

THE AMERICAN ARCHITECT

VOL. CX

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THE SEMI-CENTENNIAL CONVENTION OF THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

MINNEAPOLIS, MINN., DECEMBER 6, 7 AND 8

DELEGATES to the fiftieth annual convention of the American Institute of Architects, journeying to Minneapolis from the East or South, naturally reached there by the way of Chicago, and knowing that a majority of these delegates would be in their city for some time previous to the opening of the convention, the Illinois Chapter, with characteristic Western hospitality, arranged a program for their visiting professional brethren that, in a most agreeable way, broke the monotony of many long, and what would have otherwise been, tiresome journeys.

Tuesday, December 5, was set apart by the Illinois Chapter as a reception day. At the Art Institute building a committee of the local chapter was in attendance to greet the visiting delegates. The very cordial expression of hospitality would in itself have been a most agreeable experience, but, as further evidence of good fellowship, a program had been arranged that practically afforded entertainment up to the very minute of the departure of the special train that left Chicago for Minneapolis Tuesday evening.

The Minnesota Chapter, not to be outdone by their confreres of Illinois, had also seen to it that everything conducive to the comfort and pleasure of the delegates had been carefully arranged, so that when President Mauran called the Convention to order in the Gold Room of the Hotel Radisson in Minneapolis, on the morning of December 6, he faced a large convention as to numbers, and a group of delegates that in spite of the unavoidable discomfort of long hours of travel, were

apparently fresh and keen for the work before them.

These evidences of hospitality and a strongly marked fraternal spirit, while "straws" in the general aspect of a very successful convention, are to the serious onlooker one of the reasons for a harmonious, smoothly working three days' session, that, in some of its phases, sets a precedent for future similar occasions and marks a new era of prosperity in the organization.

Every feature of the Convention's business was approached in strict accordance with the program, discussed, acted on and the next matter taken up with celerity and strict regard for parliamentary practice. The most cumbersome feature at previous conventions has been the method of presenting reports, and particularly the long time taken in their reading and discussion. By a most admirable system these reports are now more clearly presented, more decisively acted on, and produce the best results in the direction desired by the various framing committees. The reports of the various committees had, before the Convention, been acted on by the Board of Directors. Under this new plan as to reports, the Board of Directors incorporated separate recommendations concerning each committee report. Before the opening of the Convention, every delegate received printed copies of these reports.

Unless objection was specifically made on the floor of the Convention, each report was considered and finally disposed of before the next report in order was taken up.

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With these, and other well-considered methods, the business of the Convention from its opening to its close, was marked by a business-like and efficient administration.

The various reports will be found summarized on another page. There is also printed the admirable opening address of President Mauran.

Edward C. Gale, vice-president of the Minneapolis Society of Fine Arts, welcomed the visitors to the city and told them about the new Minneapolis Institute of Arts, the doors of which, he said, will stand open to the visitors during the time they are here. He urged all to attend.

"In all modesty we ask you to come and see what we have done here," Mr. Gale said. "We realize that you have seen many art galleries and gallery buildings in your time, some of you indeed have built them. We want you to remember that the site of this city, Minneapolis, was a wilderness in a time when cities from which many of you come were old established places of importance, centers of culture."

On the evening of the first day, the delegates, in large numbers, attended the reception at the Art Institute. This function was a most enjoyable feature of the Convention, and was all too brief to afford inspection of the excellent collection of pictures, particularly those by American artists, that are to be found in these spacious galleries.

At 9.30 o'clock, immediately following the reception, and in the same building, Mr. George B. Ford, Chairman of the Committee on Town Planning, presented the report of his committee. The details of this report will be presented in a later issue.

The morning session of the second day was taken up with a further consideration of reports, the nomination of officers, Fellows and honorary members.

The afternoon session was in the nature of a conference to develop the policy which may crystallize and determine the position the Institute should maintain in the future toward the complex problem of Federal methods now followed in providing for and constructing new public

buildings. It convened in the Hall of Representatives in the State House at St. Paul, and was presided over by Mr. Charles A. Coolidge, the Chairman of the Committee.

The usual unfinished business was disposed of the third day. The report of the tellers on election of officers and Fellows was as follows:

President, J. L. Mauran, St. Louis; First Vice-President, C. Grant La Farge, New York; Second Vice-President, W. R. B. Willcox, Seattle; Secretary, W. Stanley Parker, Boston; Treasurer, D. E. Waid, New York; Directors, W. B. Faville, San Francisco; Burt L. Fenner, New York; T. R. Kimball, Omaha. The following members were elected Fellows: F. L. Ackerman, C. H. Aldrich, W. P. Bannister, Leon Coquard, A. D. F. Hamlin, E. H. Hewitt, Benno Janssen, Ion Lewis, Geo. W. Maher, F. M. Mann, W. Stanley Parker, E. L. Stewardson and Waddy B. Wood.

CONVENTION NOTES

Many delegates availed themselves of the opportunity offered by an excursion, specially arranged, to the pine woods of northern Minnesota, where facilities were afforded to observe a logging camp in actual operation.

A Minneapolis daily paper, in referring to this proposed excursion, quotes a local architect as follows:

"It will do some of our big city architects good. It will give them some new ideas. I fear that some of our architects get overly artistic, too 'high browish,' one might say. A square meal in a lumber camp would bring them back to earth again."

It was the generally remarked feeling that the reception at the Art Institute was too brief to give ample time to inspect the very excellent collections of paintings, sculpture and etchings. Many delegates took occasion, before leaving the city, to pay the Institute another visit. It is noticeable that the pictures in the exhibition

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are better cared for than in most public galleries.

Wives and female relatives of the delegates were present in considerable numbers and were apparently interested listeners to the proceedings at the Convention.

At no Convention of recent years has the fraternal spirit been more in evidence than in this one. A general good feeling seemed to prevail and this was as much in evidence during the debates as it was at less formal times during the three days' meeting.

President Mauran's business-like and dignified conduct of the sessions was the subject of much comment. There can be no doubt that it had much influence on the large amount of Institute business transacted and the expeditious way it was carried to conclusion.

The Gold Room in the Radisson, where the sessions were held, was admirably adapted to the purpose and the acoustic

properties were an improvement over some halls used at former conventions. An ample ante-room, adequate checking facilities and galleries where members could congregate added greatly to personal convenience. These features were further augmented by the constant expression of solicitude for members' comfort by the Committee of the Minnesota Chapter, that proved such an admirable host.

Of past presidents, Mr. Pond was the only one present. A personality sadly missed was that of the late Walter Cook. Appropriate resolutions on his death were adopted on the afternoon of the last day's session.

An interesting and unique exhibit arranged for the entertainment of delegates was displayed in one of the parlors leading from the gallery.

John Jaeger of Minneapolis, whose brother is the noted apiarist, Father Francis Jaeger of St. Bonifacius, placed on exhibition a collection of Japanese prints and bronze swordhilt guards that he spent many years collecting.

ADDRESS OF PRESIDENT MAURAN

FIFTIETH ANNUAL CONVENTION, AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

FOR just half a century the American Institute of Architects has been meeting in annual convention.

Each succeeding year has marked some progress toward the goal of the truly national idea—toward that common understanding which comes alone through unified service in the cause of those ideals which must ever stand just beyond the goal.

Our national government has its seat in Washington on the eastern confines of our great republic, and there, too, our national body has its historic home of which it is so justly proud. There, also, most of our conventions have been held, closely in touch with those national movements which so vitally affect us. But in the firm belief that the inspiration which emanates from such a gathering together of the great minds and personalities in our well-loved profession should be grafted onto the sturdy offshoots of the parent tree the plan of the Chapters, holding occasional conventions away from Washington, has been followed with marked success.

The nation is far-reaching, even in its physical boundaries, and years may elapse before we forge the last link in the chain which typifies our national scope. In Chicago, in Cleveland, in Buffalo, in Pittsburgh and in St. Louis we have been made to feel that where our delegates meet, there in truth our home is, but this feeling has been heightened and our imagination stirred by the enthusiasm and the warmth of our home-coming in New Orleans and San Francisco.

On the map of our national aspirations we have marked in red letters our Washington and those sister cities, and to-day we accept with glad hearts the keys of this inspiring city of Minneapolis which with St. Paul unites to extend the greeting of our northern country. Here we record in red letters the Twin Cities and proudly say "from the Atlantic to the Pacific and from the Gulf of Mexico to the head waters of the Mississippi."

In all the broad field of human endeavor the two callings which stand out as being inherently constructive are journalism and architecture.

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The lawyer's brain, alert and resourceful, is given more to analysis in the daily round of his practice than to that synthetic, constructive thought which contributes to the advancement of mankind.

It is true the surgeon and physician are devoted searchers for the truth as a foundation on which to rear their manifold contributions for the betterment of humanity, but their activities are proceeding along ever-narrowing lines as the broadening field of research is subdivided for the winnowing. But where stands the successful architect of to-day? Not where he stood at the moment of the holding of the first convention of the American Institute, just half a century ago—or even twenty-five years ago—a cultured gentleman giving to the world his painstaking solutions of the simple problems of his day and generation. To-day he must still be not only the cultured gentleman, the efficient solver of his clients' problems, but in the successful practice of our creative art, he must be the astute business man, the master in the broad sense of all the sciences which have contributed to the complexity of the modern building. Moreover, he must ever *lead* always a few laps in advance of the client outlining his requirements, be they the technical ones of the director of a proposed hospital, or the simpler demands of orientation of a private house.

I have felt it worth while to recall to your minds these truisms because they suggest a conclusion which it seems to me we have been very slow to grasp. There is not a man among you who has not had the experience of taking out a set of sketches, temporarily laid aside, only to feel a blush of mortification that the all-too-apparent weakness had been overlooked in the interested excitement of closely applied study. The phrase "looking at it with fresh eyes" really means that our study has been so intensive that our perspective has neither breadth nor depth.

Now if we look back over the half century of conventions we can learn a tremendous amount about the steady betterment in all things that affect our relations with each other, with our clients, in the matter of education, the crafts, city-planning and a host of other very necessary activities. The constant improvement in the details of these things is analogous to the sketch-studies which brought the flush of shame—each excels its predecessor but the now obvious defect was a thing far above these minor details.

So devotedly have we concentrated the labors of our committees, of our officers and of the delegates to our conventions, on the perfecting and polishing off of the schedule of proper minimum charges, the competition code and the Constitution and By-laws, that we have become afflicted with what appeals to me as "ingrowing potentiality." Let me explain: several years ago I voiced the hope that the time was not far off when the conventions would handle

these "repair jobs" through the regular office force, so to speak, while the delegates discussed those broader attributes of our high calling, the arts, the sciences and altruistic service.

The millennium has not yet come, but I want to try to point out to you the way by which its coming may be advanced by leaps and bounds. At this, the Fiftieth Convention, your officers have wrested from that time-devourer, "unfinished business," one entire afternoon session to be devoted to an effort to formulate a plan for assisting the United States Government in its architectural *impasse*.

Whenever a complicated problem is encountered the first advice of the architect is to call in an expert—one who has given time to an exhaustive study of similar conditions, but we architects are perhaps naturally disinclined to take our own medicine—annually we give much thoughtful effort to the solution of our officers and Board of Directors who in turn select with judicial care the committees of experts to study the manifold complexities of our organic law and our professional activities. But when we meet as delegates to hear the decision of our experts, the very strength which is going to lead us to higher things becomes our weakness through force of habit and the near perspective in which we regard these details. I began by saying that our profession is "inherently constructive," and with that constructive impulse dominant, we straightway fall to discussing the reports of our experts, suggesting changes and improvements so comprehensive as to embrace the punctuation—and all on a moment's notice we attempt to qualify as experts in as many minutes as our committees have taken days to assimilate the controlling facts.

Heretofore the reports of these our painstaking laborers in the vineyard have been handed over to hastily gathered committees for a consideration that with the best intent can be but superficial. Now, since your officers and Board of Directors have had progress reports throughout the year and are in every way familiar with every detail as well as with the ideals and aspirations of the Institute body, we have decided to review all committee reports in the report of the Board of Directors. The next step is a long forward move calculated to maintain the essential feature of democracy in our organization and to prevent that dangerous tendency toward centralization of power. One full day has been given to the Committee of Delegates appointed in advance to digest and thoroughly weigh the subject matter thus presented by your Board, and to comment freely thereon in transmitting the same to the delegates. This is an effort to place each matter before you in such a final way that long debate will prove superfluous as precedent to your adoption or rejection. Doesn't that promise an orderly, systematic disposition of minutiae, which will clear the deck for action that is

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worthy of the highly constructive thought of the foremost men in our profession?

Two fields of endeavor stretch before us. One might be called the field of "understanding" and the other the field of "service." One must have held a viewpoint revealing every hill and valley in the field of understanding to estimate the "cuts and fills" in the smoothing process that waits for our labor.

A very considerable group in our membership conceives the functions of the Institute to be that of a rate bureau. Their attitude indicates a mental parallel between the Schedule of Proper Minimum Charges and a lever, whereby a prospective client may be coerced into paying an established fee, but with little regard to the character and value of the services the Institute had in mind when it decided that the present minimum was a fair value to put upon full service. Such an attitude engenders neither respect for the Institute nor respect for the architect. Can we not bring an understanding through our discussions which will reveal the truth that the type of service rendered shall bring the desired return in respect, and our pecuniary reward in fees higher than the minimum when, and only when, they represent value received?

There are architects who sincerely believe that the national body alone should exist, and that Chapters are unnecessary appendages, while per contra there are insular minds impregnated with the supreme importance of the local group, whose problems they believe purely local, and who see no use in contributing to the maintenance of the national body. If these opposite minds be set to work on our field of "understanding" the first furrow would turn up the first man's concept as an academy which has a mission all its own and which time will surely bring with the growth of the republic, while the second man, as he performs a common labor with his fellows from coast to coast and from the Gulf to Saskatchewan, would grant the truism that the whole is greater than any of its parts—he would discover, as your officers have discovered, that problems are "local" only inasmuch as they occur in every locality, and that the strength which comes from unity of thought and act can only grow in an American Institute of Architects, one and indivisible.

