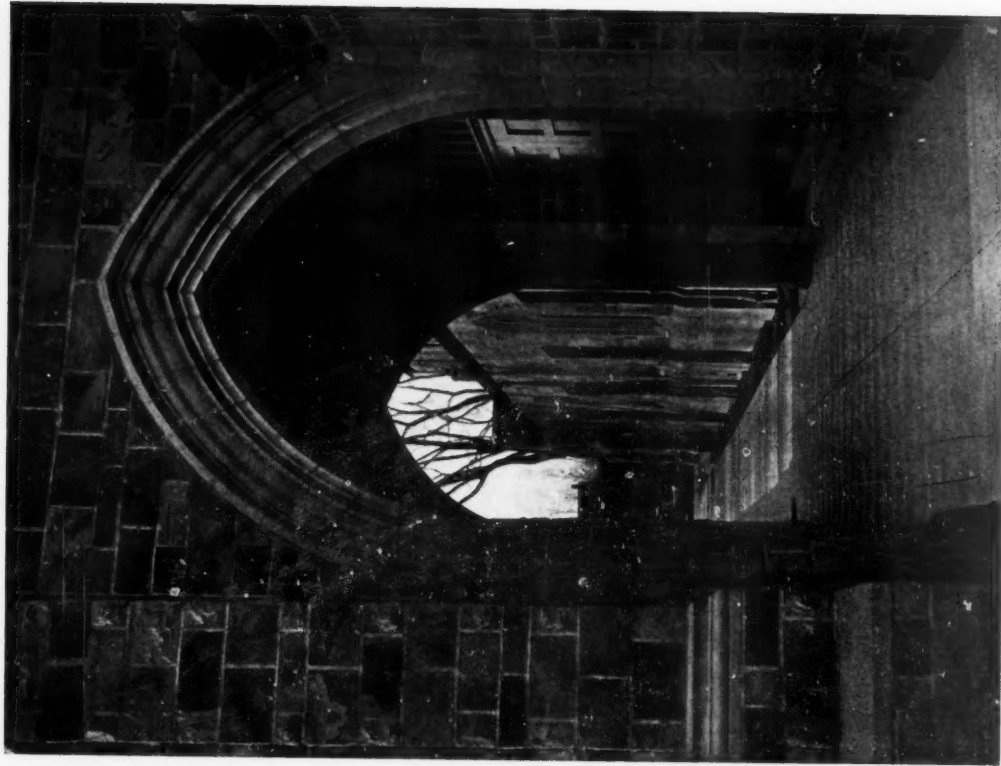
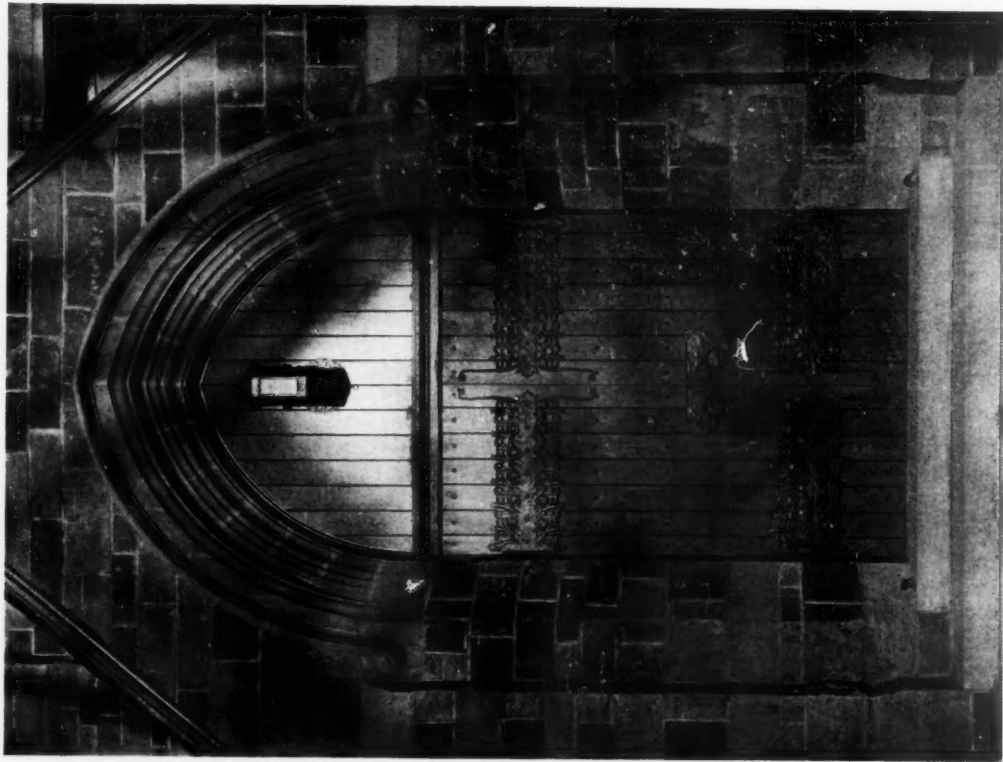




