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THE BATHS OF CARACALLA, AT ROME.

A ruin, illustrating the immense size of the building from which the work and materials required may be judged.

The Building Methods of the Roman Empire

BY CLEMENT HEATON

ANCIENT art in Europe, being so largely derived from that of the Roman Empire, any information concerning the system of working in use there will throw light on the actual remains so generally studied. While direct records have not been given to us, much information has been incidentally preserved, and has been gathered up by indefatigable students. In his book, "L'Art de Bâtir chez les Romains," Auguste Choisy has collated the results.

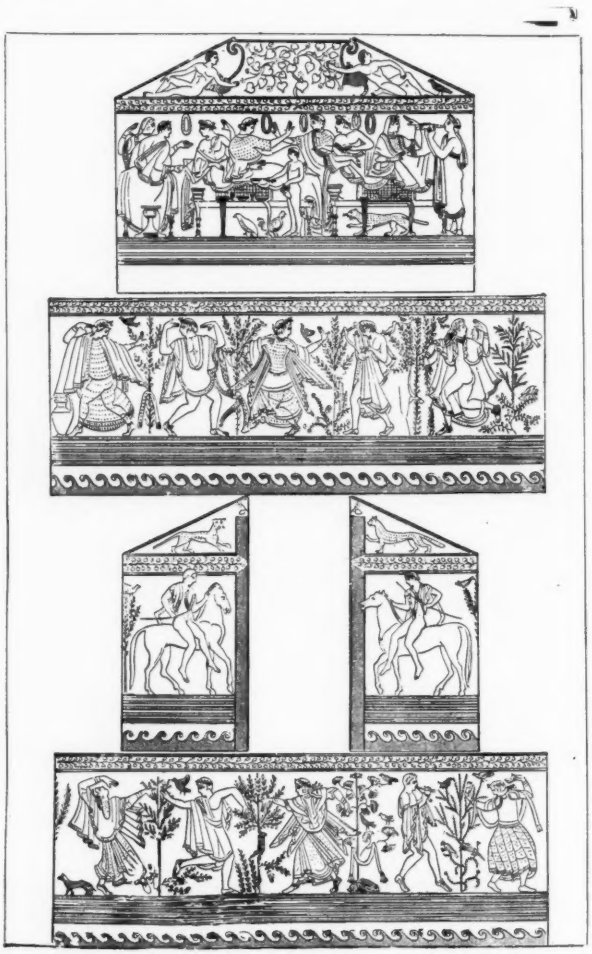
Roman art was not only a reflection of Hellenic art, but was the continuation of preceding Etruscan art, and much that was built in Rome was distinct from anything in Greece. Methods in use for working were divided by the Adriatic, and Roman methods and Greek methods were dissimilar. Peculiar elements are found in Roman art, due to Etruscan origin, and it is surmised that the corporations which existed in Rome are due partly to Etruscan precedent.

It is not of so much interest, however, to regard very early times, as it is the first century B. C., when a sudden increase in the public wealth of the city, in the days of Agrippa (63-12 B.C.), led this Emperor to use architecture extensively. He had the political aim of diverting attention from his acts to the sumptuous buildings he erected for pleasure and festivity.

At this time methods of building arose which, once introduced, remained stationary for over three centuries, as sound traditions which resisted change and made no further progress. This is so different from the course of Gothic art, where incessant change and variety are inherent, and that which lies behind is the more interesting.

At this period at Rome, Decoration and Structure were almost independent, each obeying different and even opposing laws. While the decorative side of architecture was decadent in the Third Century A.D., construction was flourishing till the time of Diocletian (284-305). Even later, the magnificent vaulting of the Basilica of Maxentius was built when there was decline in sculpture, making a strange discord which lasted till the time of Constantine, when construction also suddenly declined. After this, in the Fourth and Fifth Centuries, the art of vaulting peculiar to the Romans dwindled to insignificance, and wooden roofing almost entirely took its place.

These changes correspond to the life of the community as a whole, and the causes are not difficult to perceive. A document, dated 334 A.D., four years after the transfer of power to Byzantium, contains the phrase: "Architectis quam plurimus opus est, sed quia non sunt." This transfer broke down in a most unexpected manner a tradition which had been in existence from Augustus to Constantine. For some time afterward work still went on, but the glory of Rome departed with its Emperor.



ETRUSCAN MURAL PAINTING FROM A TOMB AT CORNETO.

But the art of the Roman Empire was not only established in the City of Rome. In Syria a peculiar local type is encountered; in Greece the persistence of Hellenic forms is seen, while an Etruscan influence is discernible at Perugia. In Gaul, Roman remains are of a distinct type, and in Britain the comparative uncouthness of the work indicates that it was done in an outlying province of the great Empire, and was under a disadvantage there. Native processes of decoration survived from the art in use previous to the Roman conquest. Local schools can be discerned in statuary, ceramics, medals and mosaics. Though one impulsion from the heart of the Empire to every part is to be perceived, with this innumerable local features are found, giving to each locality its regional type.

Now each colony, each municipality, had corporations which were depositaries of these local practices and traditions; each locality had certain kinds of material, with a climate which obliged artisans to work in accordance with special conditions. In Syria workable stone abounded, in Helvetia the forests offered an abundance of wood wherewith to make any quantity of brick and tile, hence this was much used, and as stone abounded also suitable for sculpture, this is found used for this purpose.