How much we have to learn from one another is proven by the experience of your officers in visiting a dozen Chapters, something over a year ago, and how much the visited Chapters learned is attested by the marvelous growth during the last fourteen months of the national idea. My mind is so full of examples of the resultant good and of the constructive work which has thus been set in motion that I dare not start an endless tale of absorbing interest. But the point which all this emphasizes is that sessions of our Convention should be given over to work on our field of "understanding"—and

if I dared not trench on your time with the interesting details of the benefits of a common understanding among the members of this national body, I could do scant justice in a day's time to the multitude of crops waiting for the garnering in the field of "service." In this busy world but little time is given to the graphic thought that almost every being that has a roof overhead is directly or indirectly beholden to our profession. Such colossal unfamiliarity in so intimate a field renders less surprising the utter lack of intelligent appreciation by many men in high places—men counted as intellectual citizens of the world. Sometimes a threatened invasion of a park area, or the impending demolition of an historic monument gives us, the self-constituted defenders of the faith, an opportunity to demonstrate our latent strength, and, while battling for the public good, to open the eyes of those with whom we come in contact to the hitherto unseen beauties which lie all about us. This is an altruistic service that we do instinctively, and in the doing we earn a new-found respect for our profession. A score of kindred examples of disinterested services might be discussed at our Convention with profit to our fellowship and an advance toward that will o' the wisp, "the appreciation of the public," more rapid than will ever be made through the much-discussed circularizing of the attributes and functions of a highly idealized architect. The public needs our help, but sorely indeed does our national Government stand in need of the application of the architect's trained constructive mind to the many problems of administration as well as in the actual field of architecture. This year we are beginning this unselfish, altruistic campaign to take the vexed question comprehended by the term Government architecture through the initial steps on its way, we hope, toward a brighter future.

I spoke before of journalism as the other constructive calling and that appellation is justified by the admirable work of the able editor of our Journal in this same campaign.

The development of our great asset, the Journal, as a medium for the advancement of our labors for better architects and better architecture, is a congenial task, carrying its own reward through its broad dissemination of those facts which make for a common understanding between our profession and the public. Its work is guided by high ideals and above all its aims are highly constructive.

At the last two conventions my predecessor touched our hearts and stirred our every sympathy with his word-pictures of the tragedy being enacted across the sea. To-day the tragedy still holds sway, but we must look beyond that moment of devout Thanksgiving when peace shall have rung the curtain down to the day when war-weary Europe shall confidently demand not our sympathy alone but our sympathetic constructive co-operation. And on that

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day let us not be found unprepared to take up the responsibilities which belong to us by right and by training as citizens of the world. Alexander McKenzie happily expressed the underlying thought that I have tried to bring home to you in saying "It is unworthy of us, it is inexpedient and unprofitable, to be so often discussing little questions of conduct, little matters of casuistry. Cannot we settle these into some

grand principle, so that they shall adjust themselves to our life as the waves adjust themselves to the ship that is sailing through them? Sometimes we meet these questions as if they were a swarm of gnats, fighting them one by one, when, if we would only move on, we should leave them behind, and then in the clear, cool air we would do the work which we have determined to do."

THE COMMITTEE REPORTS

IT is regrettable to learn from the report of the Building Committee that owing to lack of sufficient funds buildings forming part of the Octagon property in Washington are in a disreputable and even dangerous condition. The report emphatically states that "in its present state the property is discreditable to the Institute," and there is a recommendation to tear down. The buildings in question are the two houses known as 521 and 523 18th Street.

Further referring to these dilapidated structures, a communication from Mr. E. C. Lempern, Executive Secretary, printed in the report of the Building Committee, contains the following statement:

I realize fully that the uncertainty as to the future use of the Octagon and the adjoining property is responsible for present conditions, but the time seems to have arrived when some action should be taken, particularly with reference to the stables and 521. Present conditions may bring criticism from the press, difficulties with the Building Inspectors and damage suits in case of injury to tenants.

The report of the House Committee deals exclusively with the care of the Octagon. In this report it is stated that

The Committee is aware that the subject of raising a sufficient fund for the proper care and preservation of this group of buildings has been before the Board in probably more concrete form for realization than at any time heretofore, and the Committee has consequently viewed, with patience and as much complacency as possible, the continued deterioration of the property for lack of greatly needed attention, which should not longer be delayed.

The following resolution was adopted by the Convention:

Resolved, That the Report of the House Committee be accepted and that the Board of Directors be, and is hereby, requested to put into operation without delay some plan for securing funds so that the Octagon and other buildings and grounds in this group shall immediately be put in a safe and sound condition that will reflect credit upon the Institute as trustee for the property of its members and as custodian of a building and group of interest and value to the people of America.

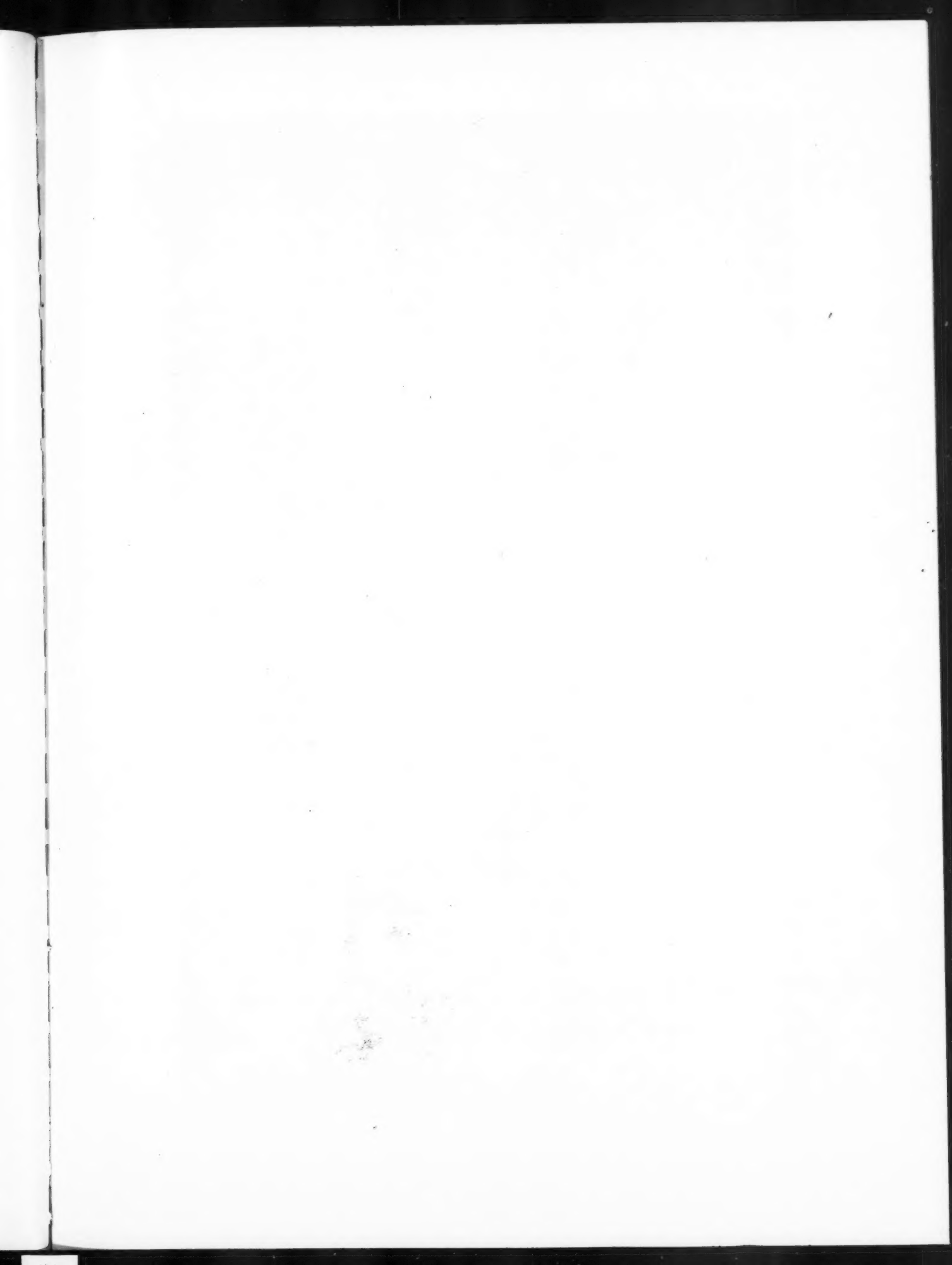
Among other topics that are properly within the field of the Committee on Contracts and Specifications is that of Quantity Survey. This subject is treated in the report at considerable length.

The report states that aside from the efforts of several individuals there are no indications of active interest in this subject on the part of the profession. On the other hand, to quote from the report:

The Committee finds that there is a constantly increasing interest in the Quantity System among contractors and so-called sub-contractors, which is reflected in their collective action, and that there is no such interest actuating the architectural profession.

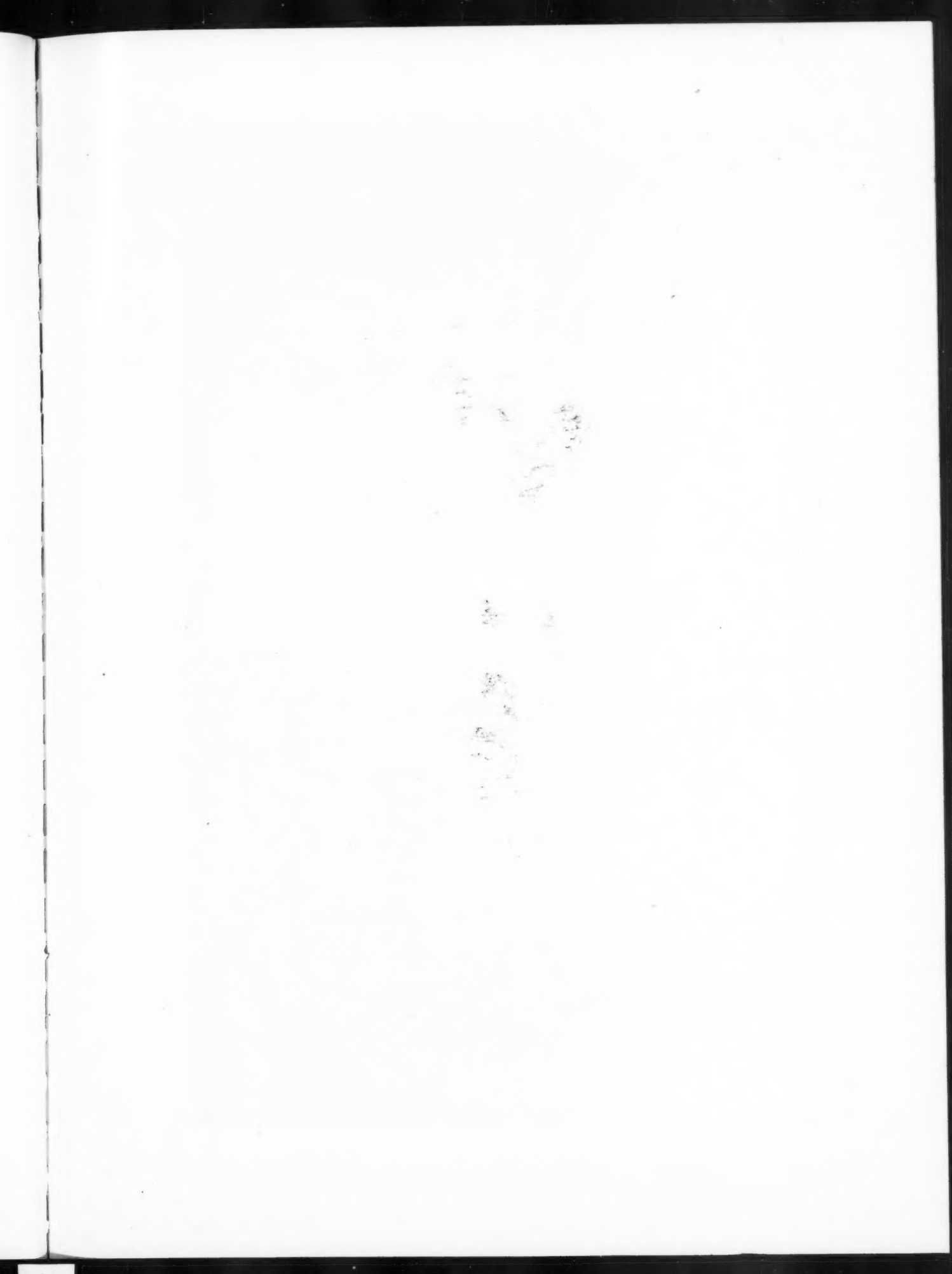
It seems to the Committee that this condition, while not at present alarming, does indicate the possibility of future complications and discord. The Committee feels that the members of the Institute should not, through inactivity, permit themselves to be placed in the position where the adoption of a new method of estimating may be forced upon them by contractors. And with that possibility in mind, the Committee proposes to continue its study of the growth of the movement so that it may recommend some

(Continued on page 405)





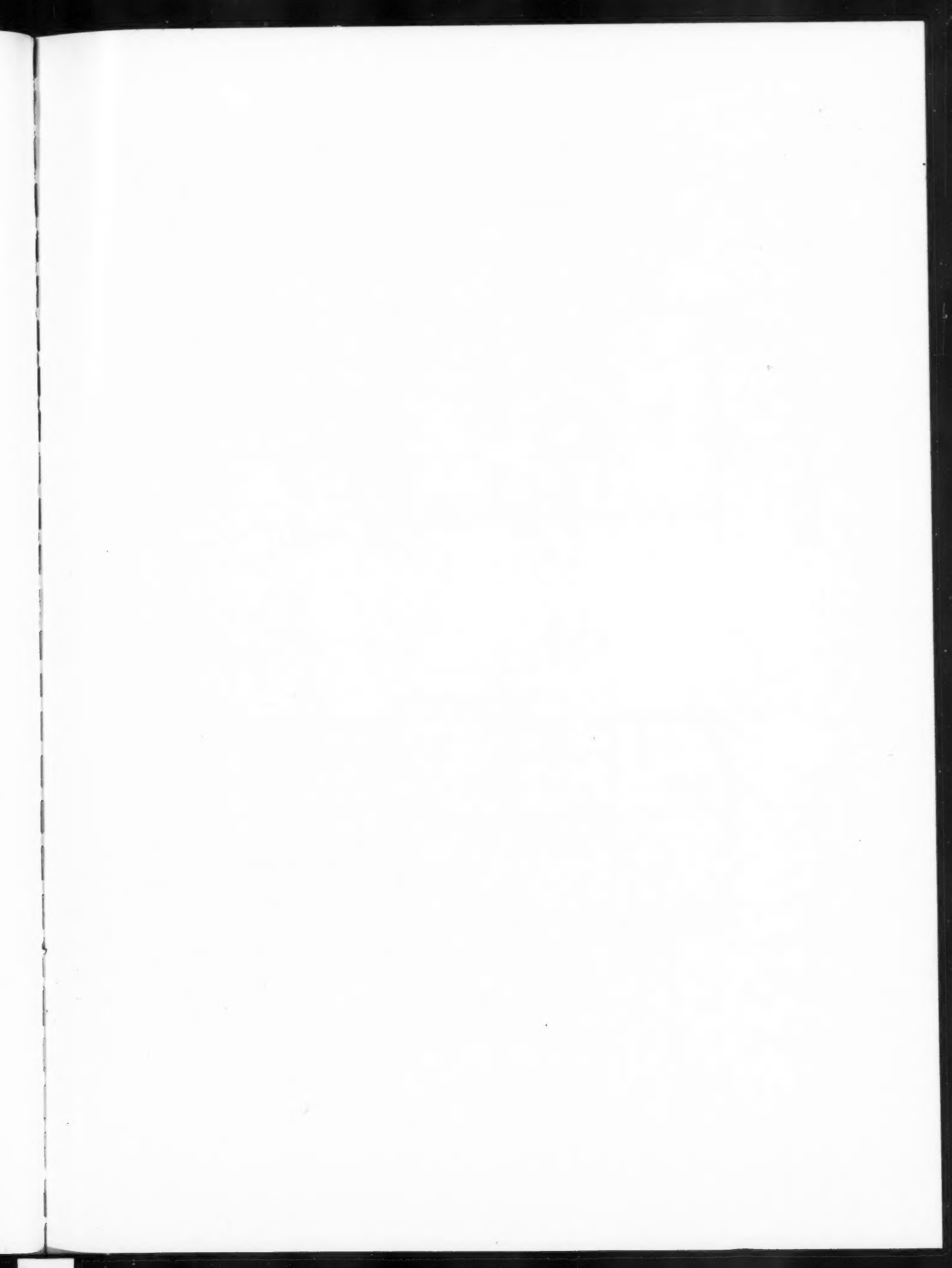
HOUSE OF DR. VANDERPOEL ADRIANCE, WILLIAMSTOWN, MASS.
MR. JAMES PURDON, ARCHITECT