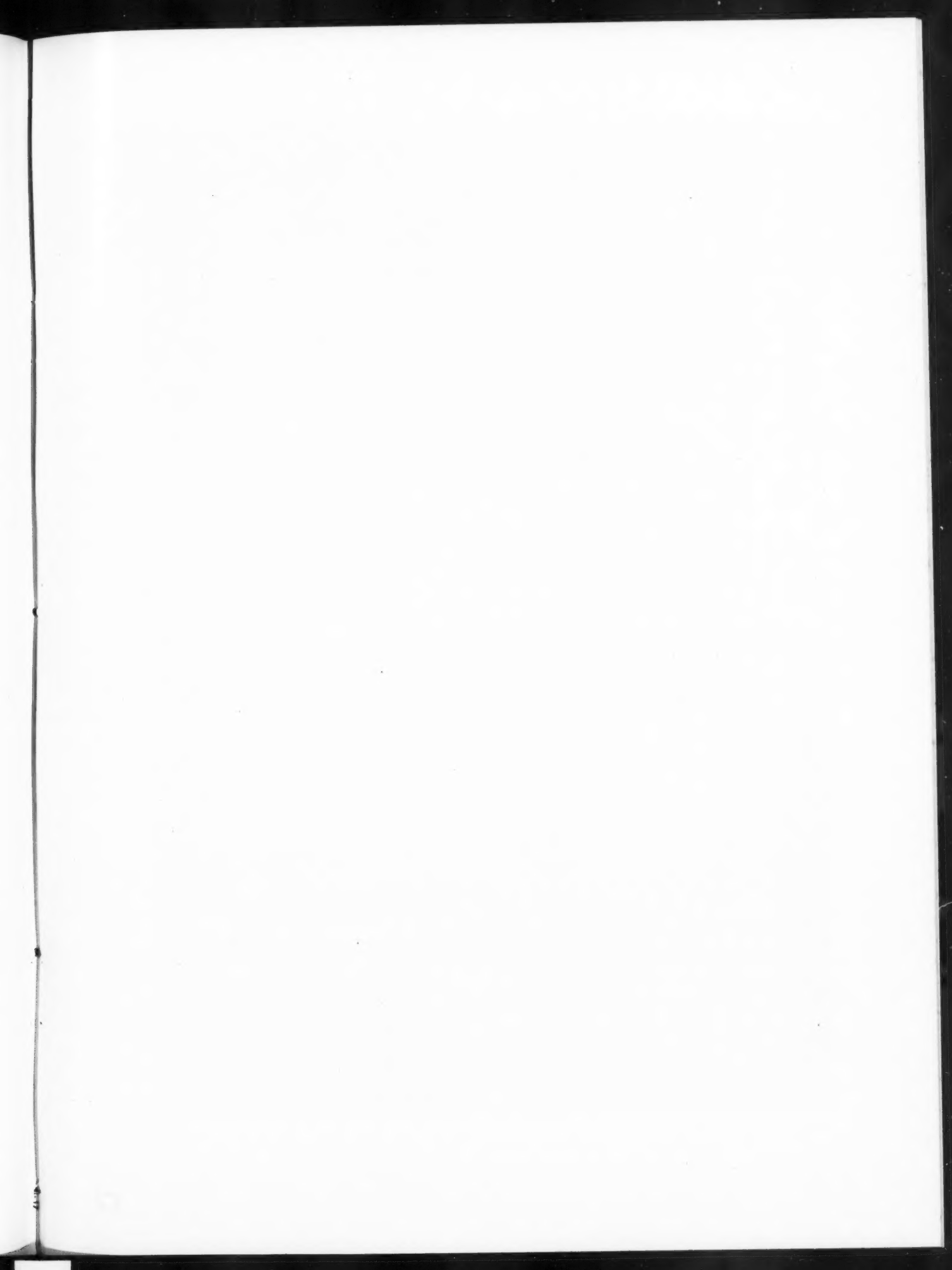
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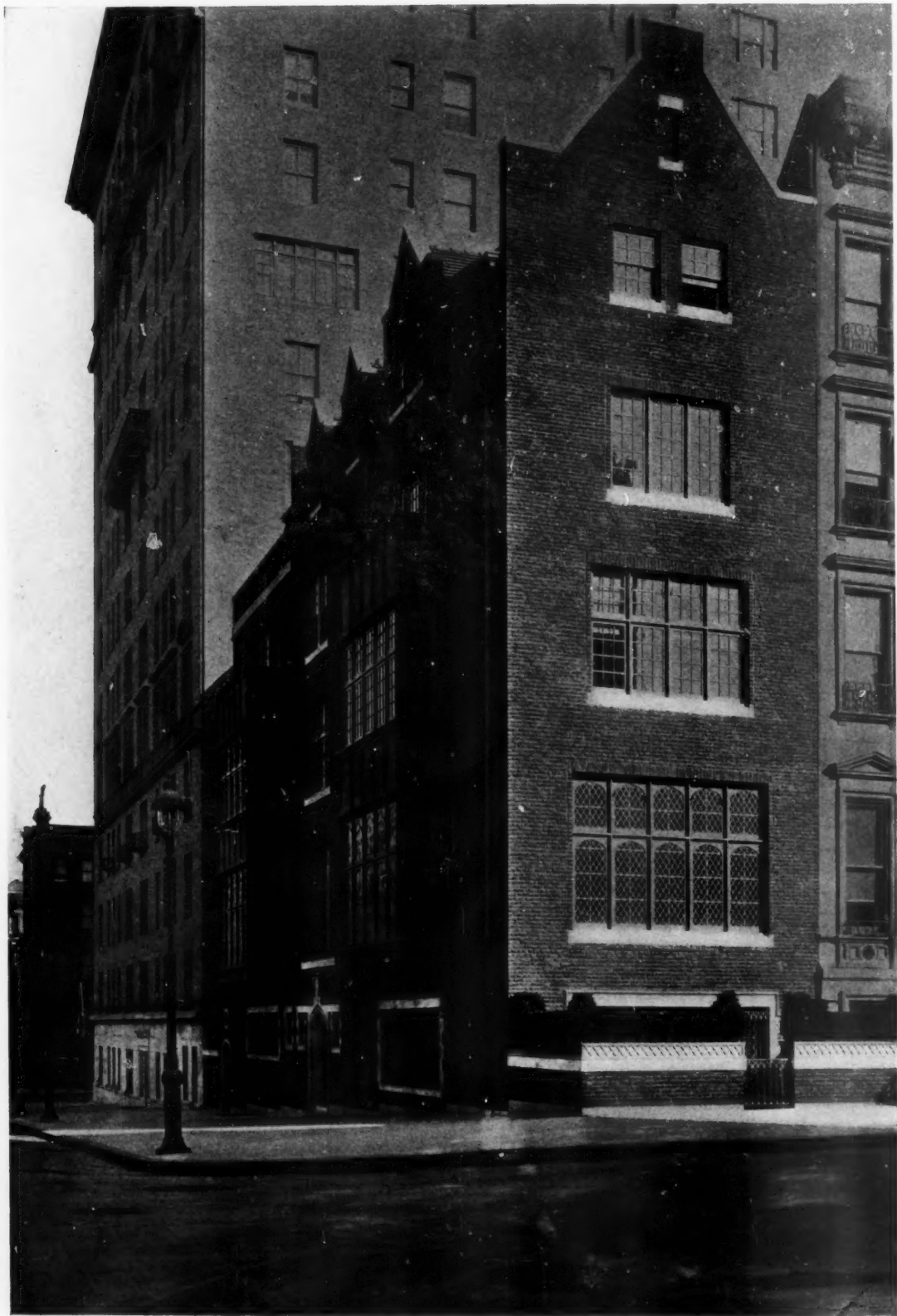
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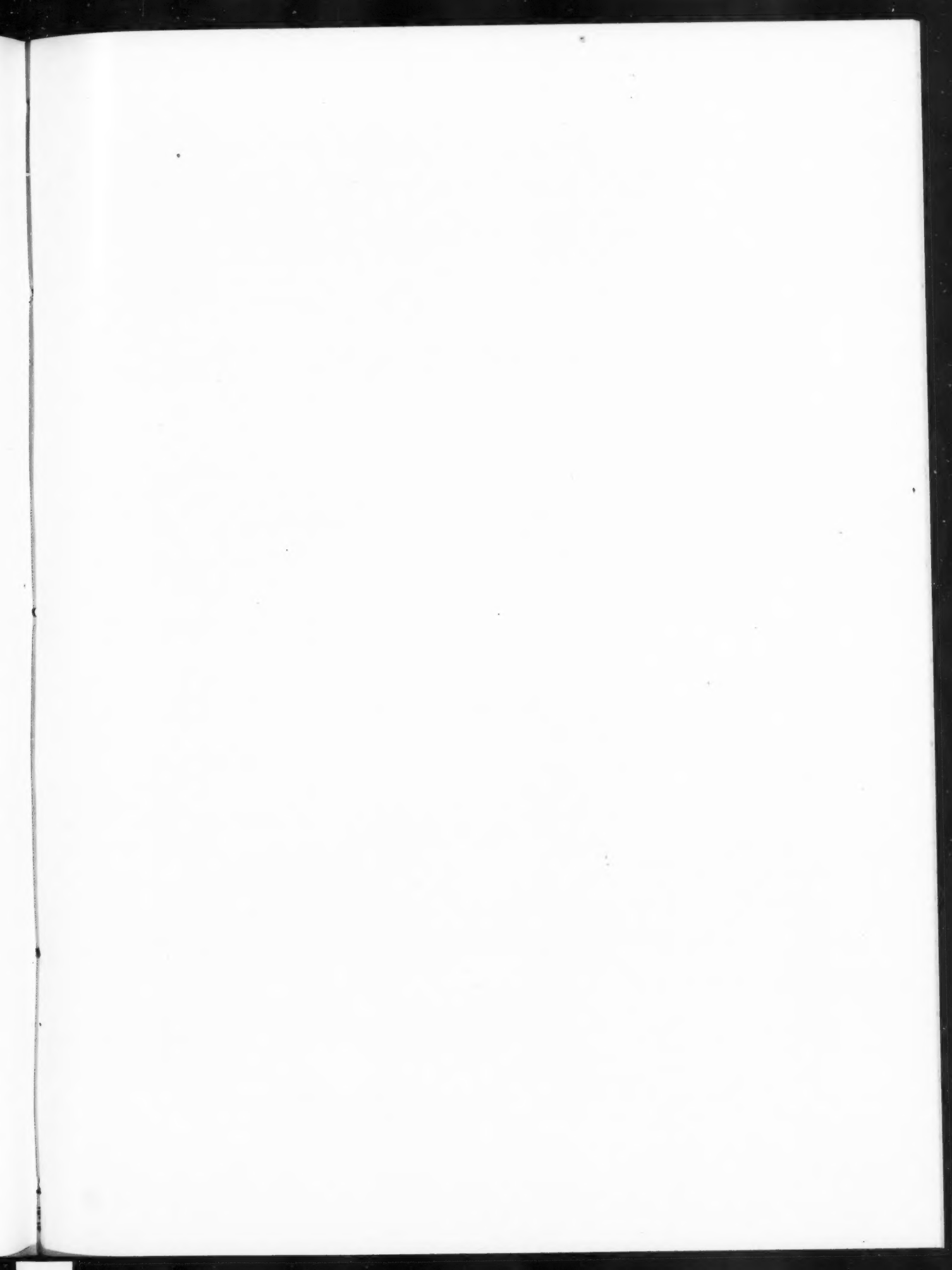
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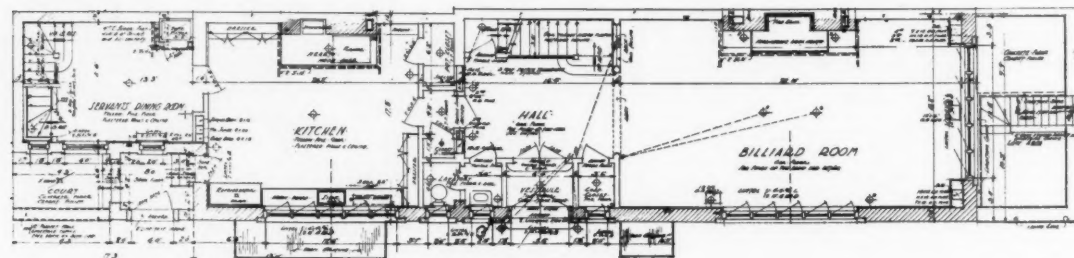
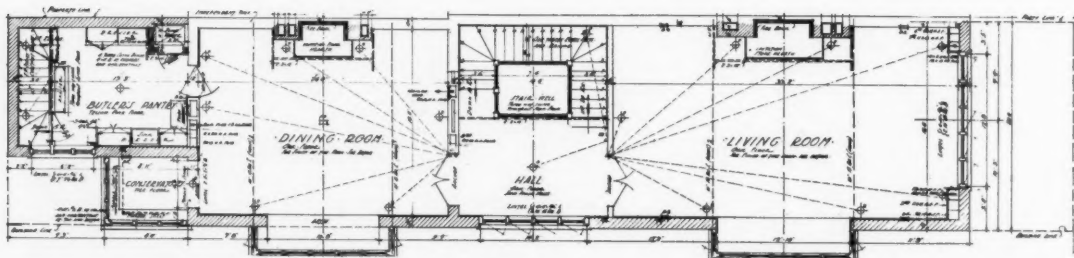
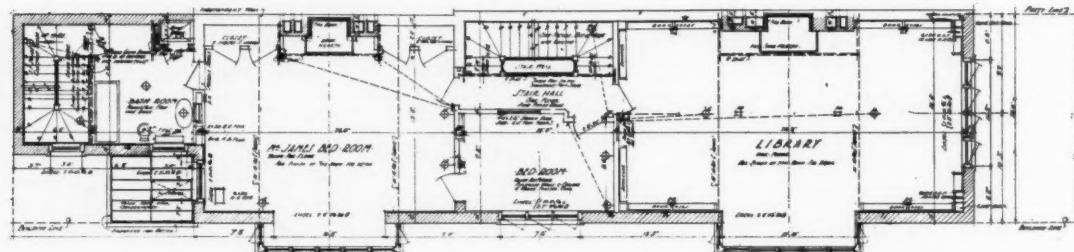
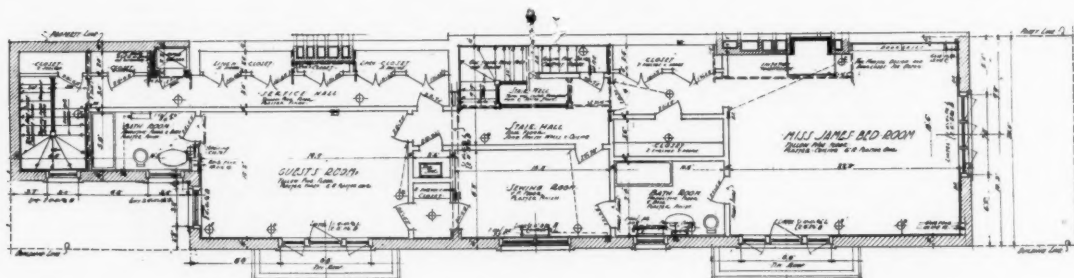
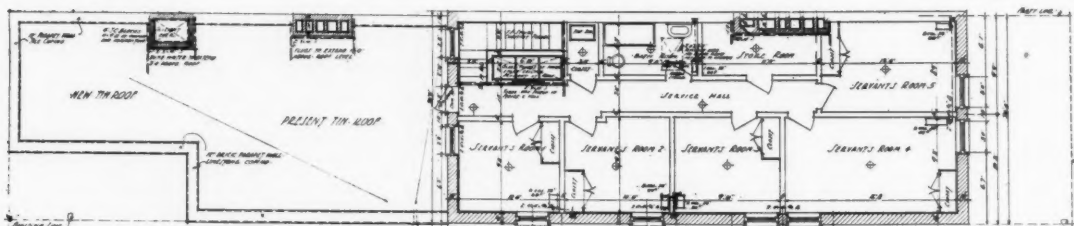