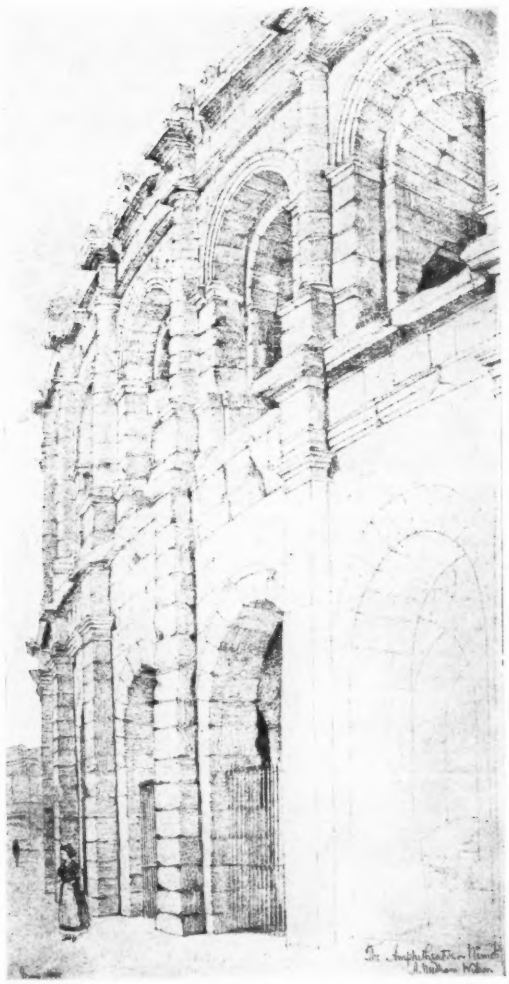
GALLO-ROMAN SCULPTURE.
An altar of Mercury, found at Avignon, France

Regional diversity is seen, of course, in succeeding ages after the fall of the Empire. Lombard art was realized in stone and in brick, and the variety in later work arises very largely from the materials used. At Verona, for instance, a particular phase in the design of Gothic monuments evolved out of the great slabs of stone about four inches thick which are still in use by builders to-day.

This variety was also due to the presence of local corporations each of which developed methods of work suitable for their district; in the Seventeenth Century, and later one can see wooden architecture in Switzerland, within short distances, with local types sharply defined, with the insignia of the local carpenters who created the type carved on the buildings. The old idea, therefore, of Roman art being of one unvarying type, was not true to fact, and it is the more necessary to look at it along with the living factor which caused its existence.

The Collegii.—No written information has been transmitted concerning these corporations, and what is known is due to fragments patiently gathered up by scholars. But the great fact is established that an association of workmen existed, separated by their life from the rest of the Roman community, with an hieratic organization and a system of privileges and servitudes. This association was at the disposal of the Emperor for building public monuments.

As these corporations slowly took form, with interior organization, they excited the hostility of the aristocratic government of the time of the Tarquins.



GALLO-ROMAN CONSTRUCTION, ALL IN STONE.
The Ampitheater, Nimes, France. Drawn by A. N. Wilson

Their existence was menaced, but the spirit of association triumphed over this opposition, and ultimately the workers of Rome formed themselves into free, strongly constituted societies, whose complete organization rendered them to some extent independent of the central authority.

This organization only came to maturity in the latter part of the city's history, when it received recognition after a period of conflict of about eight centuries. The corporations became a regular institution under Hadrian (A.D. 117-138), and their organization seems to have been derived from the more general military organizations. They finally gained such prestige that they enjoyed the power to vote with Roman citizens of the first class. Many were workers in wood or metal, holding rank as semi-military bodies who provided the equipment of the army.

They were put under interdict in the First Century B.C., but were restored to favor under the Emperor Claudius. Suppressed again by Julius Caesar, a few groups were allowed to remain for the sake of public welfare, and probably the builders were among these.

At last, in the reign of Nero (54-68 A.D.), they were completely recognized, the Emperor putting himself at their head by causing himself to be ordained a priest of their body, thus taking the direction of a power he could no longer oppose, and becoming "Pontifex Maximus."

In the time of the Trajan (98-117 A.D.) there was renewed suppression, and in the Second Century the curious state of things existed in which the colleges in the city were officially recognized, while in the provinces they were repressed. Finally, under Hadrian, opposition ceased entirely, and the Emperor bent his energy to making them the instrument of his political enterprises.

There is something portentous in so long a conflict between two great powers, the Imperial and the Popular. When it is perceived, it is also realized that the study of Roman art, apart from this life-power which produced it, is something like the discredited science of conchology, which only took stock of the shell and ignored the living creature which had built it!

The colleges now ceased to be free, having become one of the regular and official institutions of the State. This change was the starting point of a new order of things, which lasted through the period from Hadrian to Theodosius II (117-450 A.D.). During this period the corporations were subjected to rigorous treatment, particularly after they had been fully organized under the Antonines (138-180), though this is the greatest and happiest period of Roman history.

English Details No. 4

STAIRCASE, THE COMMANDERY, WORCESTER

There are two things of exceptional importance in the quiet town of Worcester—its cathedral and the Commandery. The present cathedral is situated on the left bank of the Severn, on a site formerly occupied by a church built by St. Wulfstan in the 11th century. From the cricket green on the right bank a very charming view of the cathedral is seen, with its beautiful spires above the town.

To this same St. Wulfstan is attributed the Commandery, which is in Sidbury, to the southeast of the cathedral, perhaps the most interesting of the ancient houses of Worcester. Originally founded in the 11th century as a hospital, suppressed in 1524, and now private property, it is a fine example of Tudor domestic architecture, with its beautifully proportioned hall, stained glass, and staircase.

This staircase gives at first hand a glimpse of the simplicity and truthfulness that was characteristic of that period—a period that gave England her first paneled interiors.

The Dignity of the Eighteenth Century Architecture

The author of an article published in a recent issue of *The Architects' and Builders' Journal* of London states that "it is hardly too much to say that the eighteenth-century tradition of sobriety and serenity in art is the most potent force in the architecture of to-day—the more so since in principle, if not in form, its genealogy can be traced to Greece, though not in unbroken line."