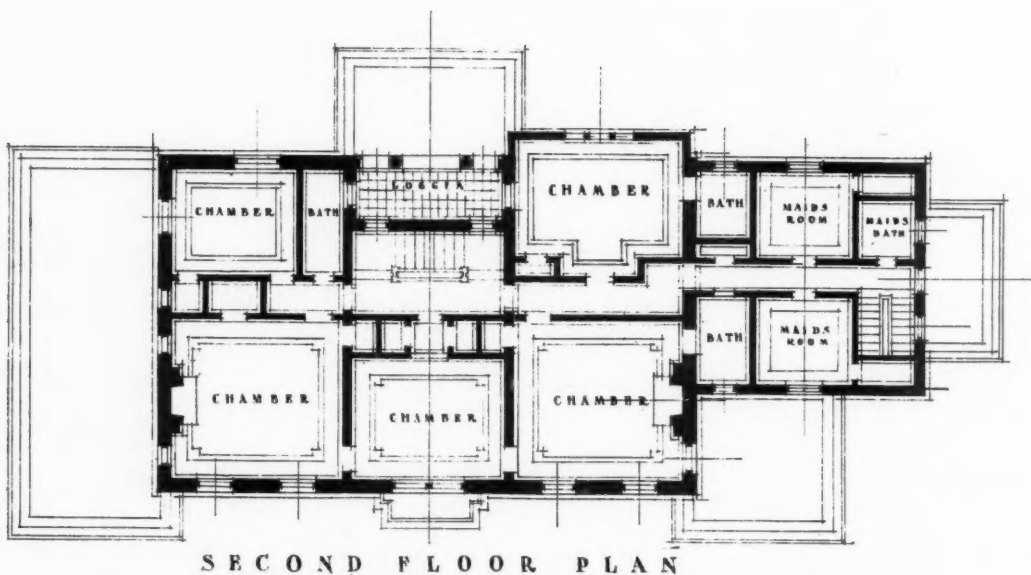
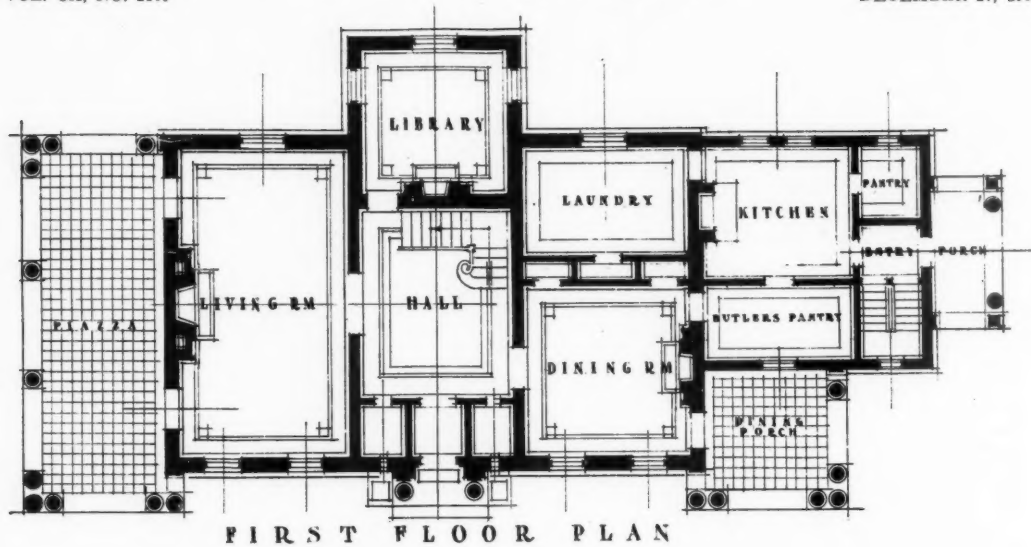




GARDEN FRONT—HOUSE OF DR. VANDERPOEL ADRIANCE, WILLIAMSTOWN, MASS.

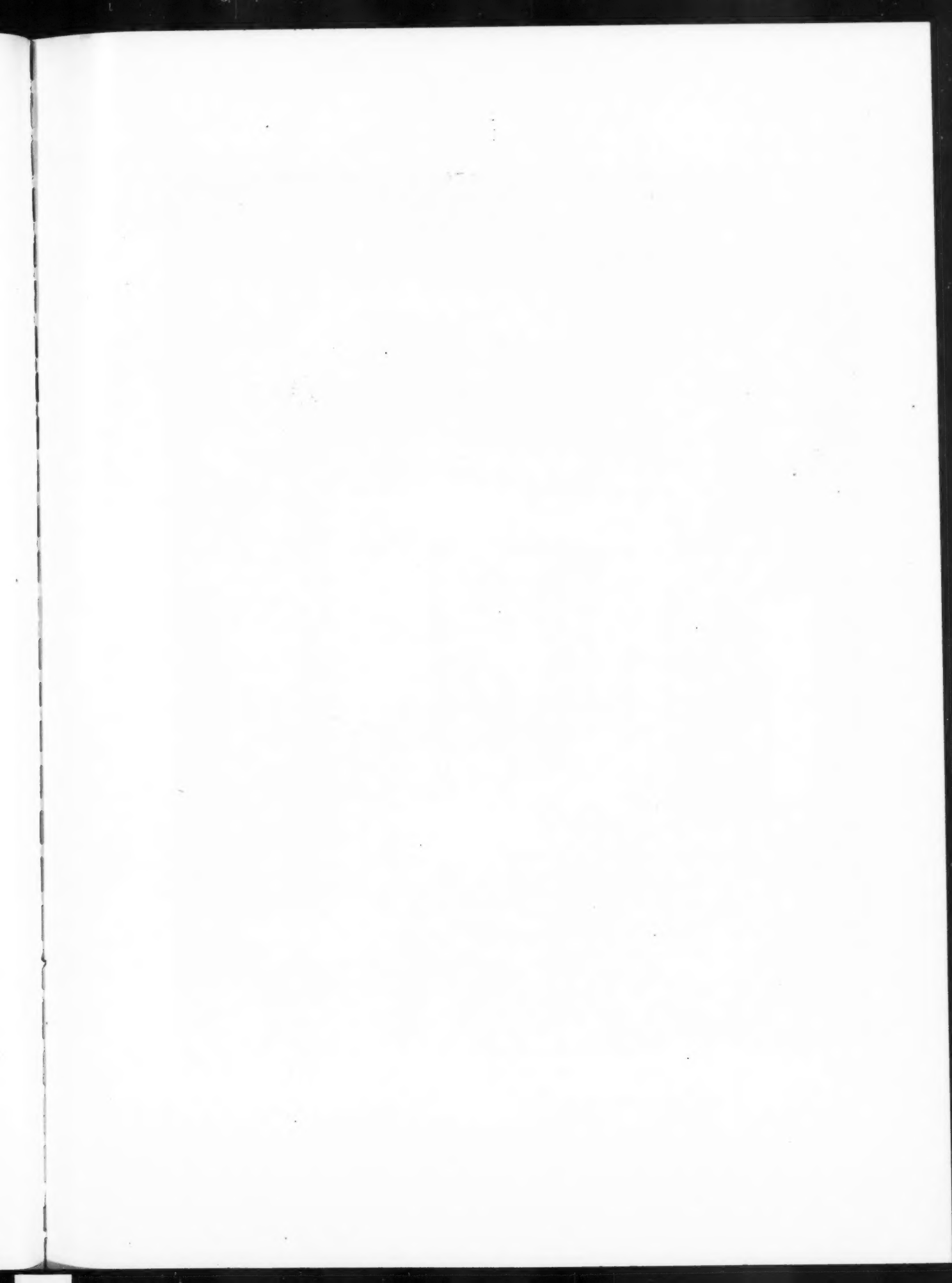
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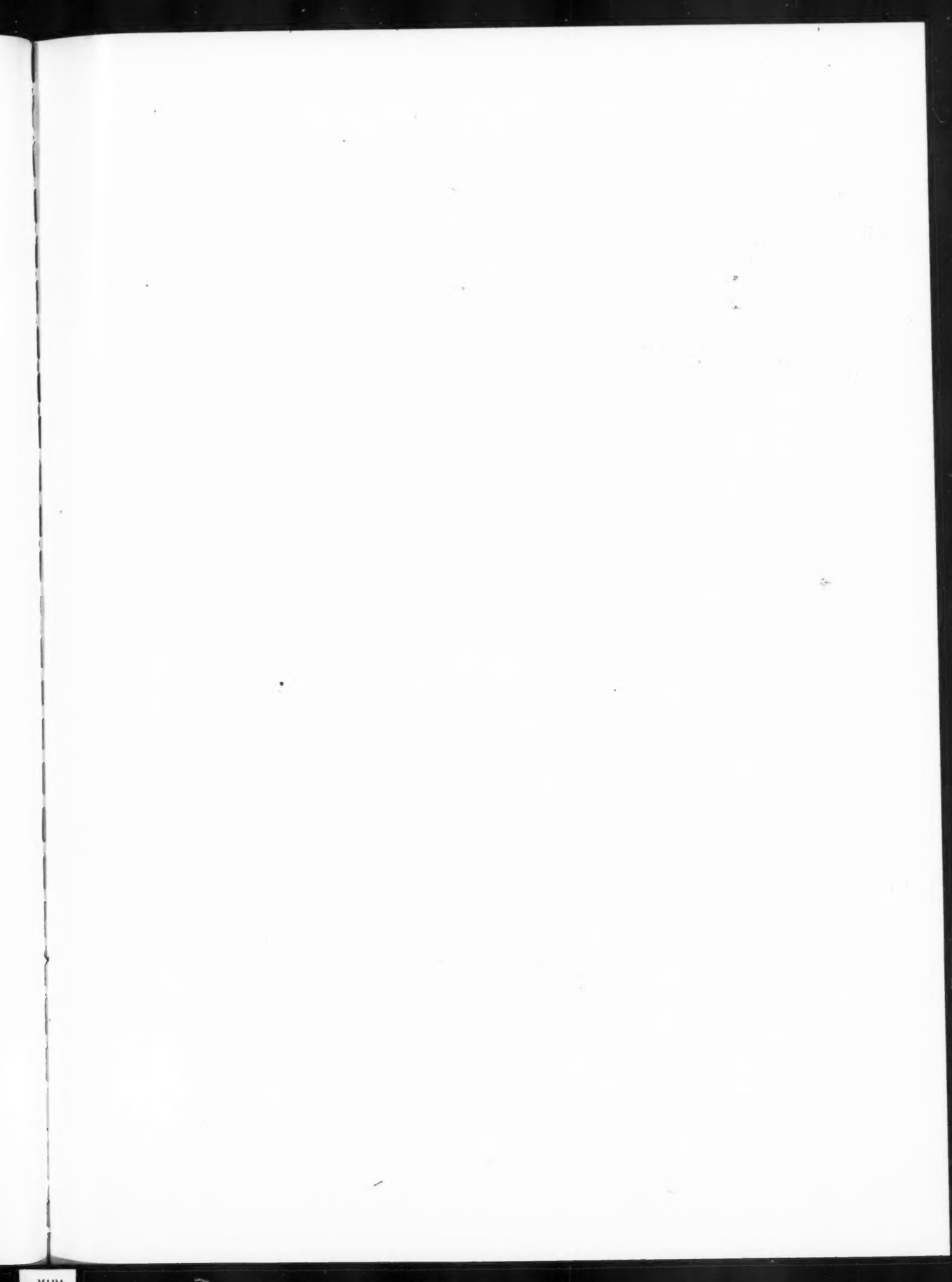