TOWN HOUSE OF HENRY JAMES, ESQ., PARK AVENUE, N. Y.

MR. FREDERICK STERNER, ARCHITECT





FLOOR PLANS

TOWN HOUSE OF HENRY JAMES, ESQ., PARK AVENUE, N. Y.

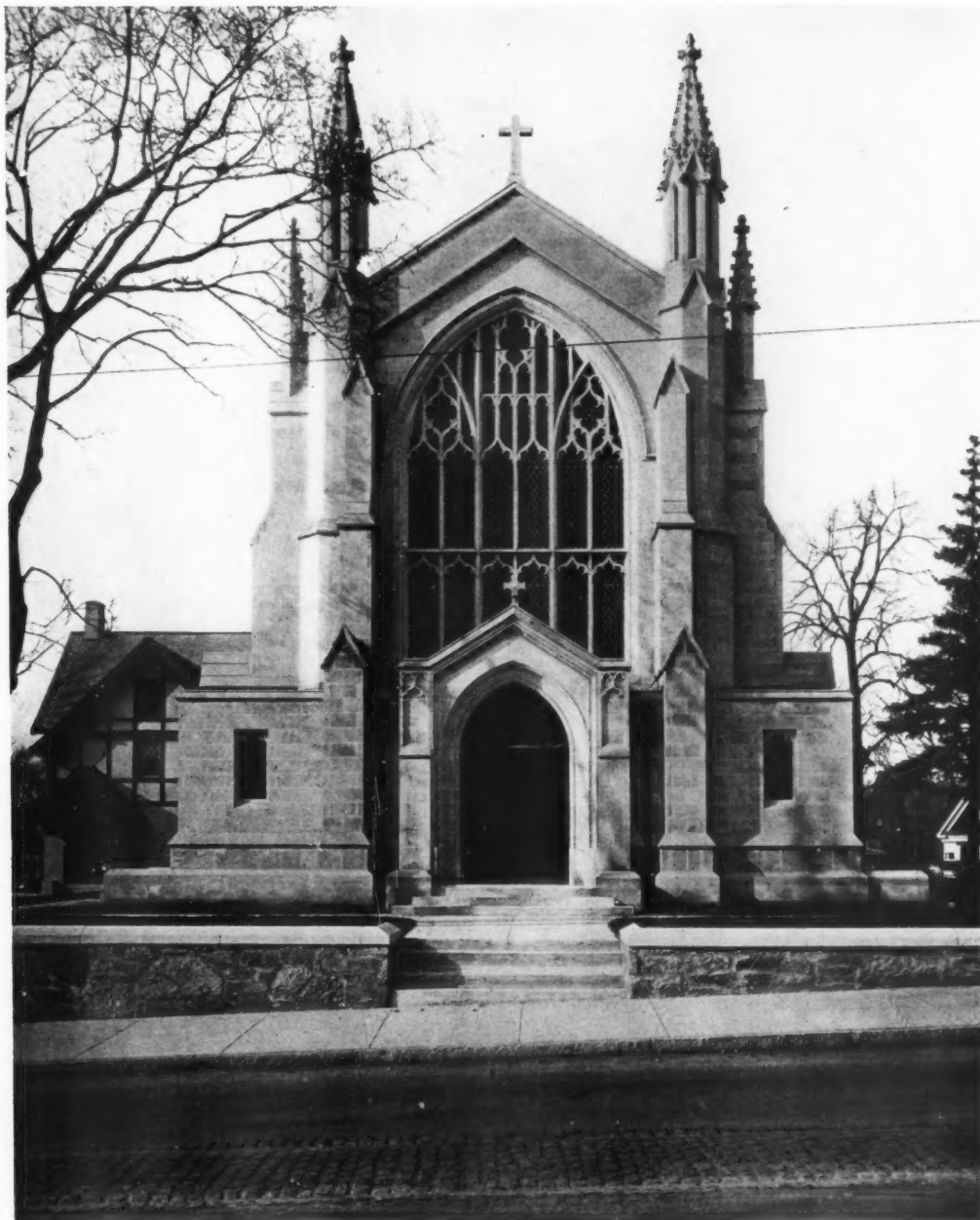
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REAR VIEW