He is moved to this statement by reason of the demolition of eighteenth century buildings, "nearly always models of dignity and repose," replaced on the pretext of "improvement" by other buildings whose architecture does not compensate for the loss of the older buildings.

London is no greater, if as great, a sufferer in this respect than our older cities in the United States. In English cities there yet remain many dignified eighteenth-century buildings. In this country these buildings have become almost non-existent. Especially is this true in New York, where the dignified examples of the so-called "Greek revival" constituted the best we had in architecture of a certain period. There are few left and those that remain now find themselves hemmed in by towering structures or so altered, often to permit of commercial occupancy, as to make the observer feel that their complete removal would be far more satisfactory than their present disfigurement.

THE · COMMANDERY · WORCESTER

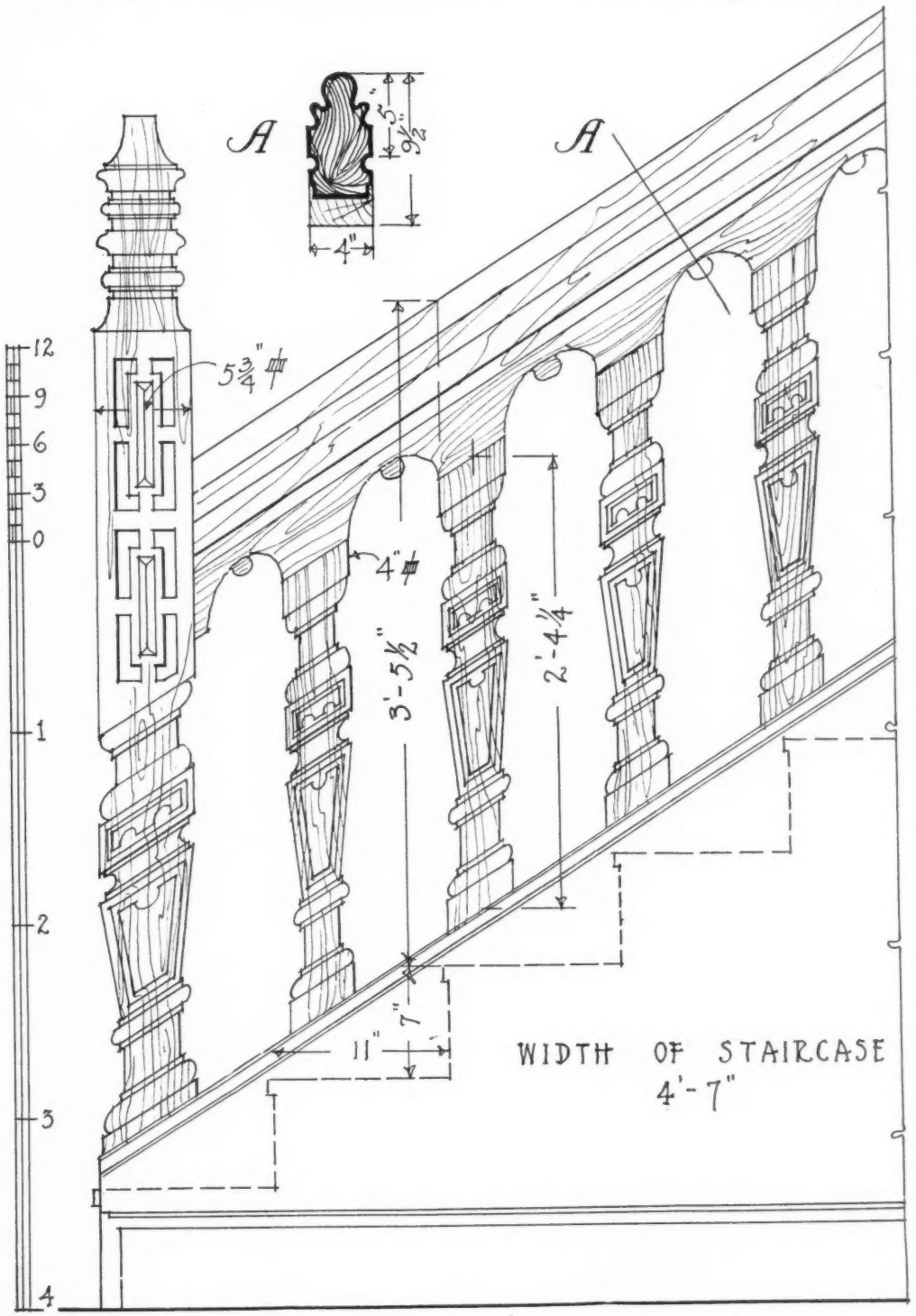


PLATE 11

STAIRCASE—THE COMMANDERY, WORCESTER.