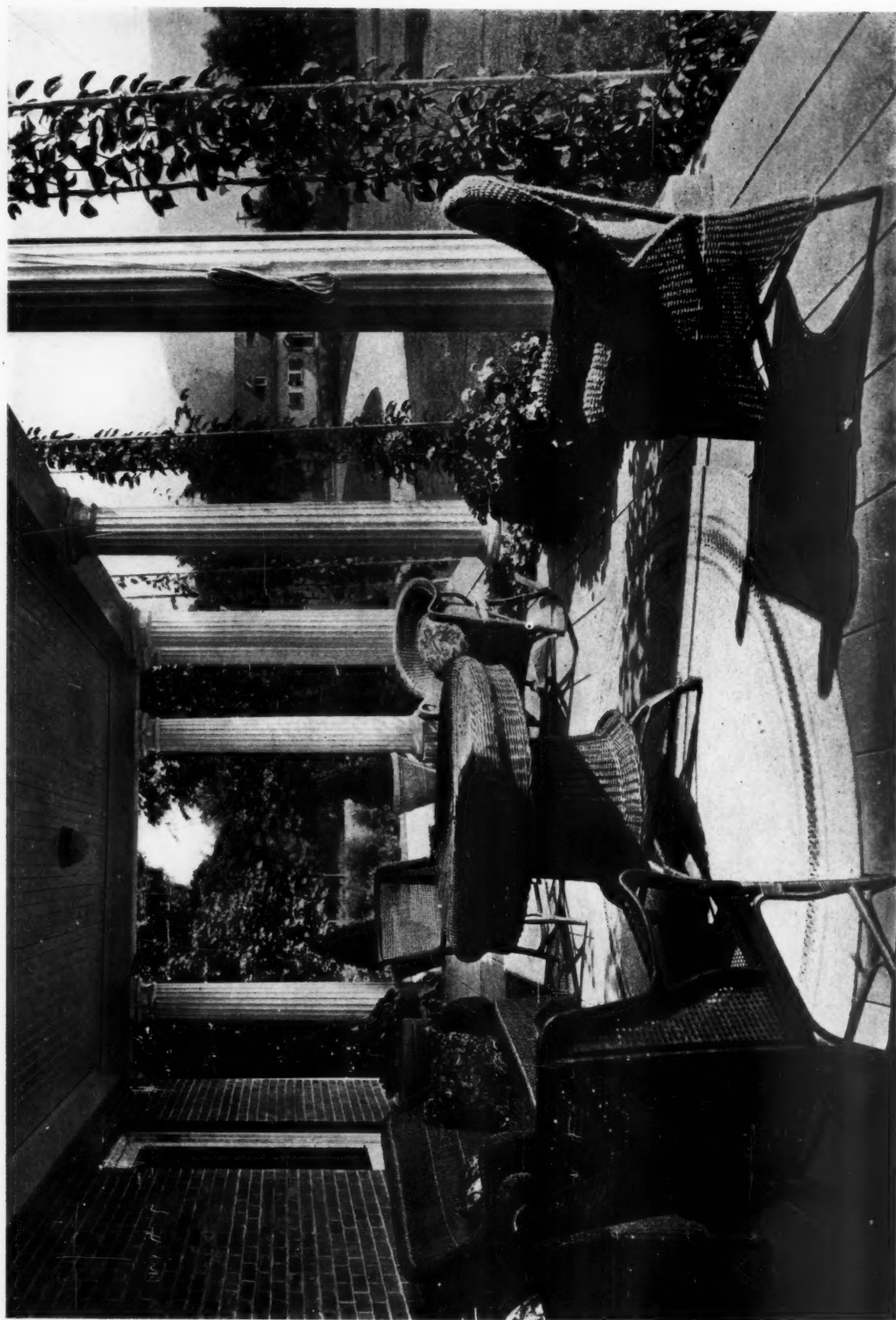


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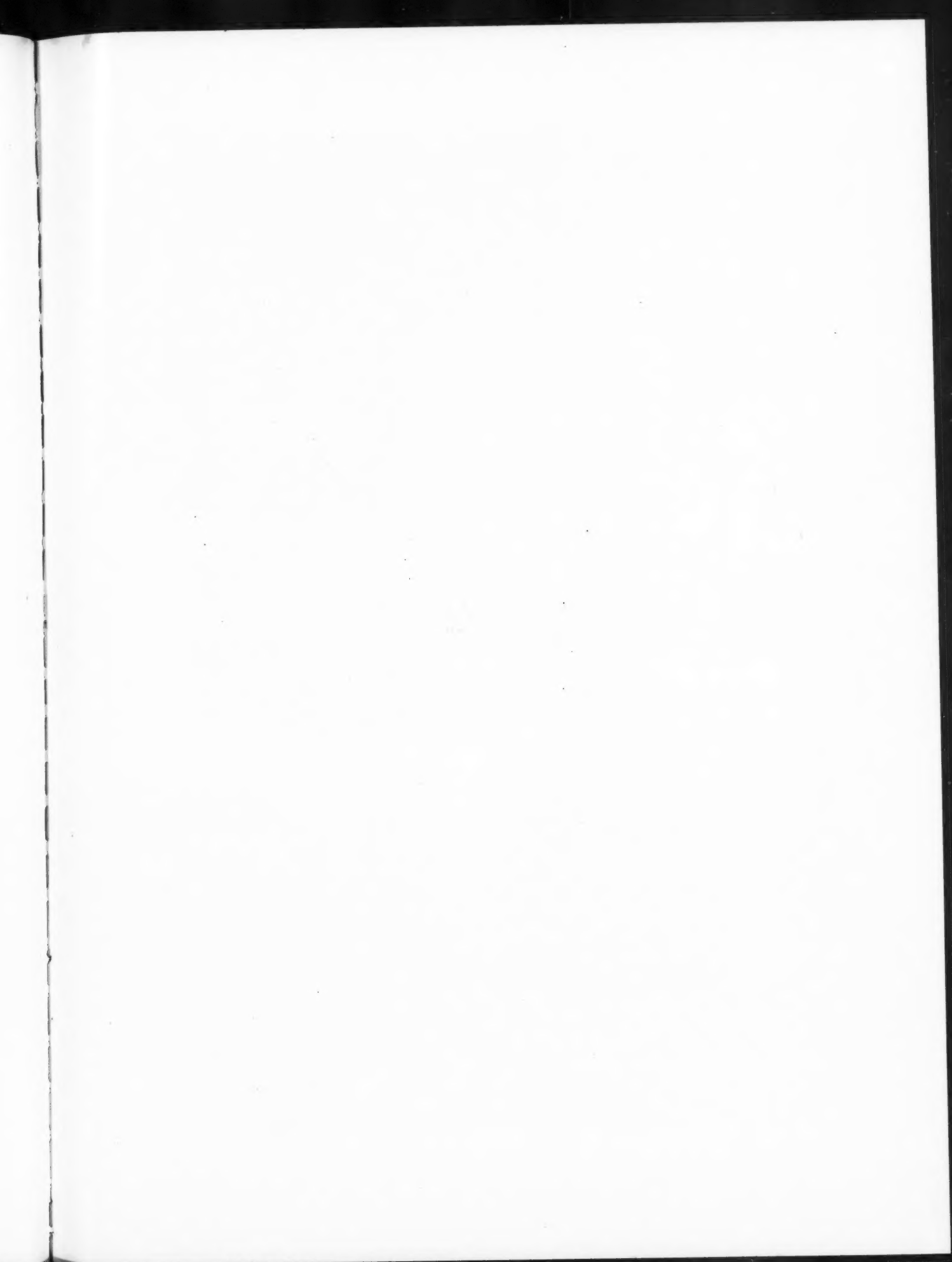
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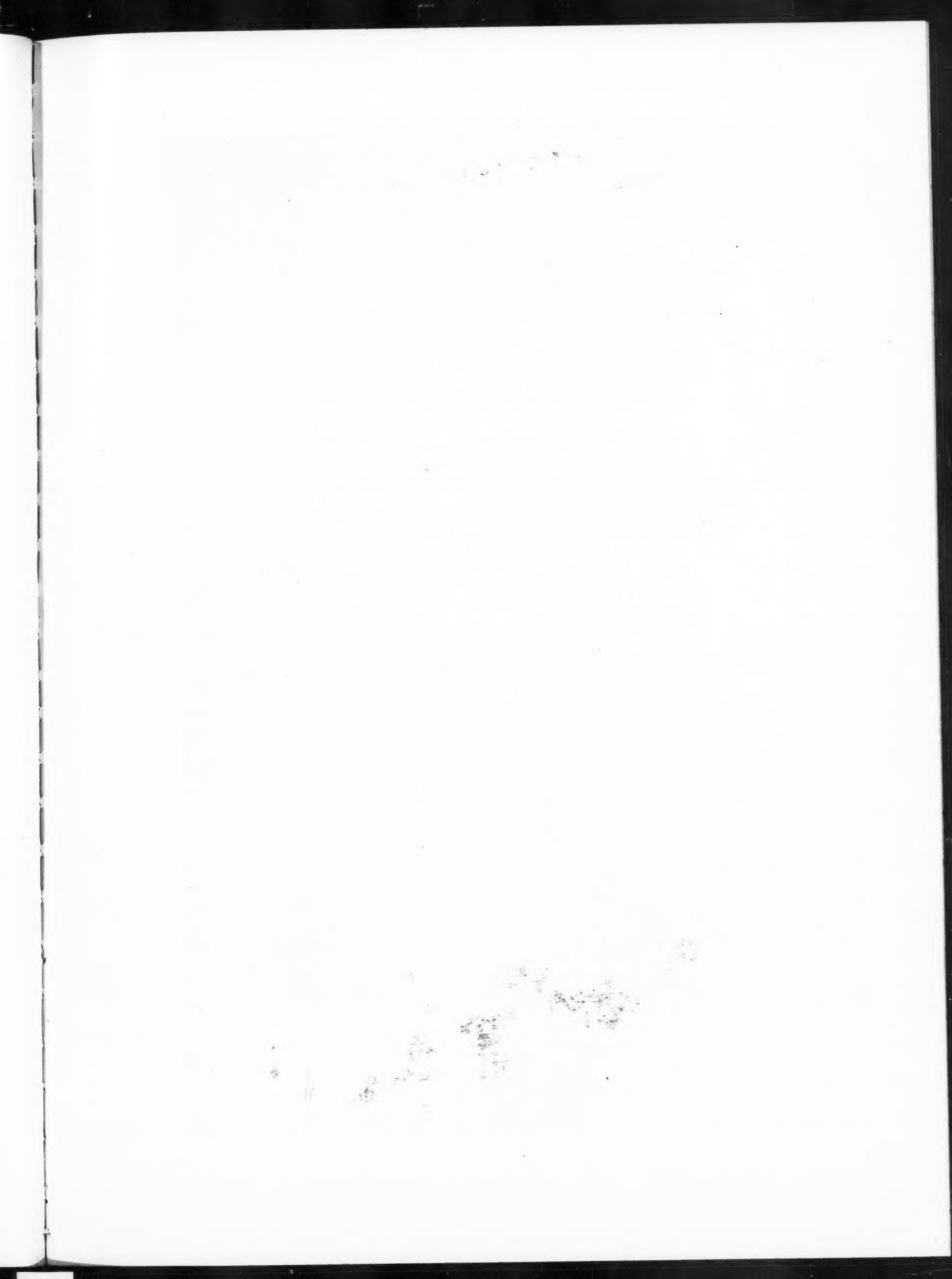
PORCH—HOUSE OF DR. VANDERPOEL ADRIANCE, WILLIAMSTOWN, MASS.
MR. JAMES FURDON, ARCHITECT





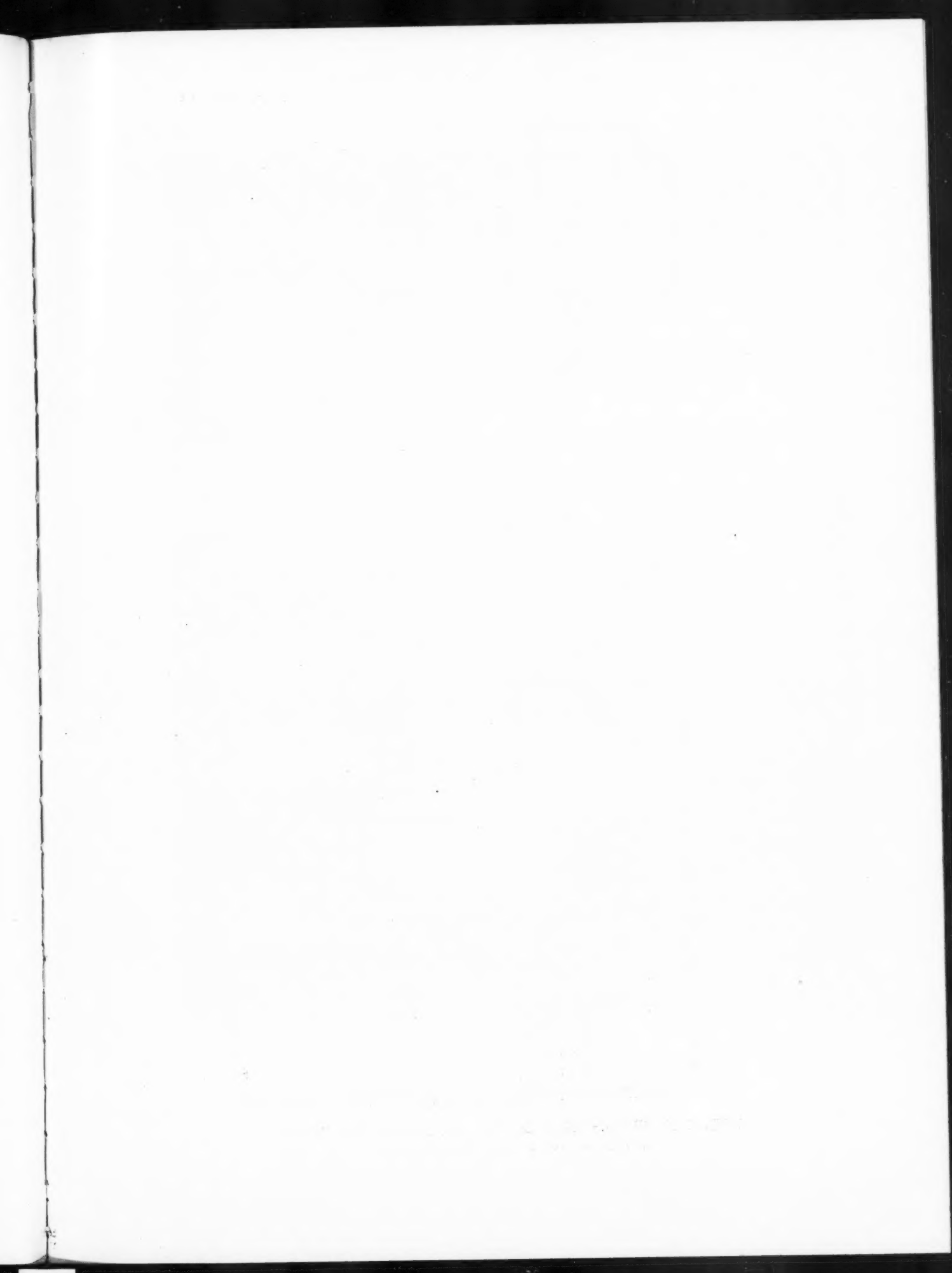
GARAGE AND STABLE—HOUSE OF DR. VANDERPOEL ADRIANCE, WILLIAMSTOWN, MASS.