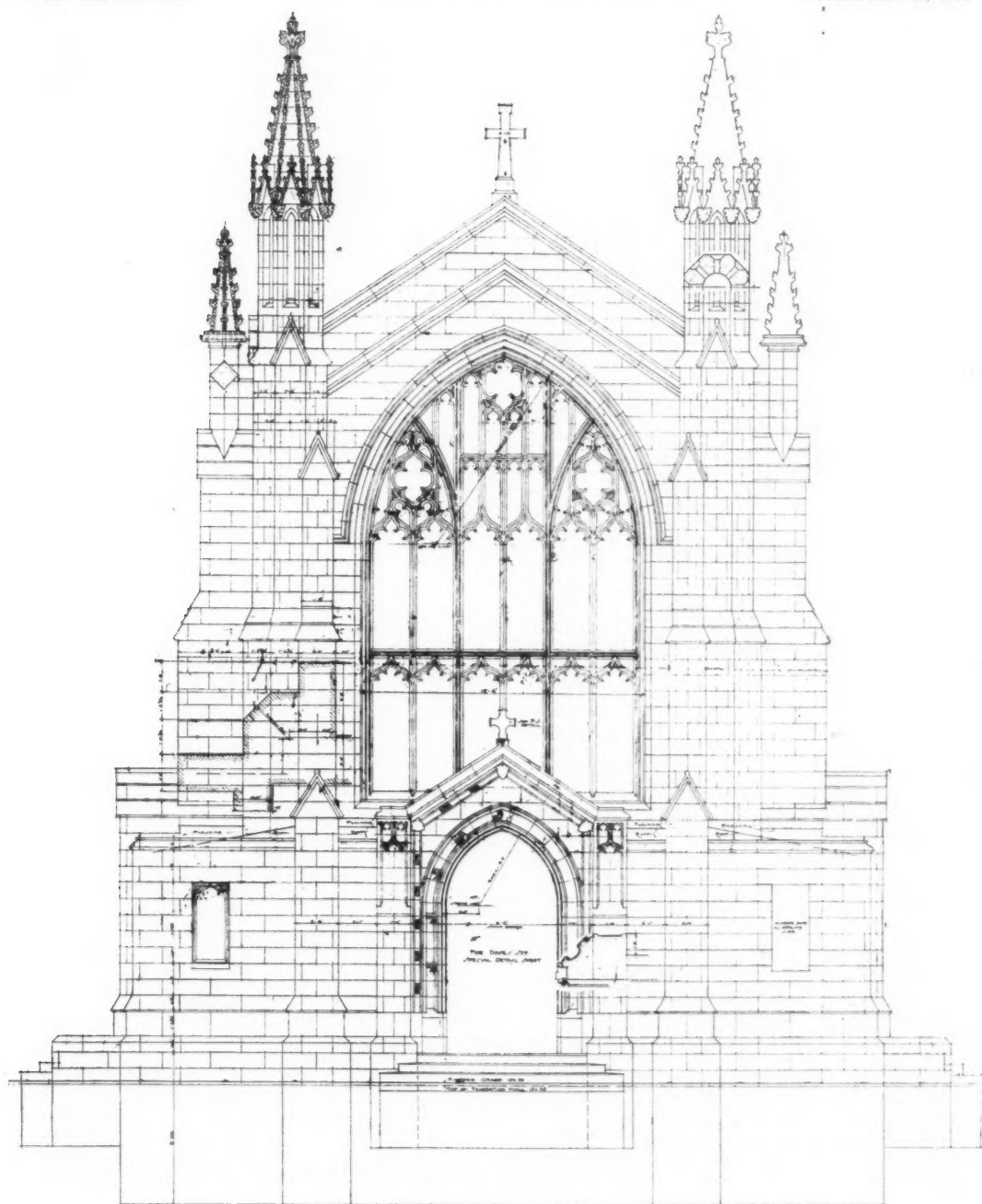
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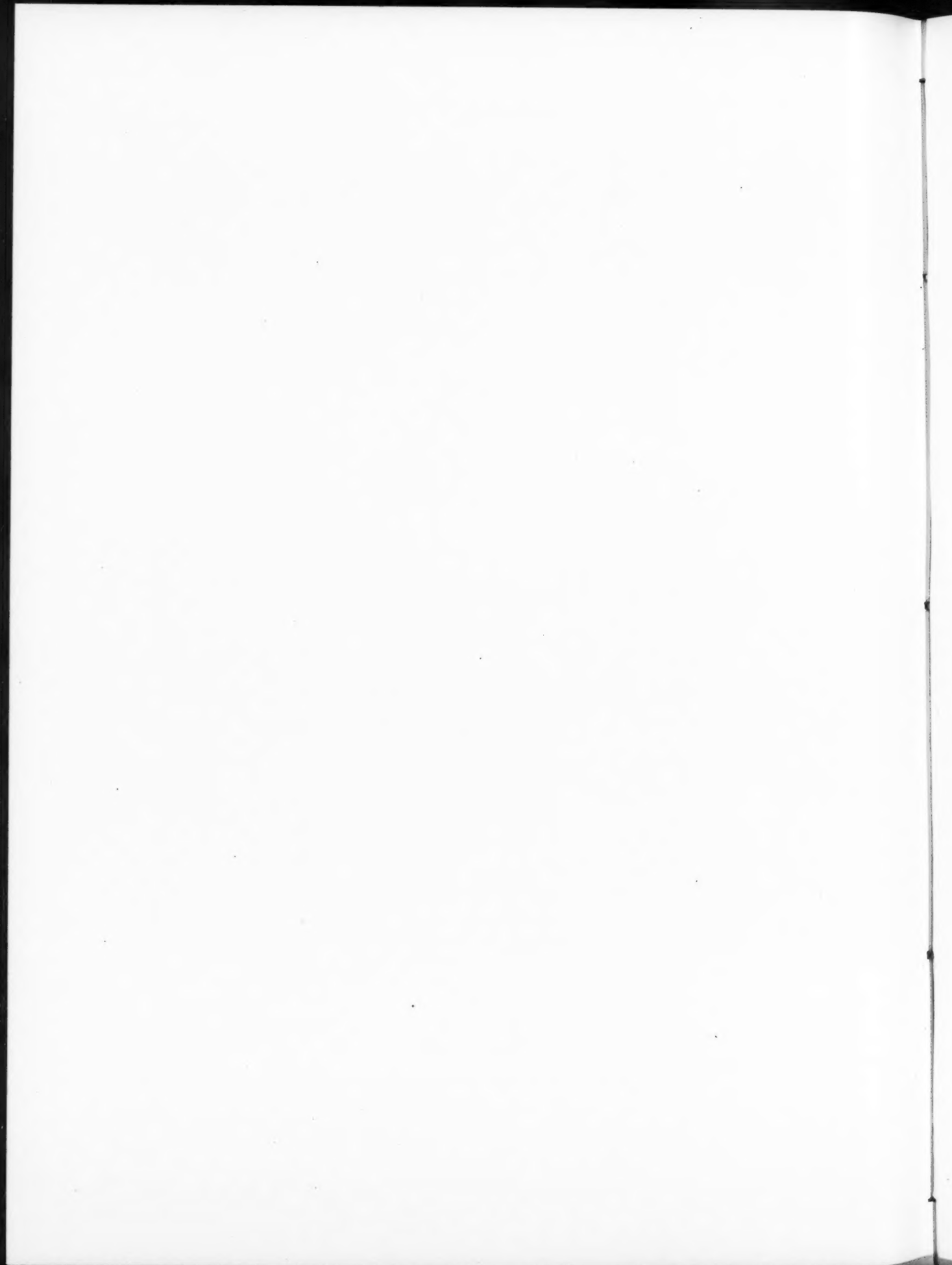
DETAIL 'D'
FRONT ELEVATION