DRAWINGS AND PHOTOGRAPHS
BY WALTER G. THOMAS

ENGLISH DETAILS
NO. 4

PLATE 12

STAIRCASE, THE COMMANDERY, WORCESTER

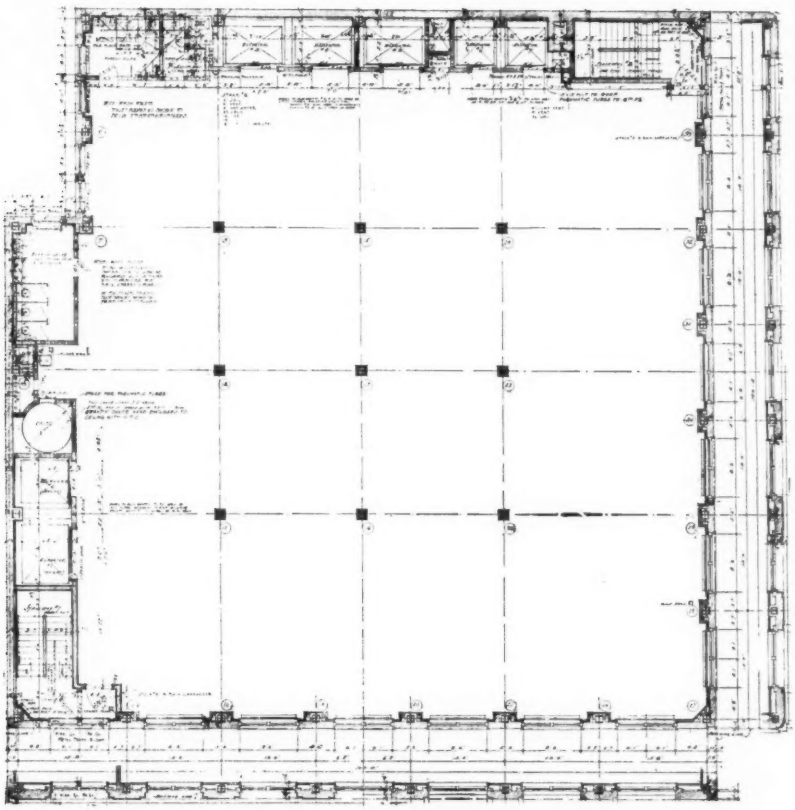
DRAWINGS AND PHOTOGRAPHS
BY WALTER G. THOMAS