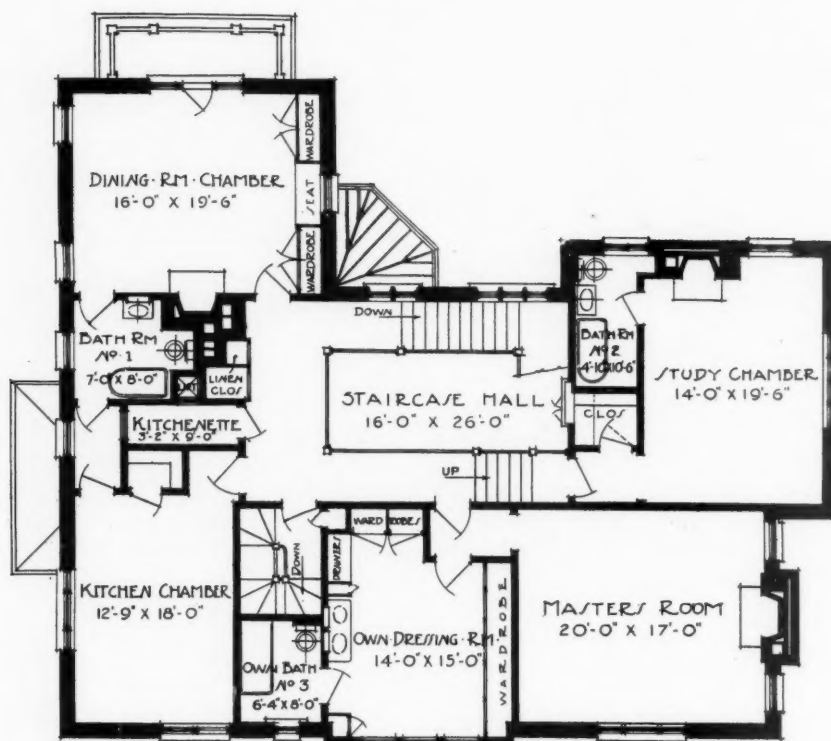
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HOUSE OF PROFESSOR A. M. TOZZER, CAMBRIDGE, MASS.
MESSRS. KILHAM & HOPKINS, ARCHITECTS





HOUSE OF PROFESSOR A. M. TOZZER, CAMBRIDGE, MASS.

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DETAIL OF ENTRANCE

HOUSE OF PROFESSOR A. M. TOZZER, CAMBRIDGE, MASS.

MESSRS. KILHAM & HOPKINS, ARCHITECTS

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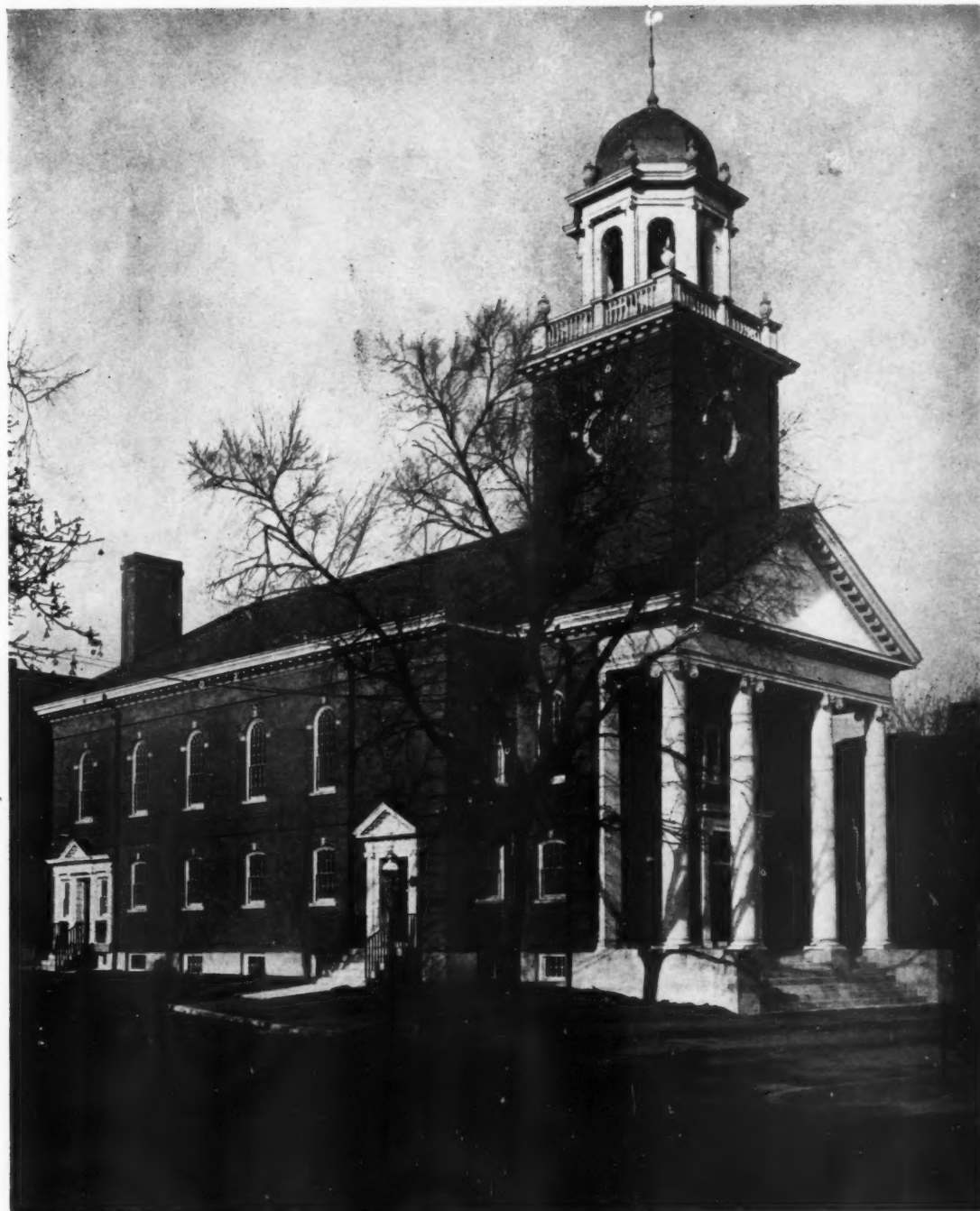


GARAGE

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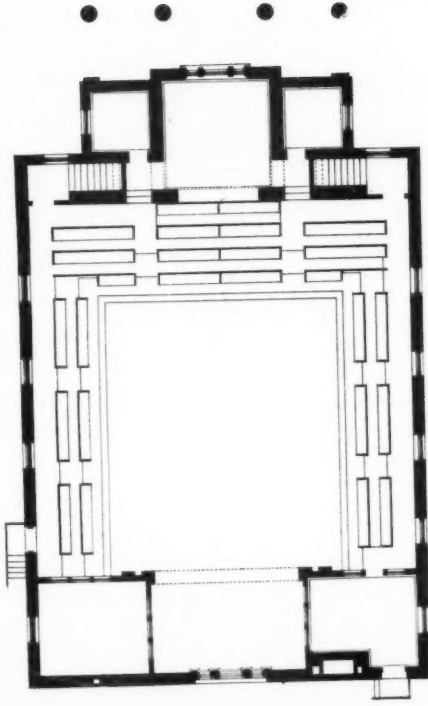
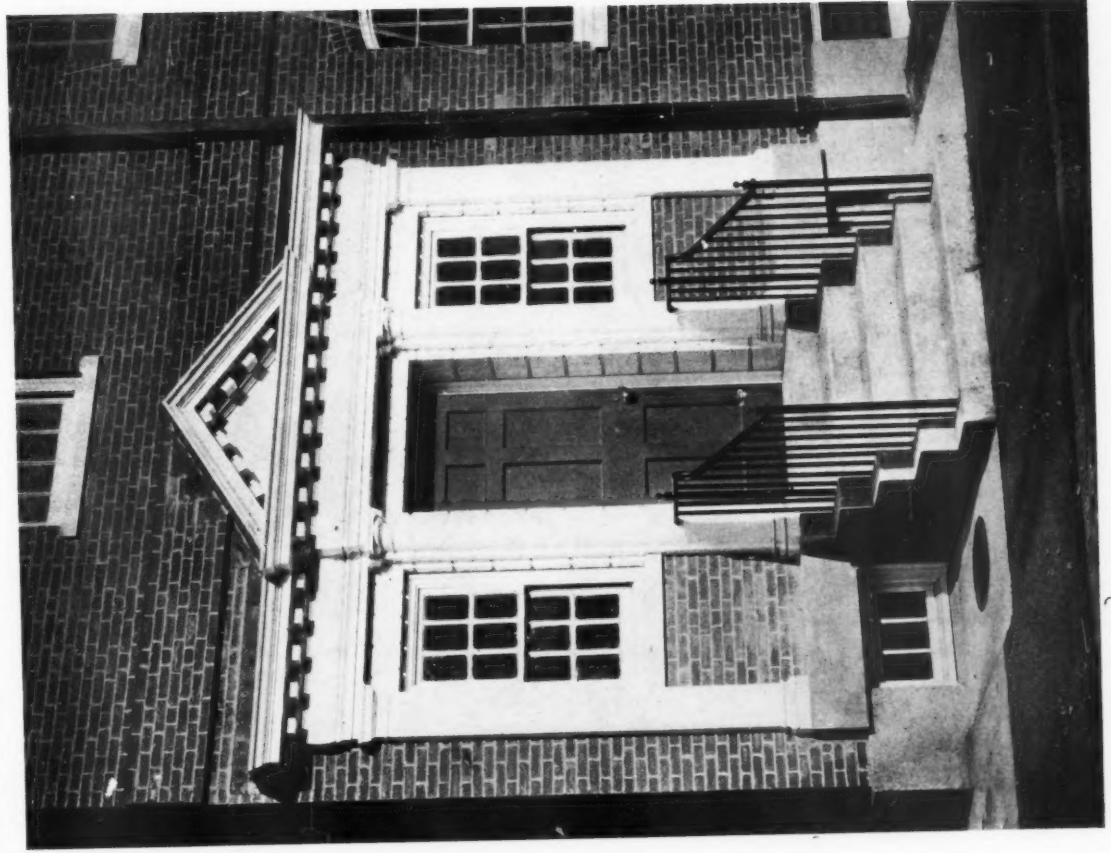
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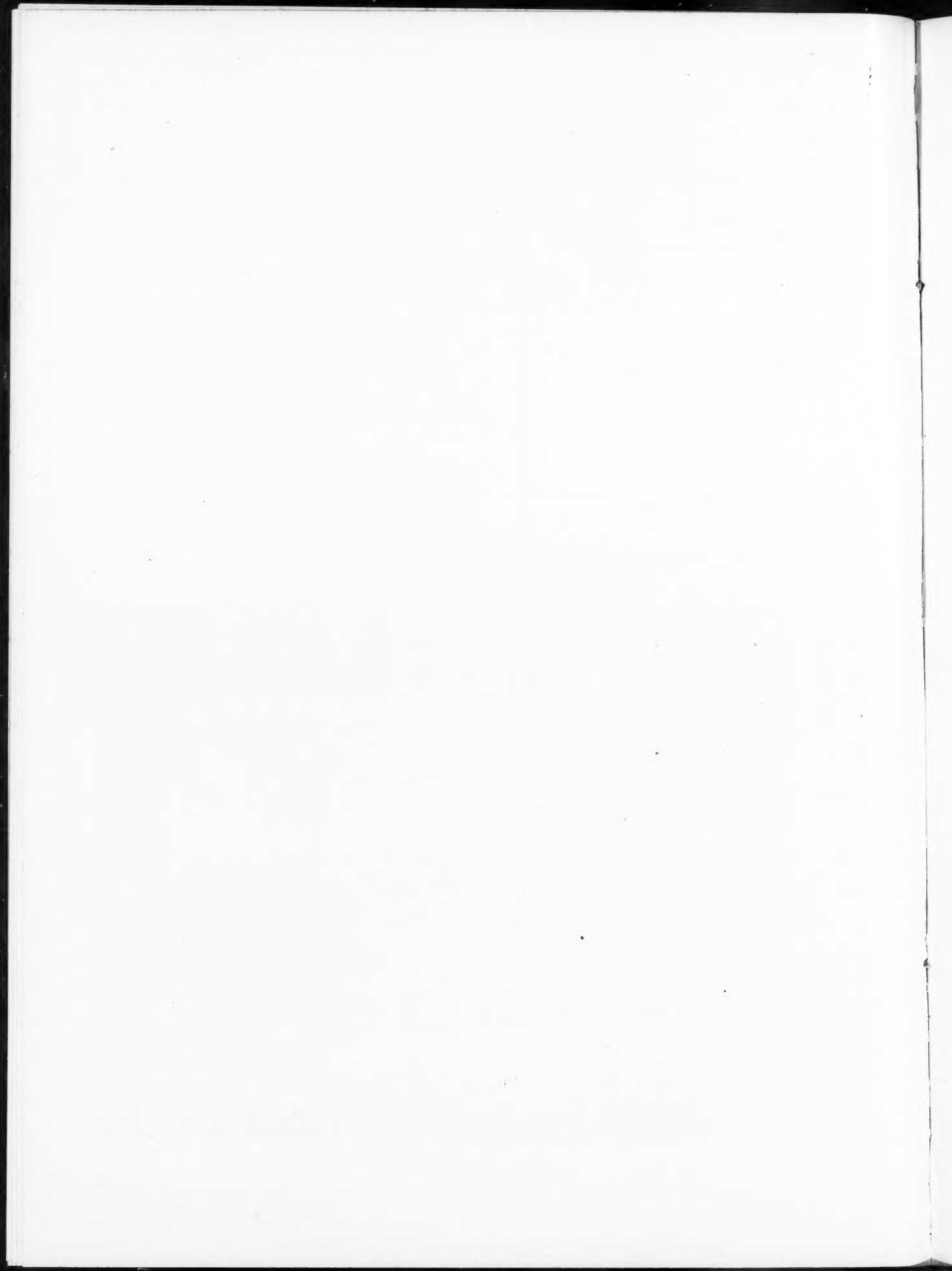
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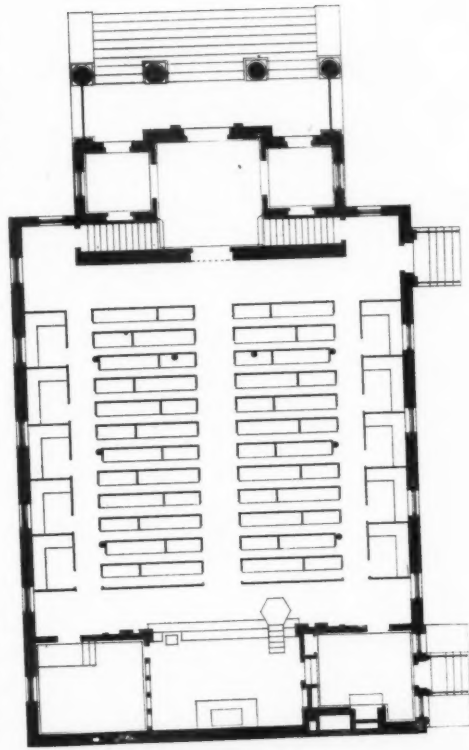
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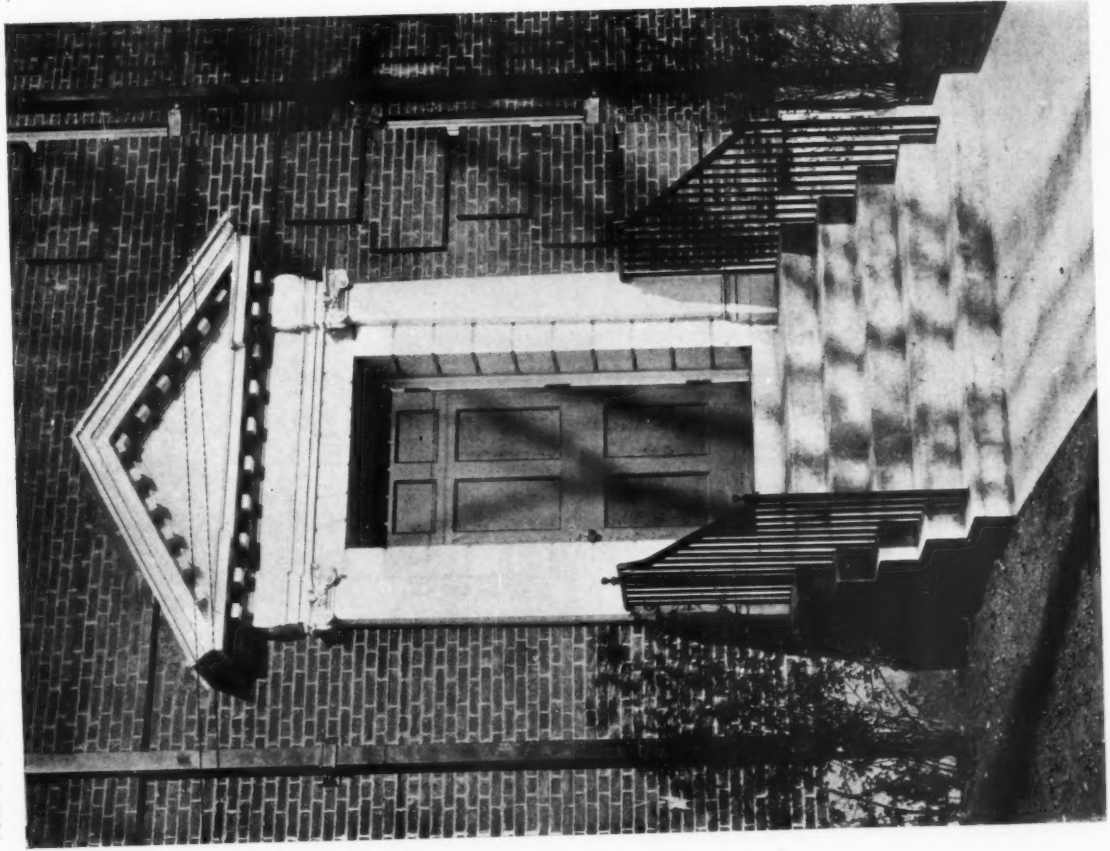
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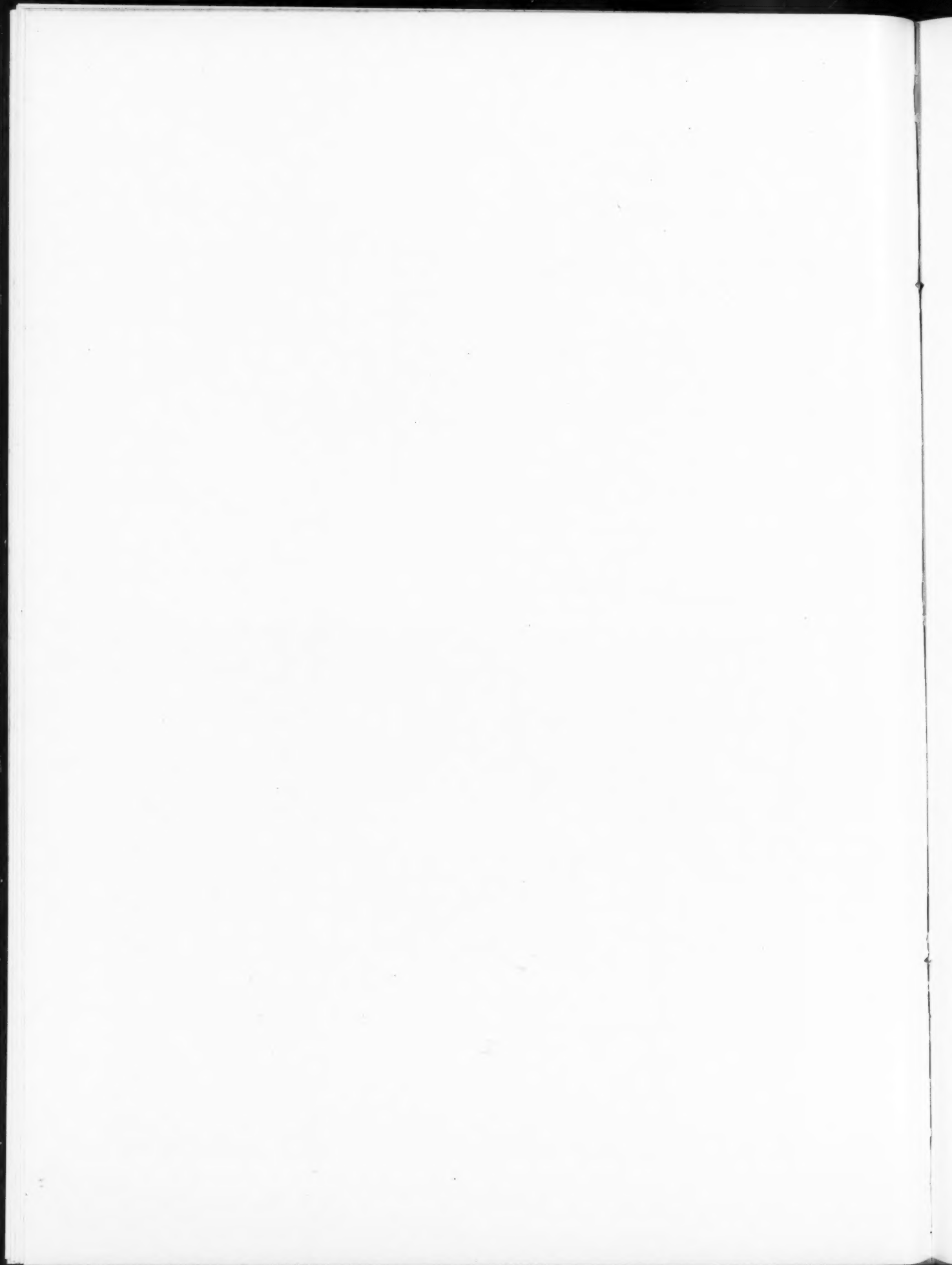