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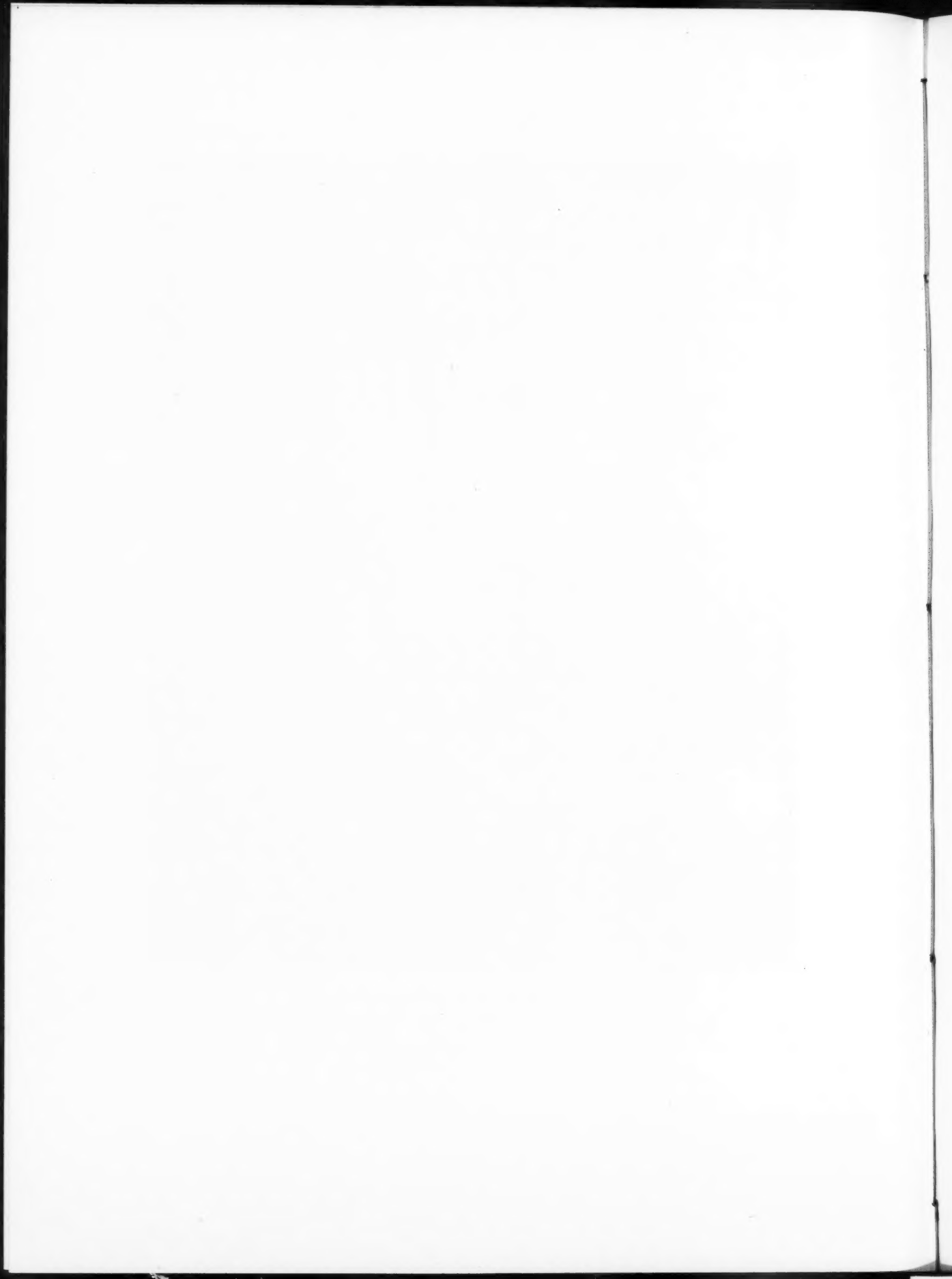
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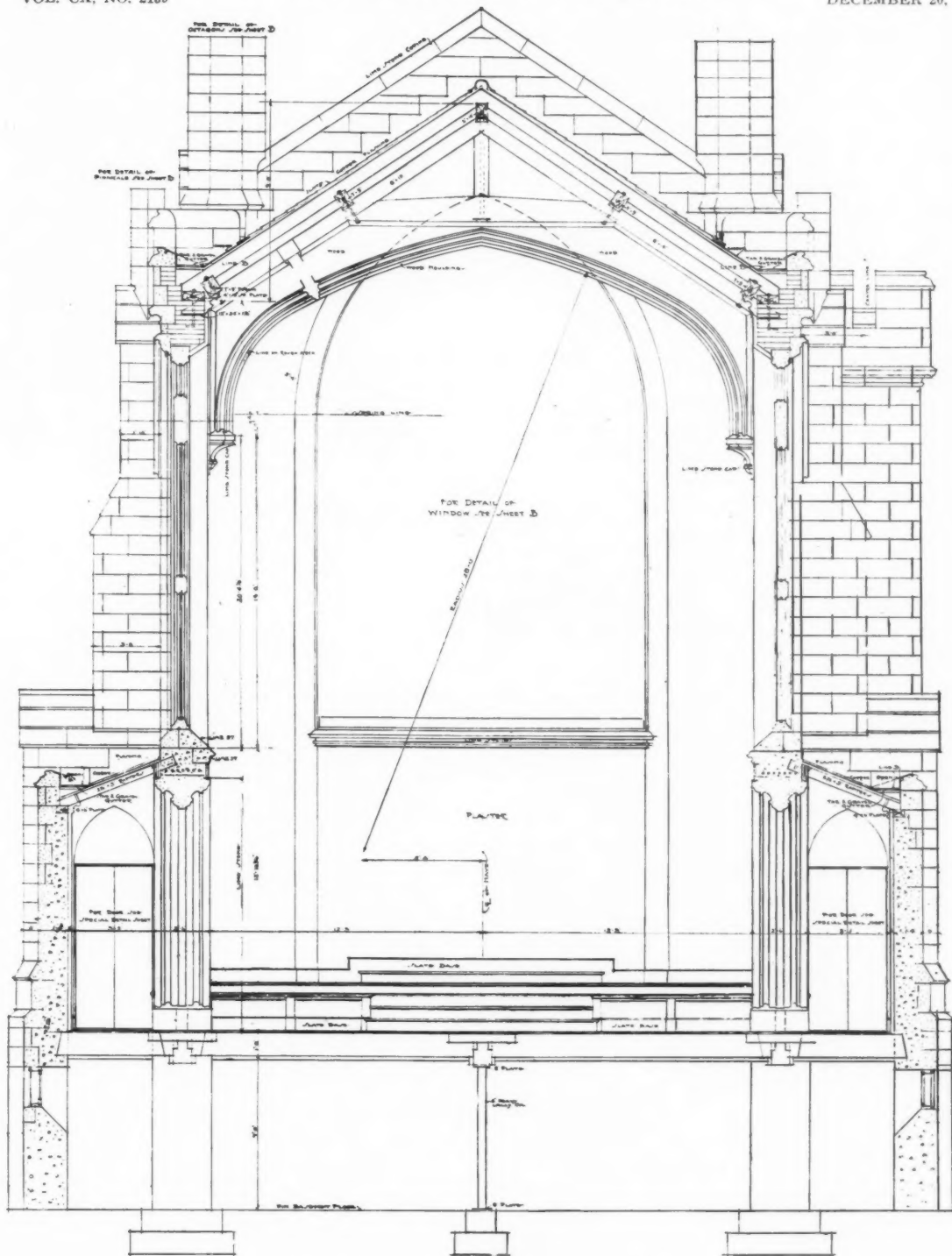




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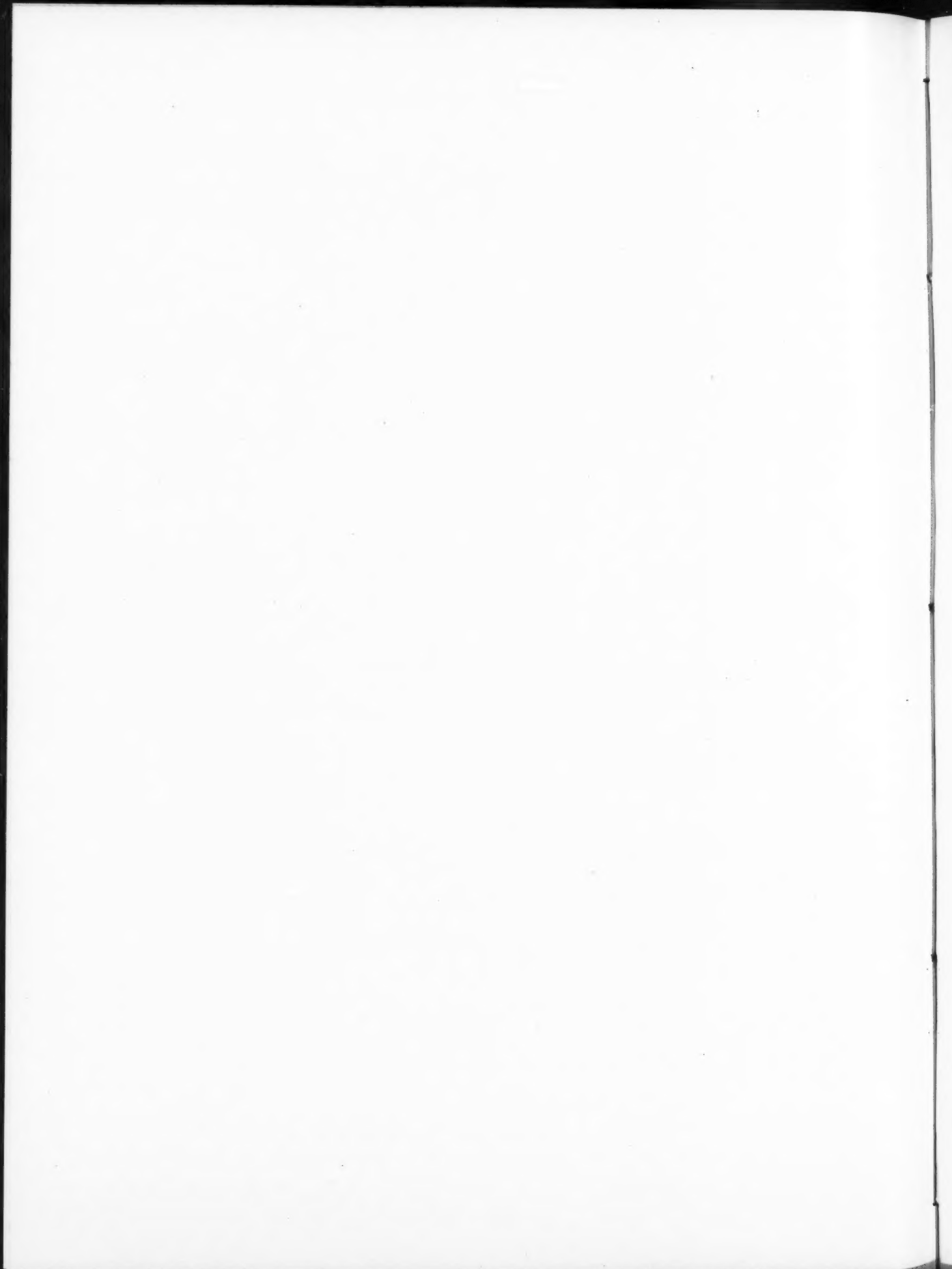