ENGLISH DETAILS
NO. 4

PLATE 13

ABERCROMBIE & FITCH BUILDING, MADISON AVENUE, NEW YORK

MESSRS. STARRETT & VAN VLECK, *ARCHITECTS*



TYPICAL FLOOR PLANS

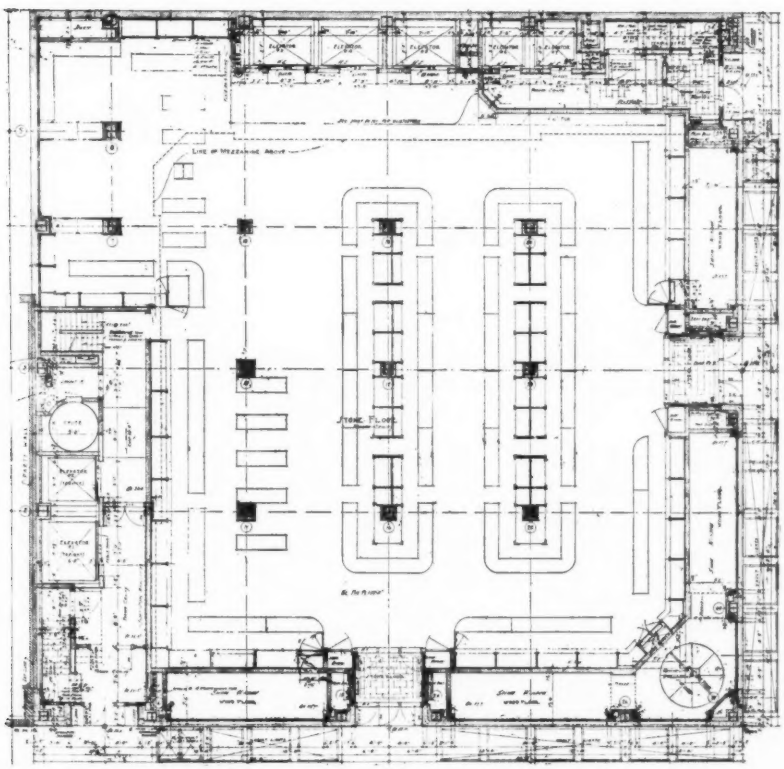


PLATE 14 FIRST FLOOR PLAN

ABERCROMBIE & FITCH BUILDING, MADISON AVENUE, NEW YORK

MESSRS. STARRETT & VAN VLECK, *ARCHITECTS*

PLATE 15 DETAIL OF ENTRANCE ON FORTY-FIFTH STREET

ABERCROMBIE & FITCH BUILDING, MADISON AVENUE, NEW YORK

MESSRS. STARRETT & VAN VLECK, *ARCHITECTS*

PLATE 16 STORE AND SHOW ROOM ON FIRST FLOOR

ABERCROMBIE & FITCH BUILDING, MADISON AVENUE, NEW YORK

MESSRS. STARRETT & VAN VLECK, *ARCHITECTS*

PLATE 17

ADMINISTRATION BUILDING, YOUNGSTOWN SHEET & TUBE COMPANY, YOUNGSTOWN, OHIO

MESSRS. GRAHAM, BURNHAM & CO., *ARCHITECTS*

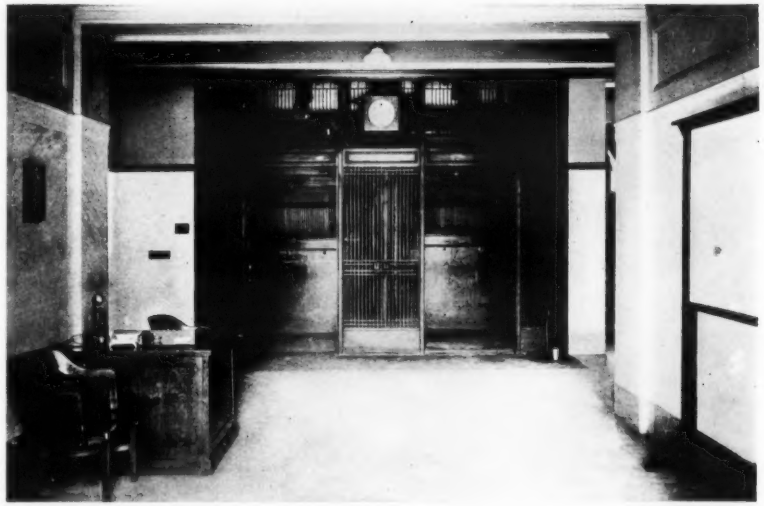
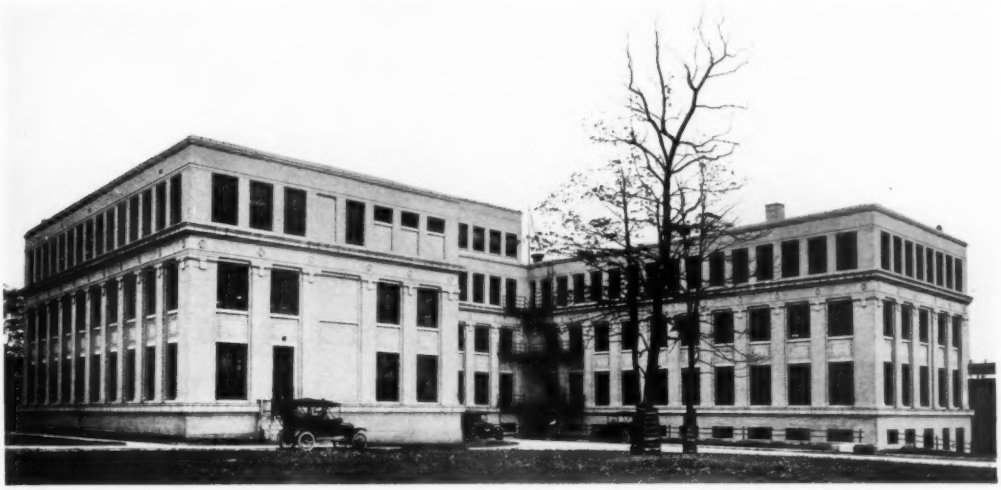
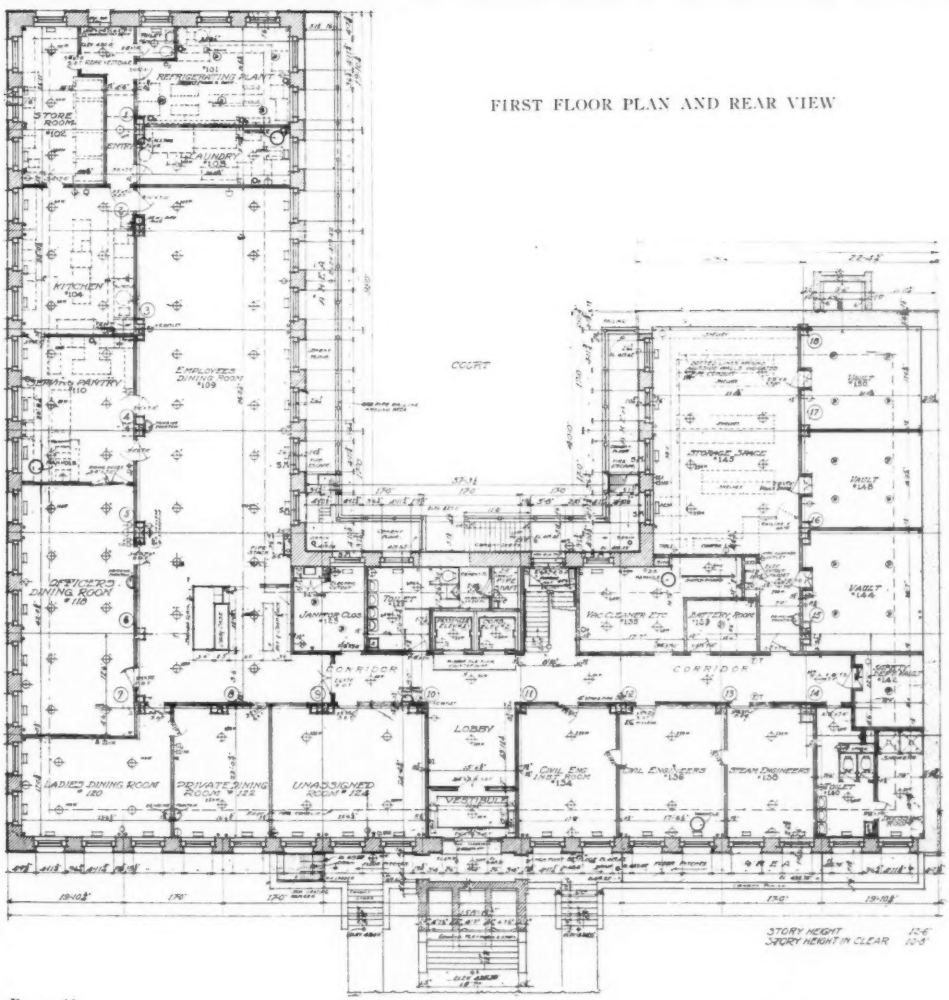