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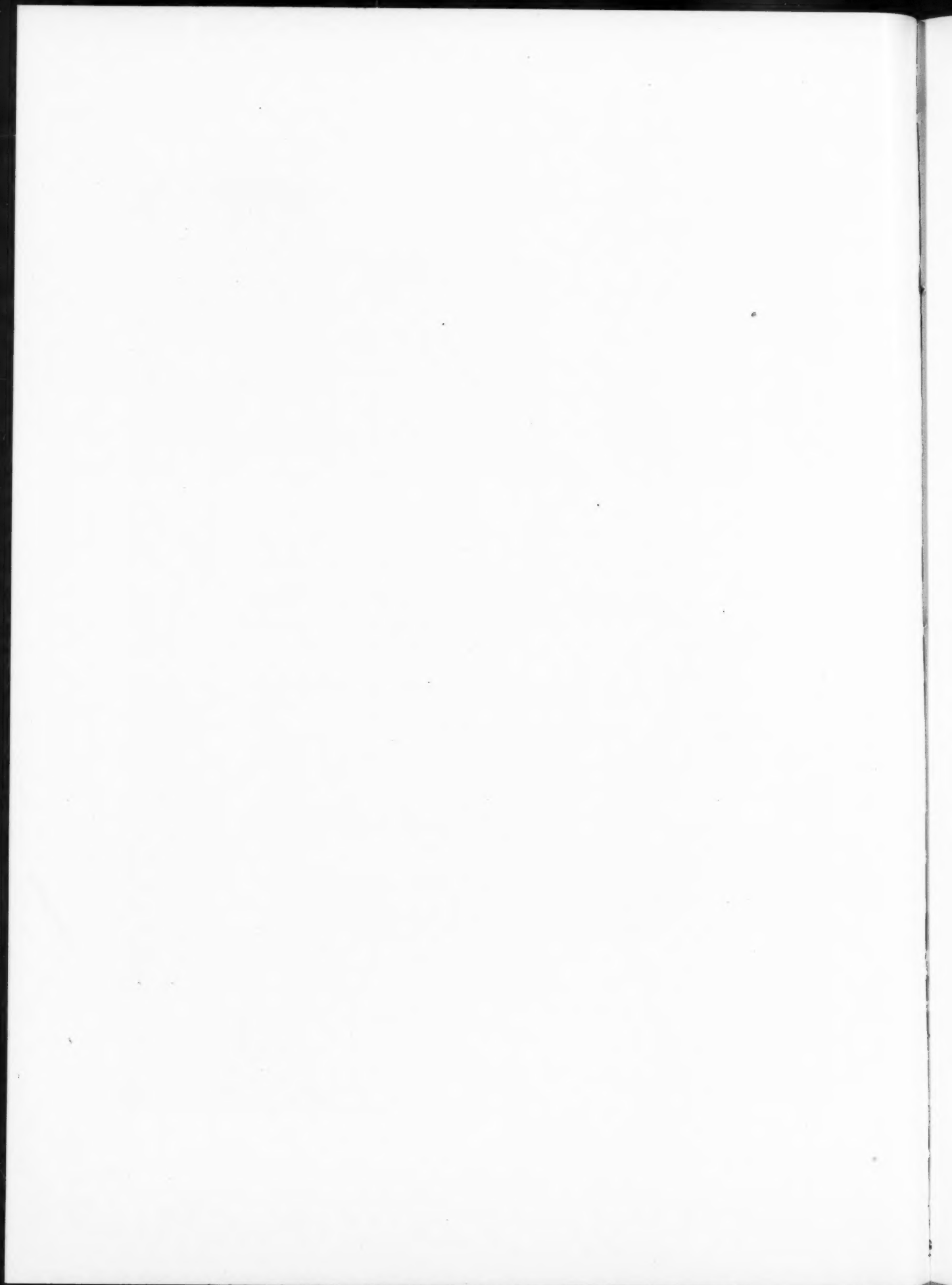




CHURCH OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT, JAMAICA PLAIN, MASS.

MR. CHARLES R. GRECO, ARCHITECT

(For another view of this church, see issue December 6, 1916.)