DETAIL "A"
TRANSVERSE SECTION THRO NAVETRINITY P. E. CHURCH
NEWTON CENTER MASS.

TRINITY CHURCH, NEWTON CENTER, MASS.

MR. GEORGE W. CHICKERING, ARCHITECT

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DORSET MASS.



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THE BUILDING OUTLOOK

GENERAL inquiry in the building field leads to the belief that there will be little, if any, reduction in prices of building materials or cost of labor during the first half of 1917. It is even predicted that prices will go higher than they are at present. The reasons for this situation seem to be summed up in the statement that a real shortage exists of both materials and workmen. In some fields it is no longer a question of price, but of getting materials at all. In the same way great difficulty is experienced in securing competent mechanics and artisans. The labor market has been canvassed by the makers of war supplies who are in a position to pay larger wages than the building contractor can afford. Of course, matters will probably right themselves eventually, but there seems little probability of prices ever returning to the levels that obtained before the present year. In fact, for those who contemplate building within the next twelve months, it would seem as though the wisest course to pursue would

be to enter into contracts at as early a date as possible. What conditions will prevail a year or more hence no one can more than guess, but it seems to be reasonably certain that there will be no advantage in postponing the letting of contracts for buildings required now or within the time over which predictions can be made with any assurance of accuracy.

A LAYMAN'S PROTEST AGAINST THE INARTISTIC

PERHAPS we are not making the progress in art in this country that might reasonably be expected of a nation where free schools are universal and education is regarded as little short of a fetish that will insure the success of the possessor, but nevertheless, there occasionally occur instances that point unmistakably to an improvement in the public taste. Obviously, such manifestations are of immeasurable encouragement to the workers and teachers who have been striving to educate the masses to some degree of appreciation of the artistic. They indicate the acceptance, in at least some small measure, of their teachings, and their importance lies in the fact that once the idea has taken firm hold of the public mind, the great work will be over, and only a careful direction of the plans for better artistic expression will be needed in order to realize the hopes of those who are now regarded as in a sense idealists.

What can of course be considered as merely a straw, indicating, however, the direction from which the wind is beginning to blow, was a protest from a layman against the unsightly water tanks erected on the roofs of buildings, printed in a daily newspaper recently, and considered of sufficient importance to receive editorial comment. That the criticism was justified no one will question, but that a person making no claim to artistic perception should make it, or should feel in any sense offended by a practice to which even architects have given sanction—by deed if not by word—brings us rather suddenly to a realization of what public knowledge of esthetics will mean. As architects, we have been in the habit

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of preaching a little, perhaps, especially when in convention assembled, and then calmly going about our work erecting unsightly water tanks, for example, on the roofs of buildings. If the public is becoming educated and beginning to take their teachers to task for apparent lapses, there is every reason for considering that the matter of artistic education is in excellent condition and making noticeable progress. As an early result we may confidently expect that not only will water tanks be abolished from roofs or housed in a manner that will no longer offend the eye, but other practices no more defensible will also be abandoned. While the feeling has undoubtedly been fully warranted that lay criticism is not always just or even intelligent at times, it has, nevertheless, the effect of making the artist as well as other people *think* with the result that improvement generally follows. Incidentally, it frequently calls forth explanation and comment, which, in turn, corrects erroneous impressions on the part of the critic. In the case of the water tanks no sufficient excuse can be offered. Not only might the majority of these tanks be housed in basements or sub-basements, but they could be thus disposed of to actual advantage. Considerations which originally led to their erection on the roofs of buildings no longer obtain in the majority of instances. The few tanks which it seems desirable or necessary to place above the structure that they are to serve or protect might readily be enclosed in a manner to present attractive exteriors without adding appreciably to the cost of the building. This and other neglected details will probably receive greater attention from architects when it is realized that they are beginning to attract public notice.

THE VALUE OF PARKS

CONTROVERSY between public officials and prominent citizens of various cities throughout the country has disclosed the attitude taken by the inhabitants of certain sections toward the subject of parks. The fact has been fairly well established that parks constitute an asset to a city considered from every point of view. They afford places of rest and recreation which improve the health of the citizen and at the same time increase the taxable land values in their vicinities sufficiently to more than make up for the loss of taxes due to the park area itself. These facts are so well understood that people living in cities are now regarded as invariably in favor of the creation of civic centers, recreation grounds and parks. Those living in the country, however, do not feel the need of parks to as great an extent, and as a consequence sometimes regard them as luxuries that can be readily foregone. This attitude is reflected by the vote cast in the recent election, which included an expression of opinion regarding the \$10,000,000 appropriation for park purposes in New York State. By voting to spend this money the citizens of New York deliberately taxed themselves approximately \$8,000,000. Further than that, the tax is for parks beyond the limits of the city where they can only be reached at the end of one or two hours' travel. The voters throughout the state rejected the proposal, but it was carried by the vote of the people of New York City. A more striking illustration of the favor with which the park idea is regarded by people obliged to live the greater part of their lives in paved streets or between masonry walls, it would be difficult to imagine.



HOSPITAL
MINNESOTA STATE PRISON GROUP, STILLWATER, MINN.
MR. CLARENCE H. JOHNSTON, ARCHITECT

THE EVOLUTION OF THE PRISON PLAN—PART III

By REXFORD NEWCOMB, B. S., M. A.,
University of Southern California

IN THE last article we have noted the completion of a penal treatment scheme at Auburn and how it modified the size and number of cells. It will be well, here, to note the progress made in Pennsylvania, with some discussion of the so-called Pennsylvania System. The Pennsylvania System is the system of complete isolation, cellular confinement, cellular work and cellular meals. When the Eastern Penitentiary was projected the committee advocated the adoption of the Auburn system, but it was rejected and the system of cellular confinement, cellular meals, but without work, was substituted. Later, however, the system was modified by the addition of cellular labor, the legislature of 1829 providing labor for all prisoners.

The blow had been dealt the Pennsylvania system by what was looked upon as its unsuccessful trial at Auburn, and few prisons were built upon this system except the one at Philadelphia. Several other states like New Jersey and Rhode

Island tried it for a time, but finally rejected it. The Pennsylvania Western Prison at Pittsburgh, built in 1826, was first opened on the large group plan. This was not satisfactory and in 1829 the separate confinement with labor in the cells was introduced, but in 1869 the complete Auburn scheme was adopted and has since been the policy of the prison.

With the development of the two systems of treatment and their accompanying architectural layouts, many European students came to America to study the American prisons and methods. The foremost among these were de Tocqueville, Beaumont and Crawford, mentioned above, and such men as Dr. Julius, a Prussian government representative, and Messrs. Demetz and Blouet, two other Frenchmen.

"From America," says Wines, "the controversy passed over to Europe, where it has not yet ceased. The two rival systems are known all over the world as the Pennsylvania and the Auburn systems."

Strange to say, the Pennsylvania System gained a following abroad that it did not have at home. It was adopted in Belgium in 1838, Sweden in 1840, Denmark in 1846, Norway in 1851, Holland in 1851 and France in 1875.

England had for many years previous to 1800 transported her criminals to Australia and America, but with the in-

others up to 1857. Millbank, although begun in 1813 and opened in 1816, was not completed until 1821. It accommodates 1200 and cost over \$2,000,000. It was abolished in 1886 and has been destroyed since. Crawford's report led to the erection, in 1842, of a prison at Peltonville to accommodate 500 prisoners. It was built on the radiating plan of Pennsylvania Eastern Penitentiary, and served as a prison for the preparation of prisoners for transportation to Australia, the prisoner being in solitary confinement here for eighteen months before shipping to the colonies.