PLATE 18

ADMINISTRATION BUILDING, YOUNGSTOWN SHEET & TUBE COMPANY, YOUNGSTOWN, OHIO

MESSRS. GRAHAM, BURNHAM & CO., *ARCHITECTS*



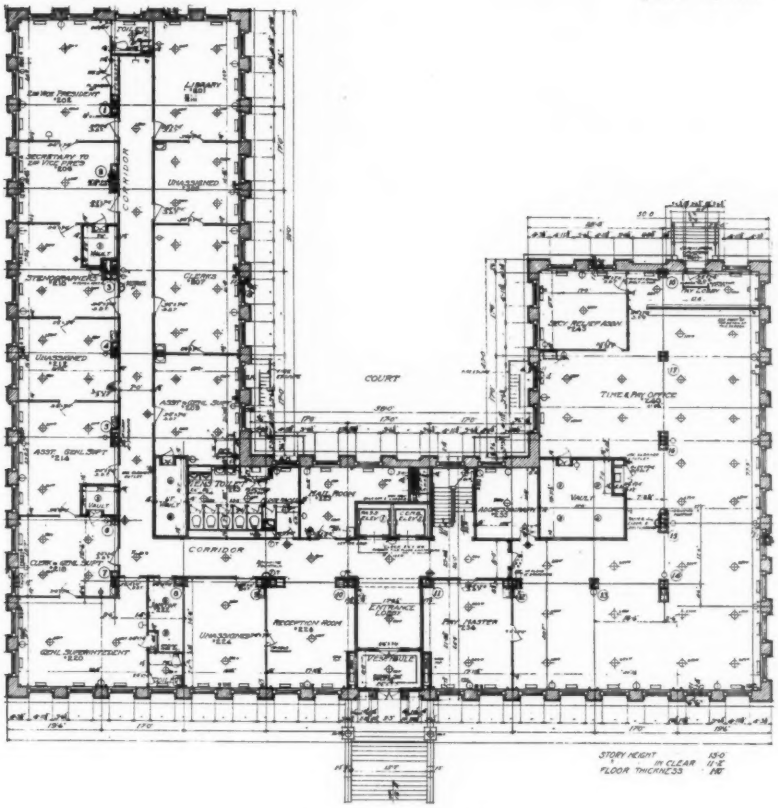


FIRST FLOOR PLAN AND REAR VIEW

PLATE 19

ADMINISTRATION BUILDING, YOUNGSTOWN SHEET & TUBE COMPANY, YOUNGSTOWN, OHIO

MESSRS. GRAHAM, BURNHAM & CO., *ARCHITECTS*



SECOND FLOOR PLAN

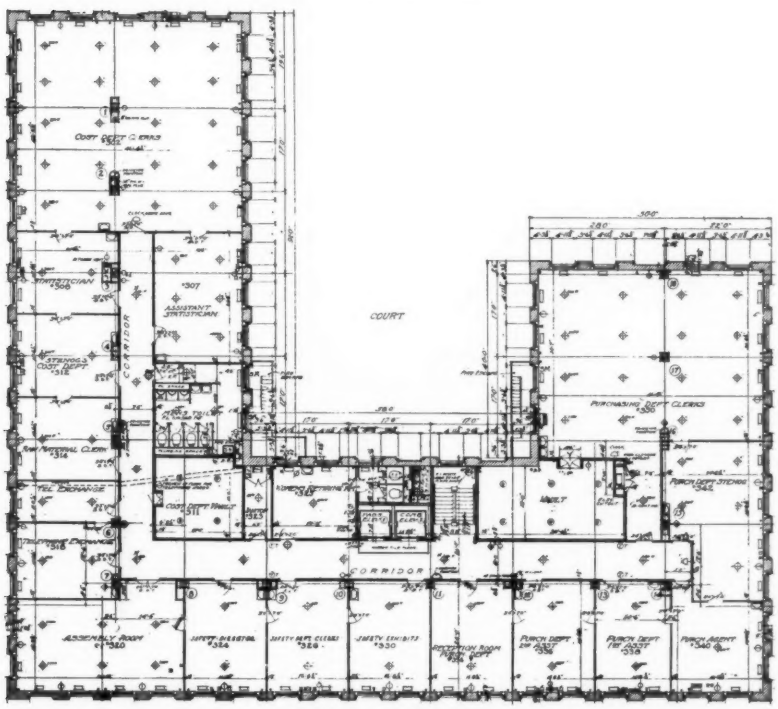
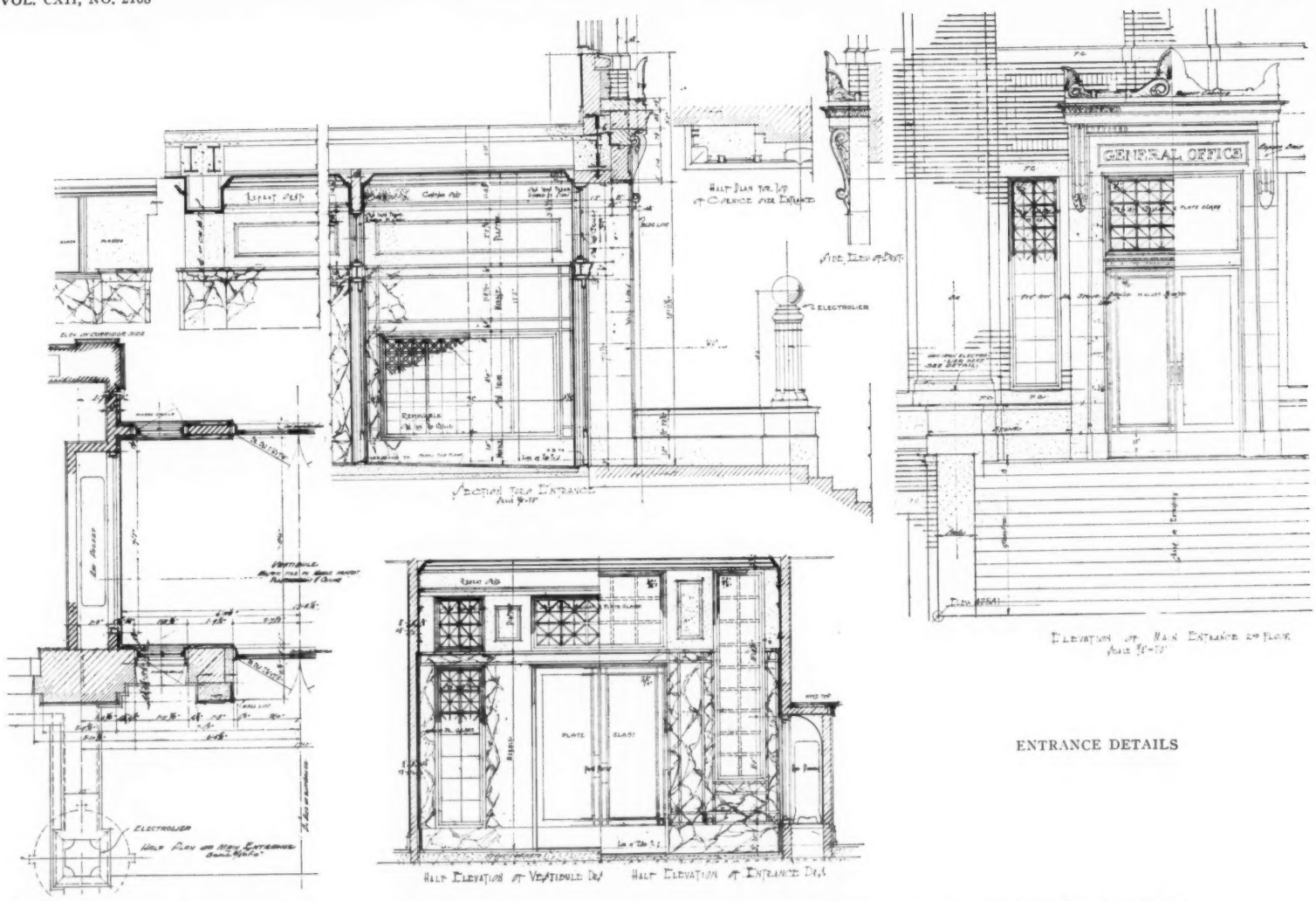