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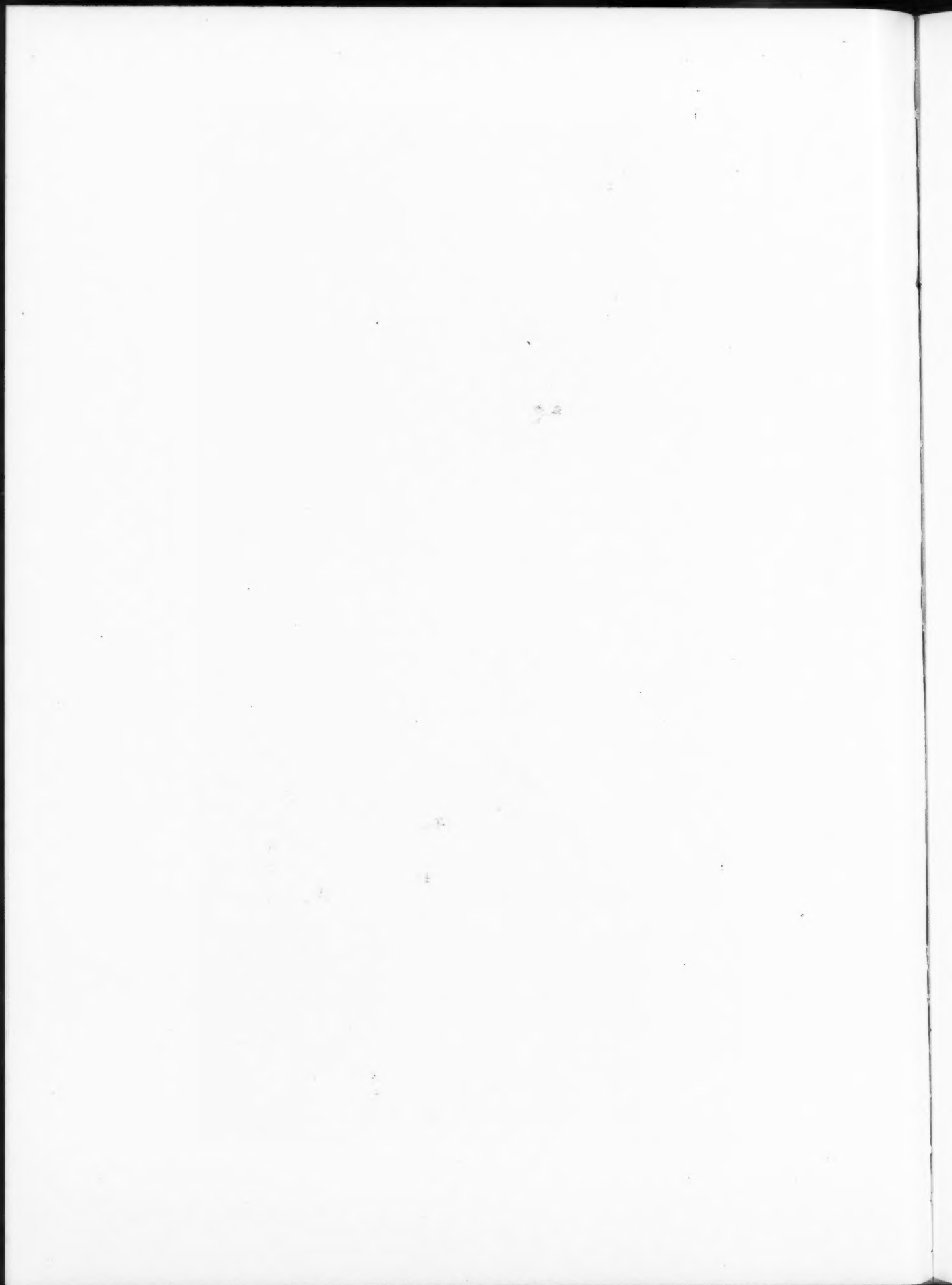
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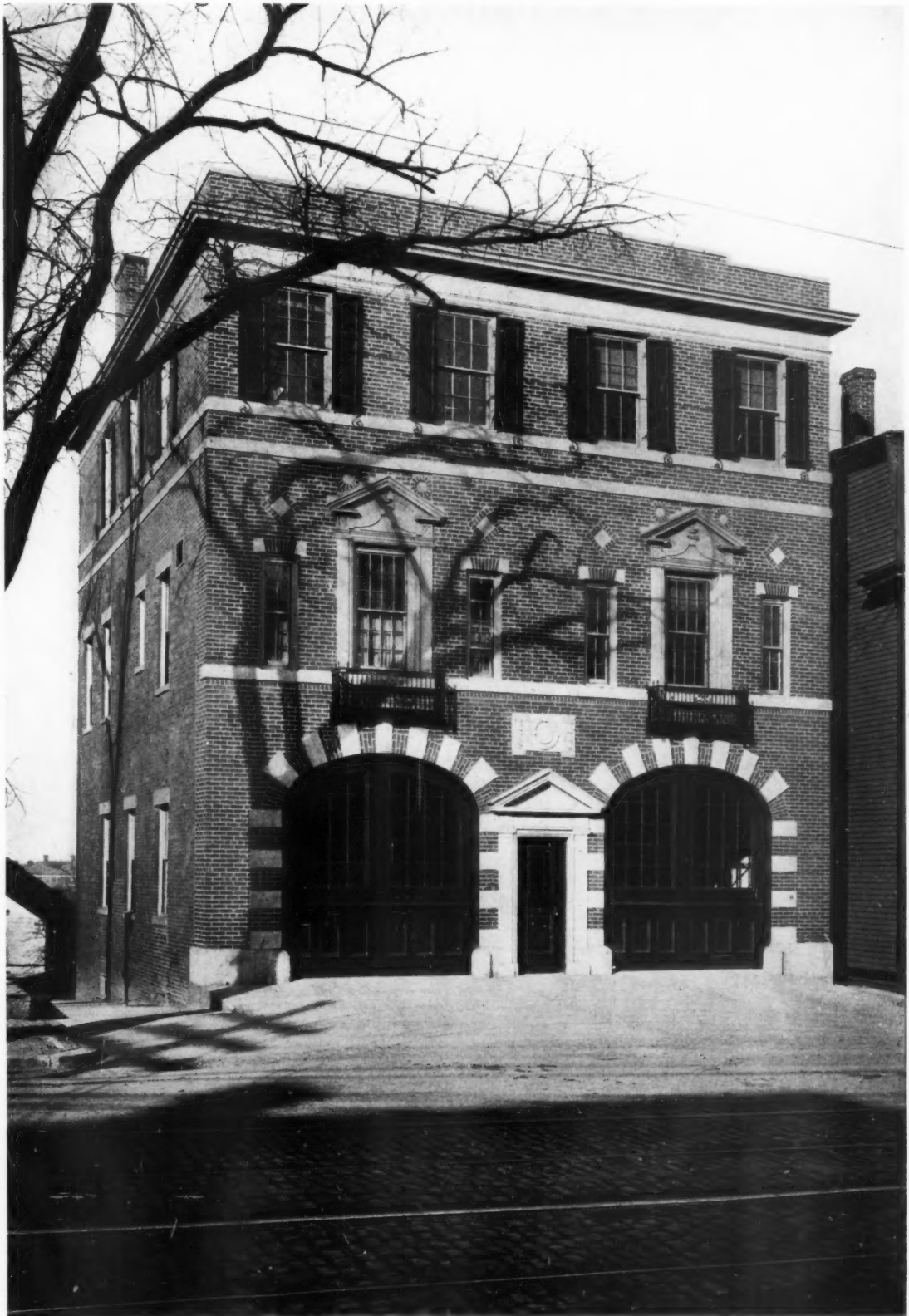
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TUBERCULOSIS HOSPITAL, CAMBRIDGE, MASS.

MR. CHARLES R. GRECO, ARCHITECT





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MR. JOSEPH MCGINNESS, ARCHITECT

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A FEATURE OF THE RECENT A. I. A. CONVENTION

OF THE various professions related to the arts, probably the practitioners of no other are compelled to combine with the attributes of the artist the prosaic duties of the business man to as great a degree as are architects. We are told that it is incompatible with the truly artistic personality—a personality that the unthinking believe is one of avoidance in every possible way of details—to give attention to business routine, or the humdrum duties of everyday business life. It is explained that artists should not be bound by practical considerations, that their minds should be untrammelled, free to soar to heights that can only be reached under such conditions. Architects, however, who practise under present-day conditions, find they are expected not only to impart the highest artistic qualities to their work, but also to serve their clients by a strictly businesslike conduct of the operations entrusted to their direction, and the completion of which transforms into enduring materials their artistic conceptions. It is not surprising, therefore, that when

a body of architects who are fulfilling modern requirements meet in conference, their deliberative proceedings should be little short of a model for a businessmen's convention. A visitor to the annual meeting of the American Institute of Architects, just concluded in Minneapolis, could scarcely fail to be impressed with this thought. Of course, when divested of cumbersome and time-consuming detail the opportunity for accomplishment of results is always greatly enhanced, and doubtless it was because detail was practically eliminated from the proceedings, among other wise eliminations, that results were secured. The greater part of the time during the three days' convention was necessarily taken up by the reports of the committees. In a careful reading of these reports it will be seen that the various members responsible for their preparation brought to their work a clear insight into and a keen appreciation of the tasks before them. The amount of energy that was expended in their accomplishment was obviously great. In fact, taken collectively, it may be said that these reports represent an astonishingly large amount of work, and they cannot fail to be of immeasurable value as guides to members of the profession in their future activities. It has been suggested that they are inconclusive, but to request members of various committees to further continue their work would in most cases be equivalent to a request to abandon their practice and concentrate their efforts on affairs that are of interest to the entire profession. Already the Institute, composed of about 1200 members, is doing a work that in justice should be carried forward by the profession at large. Institute members have for fifty years been contributing of their time, money and energy to a work which has benefited the non-member as much as the member. While this unselfishness is commendable and to be admired, it leaves the non-Institute member in an unenviable position, and one which it would seem he would hasten to improve by joining the organization, if qualified to do so, and contributing his fair share toward the advancement of architecture in this country.

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THE LATEST SCHEME OF PARK INVASION

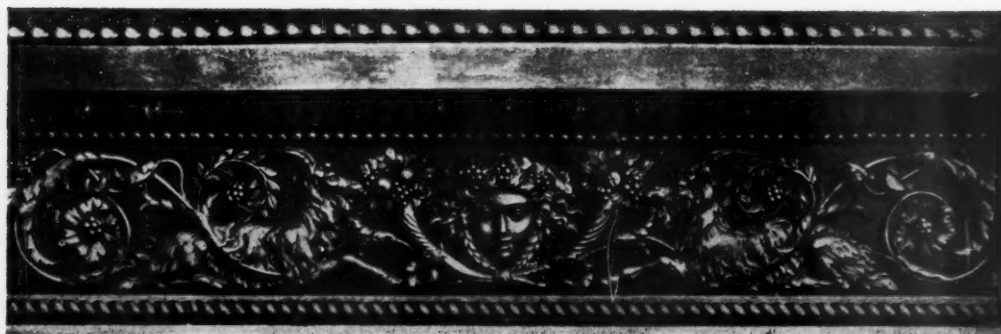
IT WOULD seem as though the fact had been sufficiently well established that the citizens of New York are opposed to the invasion of any of the city's park areas for purposes foreign to those for which the parks were created. Nevertheless, one plan after another for utilizing park area for other than park purposes is proposed, and only the vigilance of the press and various organizations of patriotic citizens prevent their accomplishment.

The latest scheme is for a structure in the nature of a huge vault to be erected in Central Park for the purpose of housing moving picture films. The idea, it seems, is to place in this repository, films portraying present-day activities, including various forms of art, science and commerce, and thus preserve them to future generations. The plan itself may have merit, but just why it should include the invasion of a park is not apparent. Like its predecessors, designed to utilize the New York public's principal breathing place, it is of course doomed to failure, but the proposal simply demonstrates the necessity for eternal vigilance on the part of the public to prevent special interest from gaining a foothold in our already limited park spaces. Once the slightest recession from the position so far maintained—that our parks may not be invaded under any circumstance—is made, there would be no end to the schemes for their further despoliation.

THE PUBLIC BUILDINGS BILL

IT IS reported that a decision was reached at a recent conference of the leaders of the House to pass the Public Buildings bill carrying appropriations of approximately \$30,000,000 at the present session of Congress. This decision appears, in a sense, in the nature of a defiance of the condition of the treasury and the state of public opinion. It has been clearly shown within the year that the practice of making appropriations in lump sum for Federal buildings is unscientific, uneconomical and indefensible from any point of view except the one which has undoubtedly kept it in vogue—namely—that it provides a means by which representatives in Congress can perpetuate their tenure of office.

It is known that President Wilson is opposed to the continuance of a plan so utterly wrong in principle, and it is hoped that his influence, together with that of the more enlightened members of Congress, will be sufficient to defeat the project. If the need for public buildings could be determined by the tests which are ordinarily applied in private business, and they could be constructed in accordance with plans drawn by architects chosen for their ability, our Federal buildings, would soon become examples of architecture worthy of emulation. At present, the policy or plan by which the necessity for buildings and their cost are determined is a public scandal, and the buildings themselves reflect no credit upon our government.



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THE COMMITTEE REPORTS

(Continued from page 402)

definite course of action which it seems wise for the Institute to pursue.

The report of the Lincoln Highway Committee states that there is a genuine and substantial interest in the highway on the part of States and communities. Reports from several States are incorporated in the Committee report and have reference, more or less, to such matters of detail as would properly be of interest to the Committee, which has organized to conserve the architectural integrity of this important roadway, from one end to the other.

It is significant of the very thorough work that has been performed by earlier committees, that the present Committee on Competitions states that it has no change to recommend in the principles underlying the competition documents.

The Committee report states in part:

Very few competitions have taken place, and the programs for these have in almost every instance been effectively handled by the sub-committees. The latter have shown great activity and understanding, due no doubt to a more general appreciation of the Institute's position in competitions. This increased willingness on the part of local sub-committees to attack the problems within their jurisdiction is one of the encouraging features of the year's work. The practice of the Standing Committee has been to encourage the sub-committees to act on their own responsibility, giving advice and counsel when requested to do so. In some instances word of irregular competitions has come to the Standing Committee from individual sources. In such cases the sub-committees having jurisdiction were at once notified and requested to use their good offices, the Standing Committee coming to their assistance only when its aid was requested. It is gratifying to be able to testify to the zealous work done by the sub-committees in matters of this kind, the result of which cannot fail to be of great educational value to the public. In fact, these committees very generally are now performing their logical functions under the Institute's competition system. This naturally brings about more prompt action, creates a better and more widespread understanding of good competition practice, and removes a source of irritation by having local matters adjusted in the locality instead of by a central committee at arm's length.

The oftentimes asked question, "What are the arts allied to architecture?" is answered in the report of the Committee on Allied Arts. This report states:

The Committee on Allied Arts has decided to amend the plan for awarding a medal of honor in the crafts allied to architecture to read as follows:

At their first meeting each year, after having been appointed to office, the Committee on Allied Arts may choose at their discretion one or more of the crafts allied to architecture in which a medal of honor shall be awarded.

The list of crafts which shall be considered as allied to architecture are as follows:

- Wrought Iron.
- Ornamental Bronze or Other Baser Metals.
- Silversmithy or Goldsmithy.
- Ornament-modeling.
- Stone-carving.
- Wood-carving.
- Leaded and Stained Glass.
- Decorative Ceramics.
- Ornament-painting.
- Joinery and Cabinet-work.
- Tapestry and Textiles.

On the approval of the Board of Directors of the name or names so submitted, the Secretary of the Institute shall apprise the candidate or candidates of the fact and shall invite them to attend the ceremony of the presentation.

The plan as it now stands differs from that presented to the Board of Directors in June only in the facts that it is not made mandatory for the Committee to choose a candidate every year and that it gives them latitude to choose more than one candidate in any given craft, for fear that the choice of one only might prove invidious, and permits them also to choose more than one craft to be recipients of the medal. It also allows medals to be awarded in absentia by special permission of the Board of Directors.

In the matter of the medal of honor to painters and sculptors, the Committee begs to report progress.

The craftsman has been aptly called "the architect's alter ego." As the artistic development of the modern building depends so largely on the uplifting of good craftsmanship, no field of effort in which the Institute can properly exert its influence will have better or more lasting results than that which encourages the craftsmen.

The Committee on Public Information is one of the latest committees of the Institute to be appointed. The necessity for

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such a committee became evident some five years ago, or about the time a Congressional committee was investigating the office of the Supervising Architect of the Treasury Department. The daily press was so filled with incorrect and misleading references to the practice of architecture that the necessity for an intelligent correction became apparent. The continuation of this committee, and the exhaustive report made by Mr. F. L. Ackerman, chairman, indicates the wisdom of the committee's creation and the wide field of usefulness that it fills. Referring to the apathy of the daily press in the question of architecture as an art, the report states that these conditions are recognized by many in the profession and the remedy proposed is that material related to the subject of architecture and professional practice should be published as advertising and paid for by the Institute or by a chapter. A notable instance of this form of publicity is a circular of information and suggestion to persons interested in building operations, issued by the Iowa Chapter. Further reference to this circular is unnecessary, it having been already commented on at some length in *THE AMERICAN ARCHITECT*. It was distributed during the convention and it is to be hoped that an example, so very laudable, will be followed by many other chapters. The report of the Committee on Public Information concludes with the following suggestions:

Your Committee hesitates to put in the form of resolutions its specific recommendations because of the feeling that the same would tend to crystallize a problem for study into a formula for execution. It, however, makes the following suggestions regarding its conception of what should really constitute the work of the Committee on Public Information, and repeats its suggestions of previous years regarding the relation of the Committee to the Committee on Publications and the Journal:

(a) That the study of the Government building problem, the formulation of an adequate public building policy, the vigorous advocacy of the same, and the making of this the central theme of the Institute work in connection with its general policy of public information, would render unnecessary any effort on the part of the national body to instruct the public concerning our stand-

ard of ethics, whether published as news or as advertising.