Penal servitude was established in 1847 and transportation was abandoned in 1857 and consequently penal servitude became the substitute for transportation. From this time dates the building of the great public works prisons. Portland opened in 1847, Dartmoor in 1850, and Chatham and Portsmouth opened later.

The prisons of France have long been noted for their brutal punishments and their bloody executions. Names like that of the Bastille, the Temple, the Conciergerie, Bicêtre, For-l' Eveque and the Saltpetiere fill the pages of many books with their awful tortures and their royal killings. The Conciergerie was still used in 1895. Bicêtre is now a lunatic asylum. The galleys of France, although they corresponded in form to the hulks of England, were places of awful misery and a blot upon the nation which for so long suffered the system to exist.

France is to-day building many modern prisons and is, in her own way, working out a penal system. As in most European countries, the solitary or separate system has dominated, especially in the prisons where short-timers are detained. Such a prison is the new short-term prison at Fresnes, eight miles from Paris. It covers an area of one-half square mile, has five rectangular blocks, exercise grounds, warden's quarters and gardens. The arrangement is star-shaped or radiating. It cost \$2,000,000. The cells are 13 by 8 ft. and 9 ft. 9 in. high and are provided with an iron bed against the wall, a table fixed to the floor, and a chair, attached to the wall by a chain. Each cell has an electric light and running water.

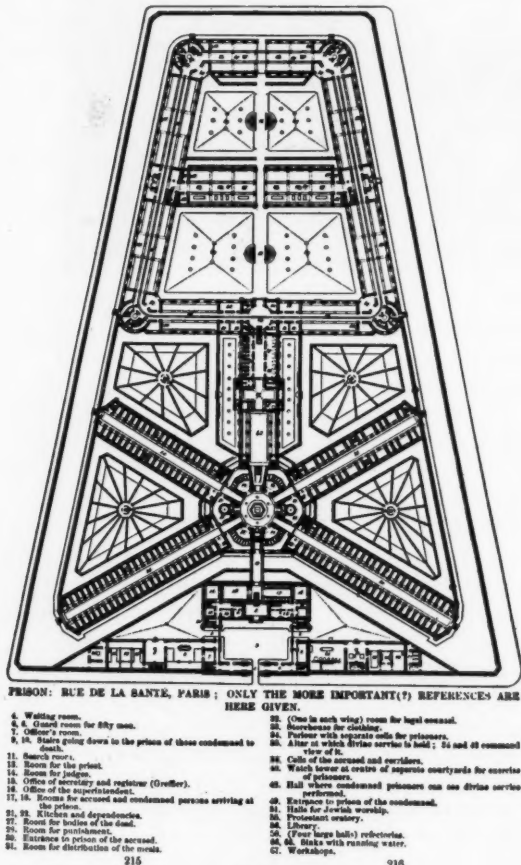
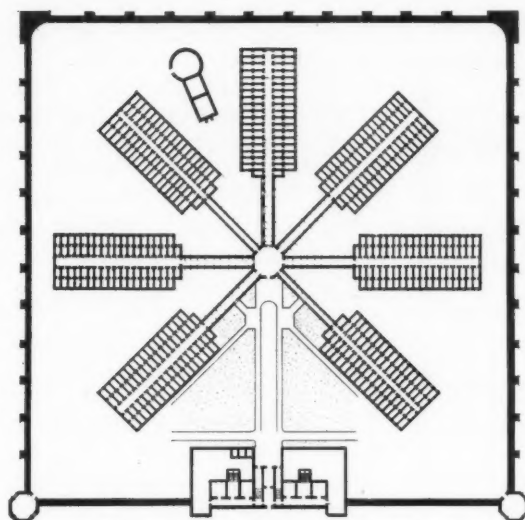


FIG. 9

dependence of the United States, America served no longer as the field for transportation and as a consequence prisons had to be built in great numbers. Parliament directed that the county jails be enlarged so as to accommodate the increasing criminal population, but the local officials proposed instead that separate prisons should be erected on the solitary system, but with labor provided. As a temporary measure, two old hulks were fitted up as prisons and used with

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A large window of non-transparent glass can be opened at the top, allowing the prisoner to see the sky. The floors are of oak, the walls white-enameled; electric bell by which to call the officer is provided.



GROUND PLAN, ORIGINAL DESIGN
EASTERN PENNSYLVANIA PENITENTIARY

The confinement is separate, almost solitary. The prisoners never see each other and never leave the cell without having the head covered with a black hood. A school chapel of 252 sittings, separate and covered, is provided. It is arranged with boxes in such a position that the prisoner can see the priest, but nothing more, through a 4-inch opening. The prisoners work 11 hours a day and the state takes one-half their pay. The French are building the best prisons in Europe at the present time,¹ a plan of one of which is shown in Fig. 9.

For years the prison system of Russia has been under fire, due, perhaps, to the fact that Russia still transports her criminals. Russia began to transport in 1648, and with a great territory, unsettled as is Siberia, contiguous to the domain, it was an easy matter to use this system of ridding the country of her convicts. In 1753 capital punish-

¹Current Literature, New York, Vol. 35-598.

ment was abolished and exile substituted instead. With this transportation reaching 18,000 per year, great prisons like the Great Forwarding Prison at Moscow arose. George Kennan visited the convict establishments at Kara in the eighties and describes them as the worst in the world.² He speaks, however, in high terms of the forwarding prison at Verkhni Udinsk, and says it was the best in the empire except the one at St. Petersburg.

With this necessarily brief survey of prison architecture up to recent years, let us now consider some of the features of a well ordered prison from the architectural point of view. It goes without saying that a prison architectural program cannot be formulated before the penal treatment is decided upon, and it is equally true that a given architectural scheme may be admirably adapted to one form of treatment and not to another. This has been made clear above. The arrangement of the Eastern Penitentiary (Figs. 10 and 10a) is admirable for that system of treatment and has some claims for consideration in any system of treatment. American wardens, however, have been more inclined toward the congregate plan and consequently a modified Auburn system of treatment has been the scheme largely used. There are some elements, such as cell arrangement, lighting, ventilation and sanitation in general that apply to all prison architecture, no matter what the aggregate plan.

The cell is the unit of construction in prison architecture and its possibilities for arrangement are limited. Figures 11, 12, 13, 14, 15 and 16 will give the reader

²Century Magazine, New York, Vol. 33, No. 2.

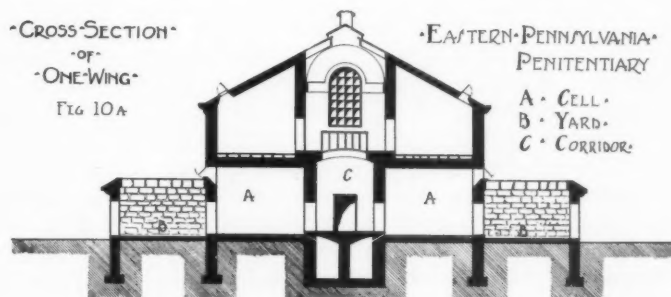
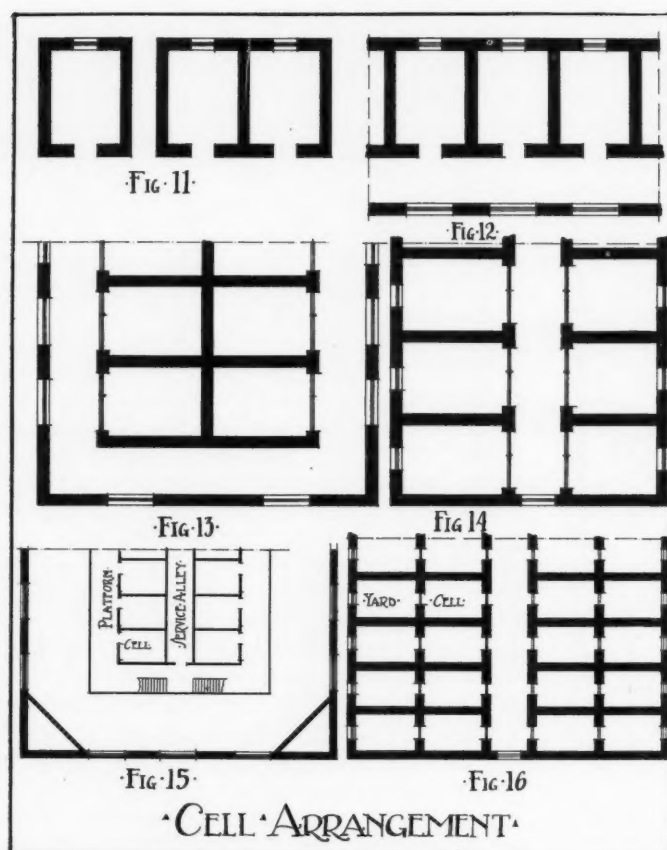


FIG. 10A



an idea of the various schemes of arrangement. Fig. 13 illustrates the scheme used at Ghent and Auburn, while Fig. 16 shows the arrangement used at Eastern Pennsylvania Penitentiary. There are many that favor the scheme shown in Fig. 14, as it admits sunshine and air directly to the cell; there is only one corridor to guard and the ground area is diminished by having only one corridor. Its disadvantages are that the central hall or corridor is likely to be dark, although this has been avoided in the new buildings; there is greater possibility of escape and outside communication. This scheme has been widely used in Europe and at the new House of Correction in Chicago. The Auburn or central block arrangement, shown in Fig. 13, has been preferred in the United States and was used at Elmira and most recently in the new Stillwater, Minnesota, Prison (Fig. 15). The advantages of the scheme are: the elimination

of one line of plumbing, smaller possibility of escape, and permits of the construction of a utility corridor between the cell rows, thus affording facilities for pipes and better inspection of cells. The objections are that more guards are required, cells may be dark and illy ventilated. Designers, however, have overcome this objection by means of mechanical devices so that the scheme bids fair to be the favorite arrangement in all the new prison layouts.

The size and shape of the cell is an interesting consideration. In ancient times the cells were square, rectangular, octagonal, round or irregular. Ancient cells were as a rule larger, but accommodated many persons. Kennan tells of the kameras in Siberia, 24 ft. long, 22 ft. wide and 8 ft. high, to house 29 prisoners, with no ventilation whatsoever and with only two small windows for light. The original

cells at Auburn were 7 ft. by 3 ft. 6 in. and 7 ft. high, all of stone, with iron doors and diamond grating. The old Walnut Street Prison in Philadelphia had rooms 18 by 20 ft. The Eastern Penitentiary has cells 18 by 8 ft.; the new cells at Charleston, Massachusetts, are 9 by 6 ft.; those at Western Pennsylvania Prison are 7 by 8 ft.; those at Sing Sing are 7 ft. by 3 ft. 3 in. and 6 ft. 7 in. high, giving a cubic contents of 168.56 ft.; and those of the Federal Penitentiary at Atlanta are 5 ft. 6 in. by 9 ft. and 8 ft. high. It will be seen from this that the cell size is not a very definitely decided thing. Dr. Julius B. Ransome,¹ the physician at Clinton, N. Y., state prison, believes that the size of the cell should, for sanitary reasons, contain about 500 cu. ft. of space. This ideal is almost approached in the new Minnesota Prison at Stillwater, which has cells 6 by

¹ Henderson, Ransome, Penal and Reformatory Institutions.

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10 ft., 8 ft. high, which gives 480 cu. ft.²

Orientation of the cell block is a thing that should be considered quite as well as the orientation of hospital wards. This has received very little attention in the past and to the writer seems a valid objection to the radiate plans. The sunshine should get into every cell during some part of the day. The new cell houses at Stillwater run north and south, as will be noticed on the plan herewith presented, with east and west exposures. This is

² St. Paul Sunday Pioneer Press, St. Paul, Minn., Nov. 16, 1913.

Painting of Cement

Of the many difficult surfaces requiring the application of paint, cement is, perhaps, the worst. The trouble is due entirely to the alkaline character of cement. This not only attacks the oil in paint, but draws dampness, another enemy of paint, when it attacks it in the rear or back. Cement that has stood to the weather for a year or so has lost much of its alkali, and then paint does fairly well.

One of the earliest remedies used for preparing cement for painting was a 7 to 8 per cent solution of muriatic acid. But where there was much lime present it was found that the acid acted upon the lime, converting it into calcium chloride. This would cause a pitting and crumbling of the surface, practically destroying it. The discovery of the zinc sulphate treatment was most opportune and is by far the best treatment yet found. A master painter named Nicholls claims to have introduced this treatment, and took out a patent for it. First, the cement surface is cleaned and must be perfectly dry. Then a coat of zinc sulphate solution, equal parts of each by weight. The water and zinc sulphate are intimately mixed and applied by means of a stiff brush. The zinc sulphate changes the caustic lime of the cement into calcium phosphate, or gypsum, and zinc oxide is deposited in the pores of the cement. Zinc sulphate is one of the most important of

good, but it might be improved upon with a slight declination so as to catch the maximum sunshine.

The scheme of arranging cell blocks, one on top of another, is comparatively modern and has come largely with the steel cell. Four tiers is the maximum that should be used, as there is a tendency for the lower tiers to be damp and cold, while the upper cells are hot and stuffy. This would be true to a greater extent were it not for the new and improved systems of heating and ventilating the cell houses.

white paint pigments, and when paint is afterward applied to the coating it becomes incorporated with it, giving a very durable surface. Inasmuch as zinc sulphate has no known harmful effect on cement or concrete surfaces, the fact adds to its value in this connection. Many public and private buildings have been treated with this process, and with perfect success, it is claimed.—*Concrete Age*.

Washington State Chapter, A. I. A.

At the recent annual meeting of the Washington State Chapter, the following officers were elected: President, Charles H. Bebb, of Seattle; first vice-president, D. R. Huntington, Seattle; second vice-president, George Gove, Tacoma; third vice-president, L. L. Rand, Spokane; secretary, A. H. Albertson, Seattle; treasurer, Ellsworth Storey, Seattle.

Paul Morris, Sculptor, Dead

Paul Winter Morris, a sculptor of prominence, died in New York City on Nov. 19th. Born in the State of Illinois, he early took up the study of architecture, commencing to practice in Tacoma, Wash. An early predilection for the art of sculpture caused him to come to New York, where, after a number of years' work under some of America's best known sculptors, he finally became, in his chosen field, an artist of recognized ability.

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The Friends of Young Artists

It is gratifying to note that contributions are being received by the Friends of Young Artists in New York. An amount more than \$2,500 for prizes has already been pledged.

Water-worn Stones Used in Building

An instance is recorded in a recent issue of *Stone*, where the architect of a suburban house has used water-worn stones, taken from the beds of neighboring creeks.

The stones have been used for facing, and in their rough surfaces are said to present a most artistic effect.

A Communication

Editor, THE AMERICAN ARCHITECT.

Sir: Will you kindly contradict the report published recently in one of the architectural magazines that this hospital has selected Messrs. Buchman & Fox as architects of our new hospital building. No such action has been taken as yet, and we do not wish any false impression to go out to the public. Thanking you, I am

Very truly yours,

M. CRAIGER,

Acting Superintendent, Dispensary and Hospital for Deformities and Joint Diseases, New York City.

Personal

Mr. Leopold Leer, civil engineer, has established an office at 632 Fillmore Place, West New York, N. J., and will be glad to receive manufacturer's samples and catalogs.

Messrs. Briggs & Caldwell, architects, Security Building, Bridgeport, Conn., have dissolved partnership. Mr. Warren R. Briggs retains the offices occupied by the firm, and Mr. Edward B. Caldwell, Jr., has opened offices in the First Bridgeport National Bank Building, where he will be pleased to receive manufacturers' samples and catalogs.

INDUSTRIAL INFORMATION

Concrete Building Construction

The American Concrete Steel Company, Essex Building, Newark, N. J., has issued a bulletin entitled, "Reducing the Time Element in Concrete Building Construction." The purpose of the bulletin is frankly stated to be to establish the fact that this company is capable of minimizing the time element in building operations. To do this the methods employed are given and a large number of buildings erected by this company are shown together with the record of the time employed in their erection.

The pamphlet is one of interest to those engaged in concrete construction work and will be sent free to them upon application.

To Make Fire Tests

Fire tests of all kinds of building walls and partitions, which are expected to have an important bearing on all fire-resisting building construction, have been arranged by the United States Bureau of Standards at Washington. They will be carried out with a newly installed panel furnace recently constructed at the bureau's laboratories here, which is said to be the most complete and largest plant for such work ever built. Details of the tests, such as types and dimensions of partitions, temperature to which they are to be exposed, time of exposure to fire, the water test to which the heated partitions should be subjected and other regulations, have been worked out by a committee representing the American Institute of Architects, the American Society for Testing Materials, the National Board of Fire Underwriters, the Associated Metal Lath Manufacturers, the Gypsum Industries Association, the National Brick Manufacturers' Association, the Association of American Portland Cement Manufacturers, the Fire Underwriters' Laboratories, the American Concrete Institute, the National Fire Protection Association and the National Lime Manufacturers' Association.

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THE HALL

HOUSE OF PROFESSOR A. M. TOZZER, CAMBRIDGE, MASS.
MESSRS. KILHAM & HOPKINS, ARCHITECTS