(b) That any rational and effective policy of public information involves a complete readjustment of our entire educational systems; and that this problem should be studied most thoroughly to the end that definite suggestions be formulated.

(c) That the studies, the investigations, the tentative proposals, the suggestions and the formulated recommendations regarding the above be presented in the Journal from time to time so that the final policies when they shall have become definite, shall be the integrated expression of the entire body of Institute membership.

A very large measure of undertaking is outlined in the report of the Committee on Materials and Methods. In this connection it may be observed that only the high character of the Institute and those engaged in the work can prevent a general distrust of the recommendations that will be set forth as receiving the sanction of the Institute.

The method outlined during the formative period of this committee's work is as follows. We quote from the report:

At the start the idea is to confine the main efforts of the Committee to the collecting for the use of the profession information concerning new materials or devices, or new methods applied to old materials. When such information comes to the knowledge of a Chapter sub-committee, it will be its duty to forward a full report to your Chairman; and should he deem it of sufficient value, he will in turn make it available to the profession through the columns of the Journal of the Institute in connection with the new Structural Service Department. As the work proceeds your Chairman expects to recommend to the Board of Directors such enlargement of effort as the development of the field warrants.

The report of the Committee on Basic Building Code is a thorough and voluminous document. In fact it is a valuable contribution to the literature of code construction, and as a brief notice would not be commensurate with its worth, its discussion is deferred until a later issue of *THE AMERICAN ARCHITECT*.

The Committee on Fire Prevention announces in its report that it has, during the past year, taken an active part in the work of the National Fire Protection Association.

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The report states that "The Committee finds an ever-increasing interest manifested by the public in the fire-prevention propaganda, not only as to plan, construction, materials and fire-extinguishing equipments, all of which are really matters of fire-protection rather than fire-prevention and are of particular interest to the architect, but also as to purely fire-prevention matters, such as cleanliness and order about the house, use of matches, gasoline, storage of paper, rags and other inflammable material.

"From a fire-resistive standpoint, our modern public buildings, including theaters and our buildings for business of all kinds, also for manufacturing, storage, hotels and apartments, are the best in the world, although in some cases not up to the standard, but where we are really deficient is in the construction of dwellings, particularly of the suburban type. Here is where we need improvement."

The report of the Committee on Preservation of Natural Beauties and Historic Monuments in the United States deals interestingly with the preservation of Niagara Falls and the threatened damage to its scenic beauty by the diversion of the water to power purposes.

This report states in part:

Briefly stated, two general aspects of the case are presented by those who would relax the existing prohibitive laws which now govern the utilization of the river for hydro-electric power; on the one hand there is a frank disregard for the Falls as a spectacle, its scenic value being estimated in terms of dollars and cents and represented as of little moment compared with its commercial value to the growing industries now established at Niagara, and to the users of coal as fuel in the vicinity who it is claimed are in crying need of the power of the Falls now being wasted. On the other hand, it is held by those who profess an interest in the beauty of the Falls as well as in the development of hydro-electric power that there is room for a vastly greater diversion of the river, not only without detriment to the Falls but, on the contrary, to its advantage as a spectacle, if certain measures are adopted to prevent what is described as the "suicide of the Horseshoe Falls." This point of view is being seriously discussed by engineers, and in an address before the National Editorial Association at Niagara Falls by a past president of the American Electrochemical So-

ciety this view of the situation was expressed as follows:

"Of all the agencies tending to reduce the beauty of the Falls, the unrestricted natural flow of water is greatest. Over 75 per cent of the total flow falls over the horseshoe within a relatively small width. Its erosive force is such that it is cutting back the cliff at the rate of several feet yearly, and this process appears to be going on at an increasing rate. The result of this is that a larger and larger proportion of the water falls at this point, and that the edges of the Falls are denuded, a process which an eminent engineer has referred to as 'The Suicide of Niagara Falls.' There is no incompatibility between the considerably greater use of Niagara Falls for industrial purposes and the maintenance of its beauty. It is a relatively simple engineering matter, though of course one of some magnitude, to deflect and control the flow so as to distribute the water in such a way as to cover the crest better, to prevent the erosion at the peak of the horseshoe with its beauty-destroying tendencies, to release at the same time for power-generation an enormous volume of water which at present adds nothing to the scenic effect, and also at the same time to affect favorably the fluctuations in height of Lake Erie and so improve navigation conditions there. This is not a suggestion of engineers interested in the power-development, but of engineers of the War Department."

While these various phases of the question are under consideration, and pending the introduction of any contemplated legislation bearing on the subject, your Committee feels that its best course is to continue in touch with the situation so that it may be prepared to act should occasion offer to involve the Institute on either side of the discussion.

The report of the Committee on Government Architecture was made a special order for the afternoon of Thursday, December 7, and was presented by the chairman, Mr. Charles A. Coolidge, in the Hall of Representatives in the State House in St. Paul.

In its report the committee urged the co-operation of members of the Institute and the general public in securing such laws as will not only insure the better development of Government architecture, but also a more satisfactory solution of every question concerning art, than exists at the present time.

Excerpts from the report of the committee follow:

Perhaps never before has the time been so opportune, or the Institute so well prepared

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to lead the popular understanding to better things, and it is to the people who elect the representatives in Congress that the appeal must be made. For a long period of years the construction of important public buildings proceeded in orderly fashion under the provisions of the Tarsney Act, a piece of constructive legislation which—at the time of its enactment—was a long step in advance, but which nevertheless fell far short of a complete solution of a complicated problem. Since the repeal of the Act, however, the Government has had no well-defined policy.

The most important of the Institute's activities during the present year in connection with the work of the Government has undoubtedly been between its opposition to the passage of an Omnibus Public-Buildings Bill, framed on the old-fashioned spoil system, and its campaign for the adoption of a policy which would take the location and construction of public buildings out of politics. Here again the Institute's campaign has met with an extraordinary degree of public approval and support.

We have been told that Congressmen will never surrender their perquisites in the shape of public-building appropriations, and yet influential leaders in Congress privately applaud the work which we are doing and urge us forward.

We know that the present system is uneconomical and unbusinesslike; that a new system can be devised only after the most serious study, and that such a system cannot be planned except by experts. It is in recognition of these facts that the Committee on Government Architecture brings forward its recommendation that the Institute urge upon Congress the appointment of a Commission of Experts with ample time and funds at its disposal to make a thoroughly scientific study of the entire question.

In 1901 the Senate of the United States followed this plan in its appointment of an expert Commission to prepare a comprehensive plan for the development of the Park System of the District of Columbia. The make-up of the Commission then appointed was such as to command immediate respect, not only in Congress but throughout the country. A Public-Building Commission composed of men of equally high standing in their respective callings would command the same respect to-day. Until such a study has been made it would be idle for the Institute to propose any specific legislation. After a plan has been devised there will remain the important question as to how it can best be put into operation, through what governmental agency, whether by a bureau of an existing department, or by the creation of an existing department or by the creation of a Bureau of Public Works which might ultimately be

absorbed in a Ministry of the Fine Arts with a Cabinet officer at its head as in many European countries. But these are all academic questions at the present moment, and there will be many differences of opinion as to details. There will, however, be no dissent from the general proposition that the problem is a large and highly technical one which demands the best and most unbiased expert study for its proper solution.

The following resolutions were adopted at this meeting:

WHEREAS: Every public building in the United States, whether built by the national Government, the state or any municipal group, should be planned, designed, erected and equipped to give the maximum result in expenditure, convenience to the public, ease of operation and beauty of appearance, and thus constitute a fitting emblem of the principles upon which this Government was founded, and

WHEREAS: The process of initiating and completing public-building projects in the United States is not infrequently contaminated with the mischievous influence of political favoritism and incompetence, thereby wasting the public money and securing an inferior result, and

WHEREAS: The method of appropriating money out of the United States Treasury for post offices, custom houses, court-houses and other necessary Government buildings has its basis not upon sound business principles and carefully predetermined needs, but upon the exigencies of the political system, and

WHEREAS: The continuance of this method can only tend toward the corruption of the representative that sponsors the appropriation and of those communities that receive it, and thus exert a malign rather than a beneficial influence upon the development of national spirit and ideal, and

WHEREAS: The erection of Government buildings upon the present unbusinesslike method of appropriation not only causes many extravagances in buildings too large and others not needed, but also leads to the erection of many buildings which are far too small and are often outgrown before completion, thereby involving additional wasteful expenditures in trying to correct a condition which ordinary business prudence would have foreseen and prepared against, and

WHEREAS: The framing by the United States Government of a public-building policy based upon sound business procedure, thoughtful and earnest approach to each problem, and with suitable safeguards to insure that the plan, design and materials used should reflect the highest attainments in the science of construction and the art of architecture would confer an inestimable benefit upon the nation as a whole, and

WHEREAS: Such a governmental public-

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building policy would serve as a model for all communities and municipal groups and thereby raise the standards of public buildings throughout the country, THEREFORE

BE IT RESOLVED: That the American Institute of Architects in convention assembled unanimously urges upon the Congress of the United States the creation of a commission of experts whose knowledge, experience and integrity shall have been such as to commend the public confidence and respect, which shall be appointed by the President, and whose duty it shall be to study all the elements of the public-building requirements of the Government, and

so soon as may be and with the help of such skilled assistance as may be required and for the compensation of which due provision should be made make known the result of its conclusions to Congress and outline a public-building policy for the Government of the United States, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That a copy of this resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States, the Chairman of the Committee on Public Buildings and Grounds of the Senate and the Chairman of the Committee on Public Buildings and Grounds of the House of Representatives.

Southern California Chapter, American Institute of Architects

Minutes of the one hundredth meeting of members, November 14th, 1916.

For the Board of Directors, the secretary reported a meeting held on November 7th, at which the question of electing certain chapter members to life membership was discussed. H. B. Cody, Lester H. Hibbard, Mott C. Montgomery and Ross G. Montgomery were declared elected to chapter membership.

For the Committee on Institute Membership, Mr. A. F. Rosenheim reported that applications for Institute membership from thirteen chapter members were in the hands of the Institute's Board of Directors and that six more would be sent before the first of the coming year.

Communications were next read as follows:

From the Merchant Plumbers' Association, protesting certain action of the Builders' Exchange in attempting to make general the practice of sub-contracting plumbing work.

From the Southwest Museum requesting aid in the securing of members and funds for the furtherance of their work.

From Mr. E. C. Kemper, executive secretary of the American Institute of Architects, calling this chapter's attention to the custom of calling a special meeting to act upon committee reports and instruct local delegates in the matters therein set forth for their guidance when attending the convention. The president was authorized to call a special meeting

at such time and at such place as he saw fit to consider these documents.

From the Industrial Bureau of the Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce, extending an invitation to the chapter and the Board of Directors to be present at an informal reception at the Chamber of Commerce on Thursday evening, November 16th.

Under the head of unfinished business, the deferred annual report of the A. I. A. Sub-Committee on Competitions was read and copy of report ordered filed in the records of the chapter.

Discussion followed relative to a competition called for in the State of Arizona for certain State work. The Committee on Competitions was ordered to take note of this competition and send out notices of disapproval in so far as the program did not conform with the standard form of competitions of the American Institute of Architects.

Under the head of new business, the reading of the Institute's constitution and by-laws, and the amendments thereto, was taken up and all sections as amended were approved and delegates instructed to vote for the same, with the exception of Section 6, Article 6, of the by-laws, pertaining to affiliations, or a form of membership known as Associates of Chapters. Lengthy discussion followed relative to the advisability of approving this form of membership, and upon motion made, seconded and carried, the chapter resolved that delegates should go to the convention uninstructed on this particular section.

Announcement was further made by the president of an attempt to be made in the coming Legislature to amend the Architectural Practice Law.

The purpose of the amendment to this law is to correct the following weak points:

That by failing to place a reasonable exemption limit upon small buildings which may be planned by others than certified architects it imposes more or less of a hardship upon small operators, and particularly upon those living in the country districts and villages where there are no architects.

That the paragraph in the present law providing for the non-certificated architect very materially weakens the law, and leads to, and actually invites, all sorts of violation and litigation that would be entirely eliminated if this paragraph were stricken out.

That the law at present fails to define the status of an architect, does not clearly differentiate between the status of the architect and his various assistants, and which might open up a debatable question on technicalities if brought into litigation.

These weak points remedied, it is the belief of the chapter that the act would be ideal in the protection of the public.

A Movement for the Appointment of a Washington State Architect

It is reported from the State of Washington that a bill has been prepared and will soon be presented to the State legislature, providing for the appointment of a State Architect.

It is further alleged that the plan has not the sanction of the Washington chapter, and that the influence of that body will be exerted toward the defeat of the measure.

Personal

Mr. W. Carby's Zimmerman, architect, announces that he has admitted Mr. R. W. Zimmerman and Mr. Albert Moore Saxe to full partnership, and that the firm will continue the practice of architecture under the name of Zimmerman,

Saxe & Zimmerman, at the address as heretofore, 64 East Van Buren Street, Chicago, Ill.

Messrs. Macneil & Macneil, architects, with offices in the Union Trust Building, Washington, D. C., announce the opening of an office for general practice in the Lexington Street Building, Baltimore, Md.

INDUSTRIAL INFORMATION

Bestwall

The Bestwall Manufacturing Company, Chicago, Ill., has recently issued a catalog describing its product which is designated "a ready-made wall in sheets, more even and more economical than lath and plaster." Bestwall consists of a sheet of gypsum hard wall plaster, reinforced on both sides by layers of heavy paper, mineralized. It is put together in a semi-liquid or plastic state, and when hardened becomes, it is stated, an impervious, fireproof, ready-made wall.

The advantages claimed for the material are that it is fireproof, cool in summer and warm in winter (because it is an insulator) and that it saves coal bills by reason of this property. It is further recommended as a silencer or a deadener of sound. Attention is also called to the fact that walls made of this material do not crack. Other advantages are enumerated and much data given in regard to the use of this material.

Copy of the catalog may be had upon request.

Window Coal Chute

The Columbia Iron and Wire Works, Canton, O., has issued a folder illustrating various types of coal chutes manufactured by this company for use in basement windows or in the sidewalk adjacent to the building wall. The doors to these chutes are furnished either solid or glazed with wire glass. A number of sizes and types are furnished to fit various requirements. The advantages attending their use are obvious. Copy of the folder will be furnished upon request.