PLATE 20 THIRD FLOOR PLAN

ADMINISTRATION BUILDING, YOUNGSTOWN SHEET & TUBE COMPANY, YOUNGSTOWN, OHIO

MESSRS. GRAHAM, BURNHAM & CO., *ARCHITECTS*

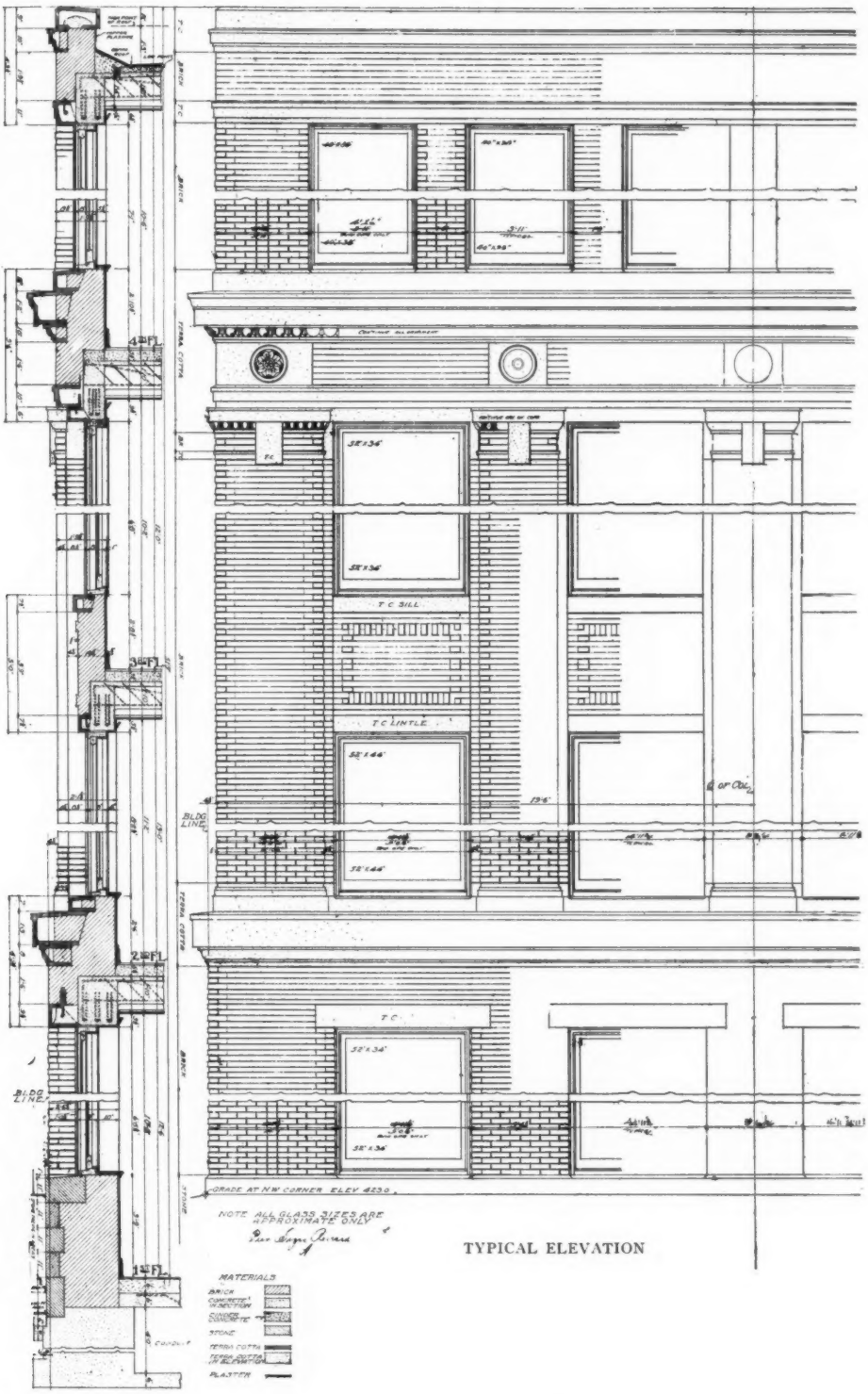


ENTRANCE DETAILS

PLATE 21

ADMINISTRATION BUILDING, YOUNGSTOWN SHEET & TUBE COMPANY, YOUNGSTOWN, OHIO

MESSRS. GRAHAM, BURNHAM & CO., *ARCHITECTS*



TYPICAL ELEVATION

PLATE 22

ADMINISTRATION BUILDING, YOUNGSTOWN SHEET & TUBE COMPANY, YOUNGSTOWN, OHIO

MESSRS. GRAHAM, BURNHAM & CO., *ARCHITECTS*

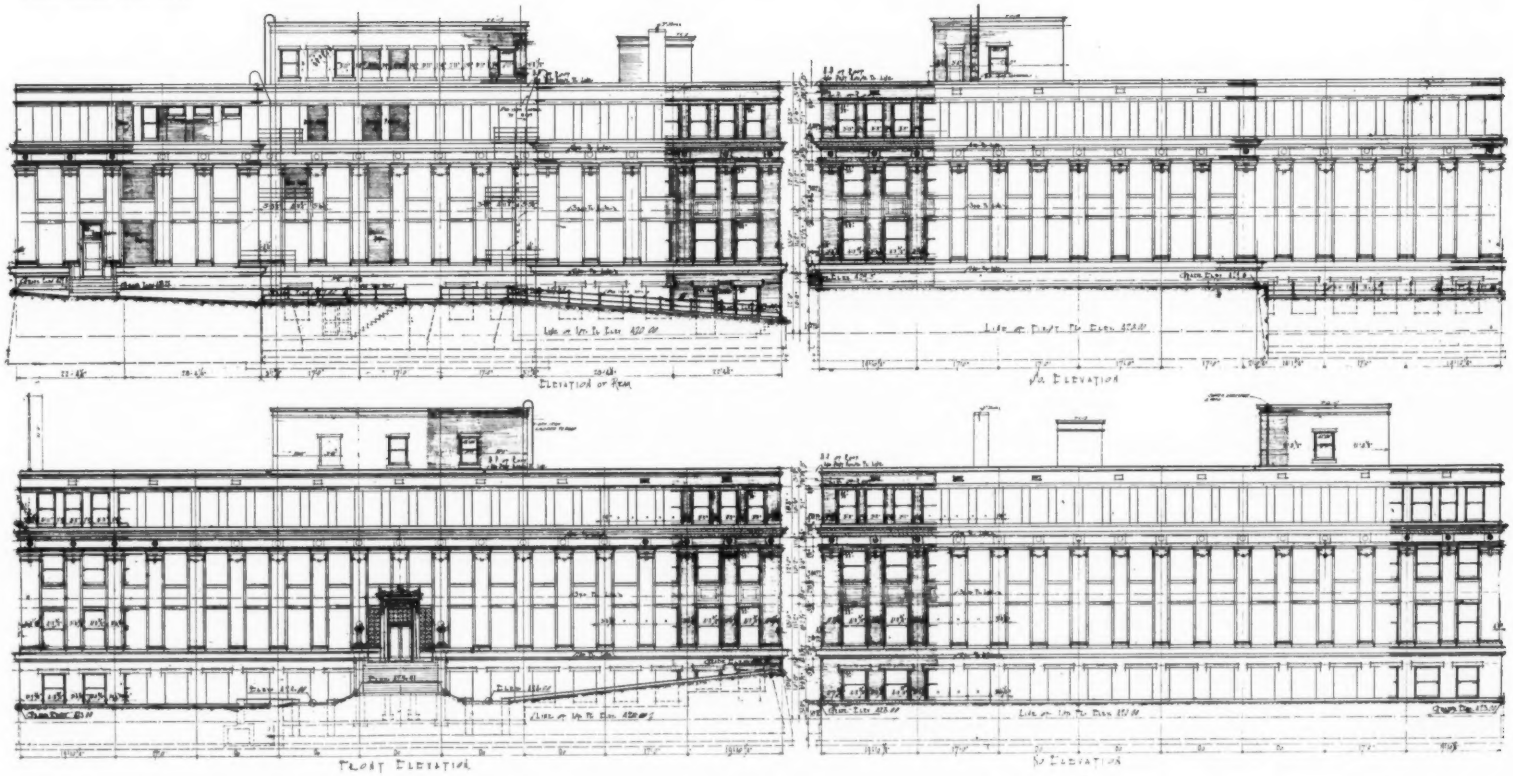


PLATE 23

ELEVATIONS

ADMINISTRATION BUILDING, YOUNGSTOWN SHEET & TUBE COMPANY, YOUNGSTOWN, OHIO

MESSRS. GRAHAM, BURNHAM & CO., *ARCHITECTS*

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VOL. CXII JULY 11, 1917 NO. 2168

Henry Vaughan

MR. VAUGHAN'S life has been almost a mystery to the present generation of architects. He was an influence rather than a personality to the younger men and a personality which was felt indirectly rather than by the actual work which he accomplished; a man who was of very retiring disposition, modest to the last degree about his own achievements, mingling but rarely with his fellow architects, never accepting a commission unless he could personally attend to every detail thereof, his whole life wrapped up in the art of his profession, endowed with a sense of fitness which is reflected in every line of his finished product, a man who exerted a surprising influence in an almost absolutely unseen manner. We knew Mr. Vaughan as typifying the best and purest expression of English Gothic architecture which this country has seen. He was never at fault for artistic expression, never in doubt as to what was the right thing to do and absolutely refused to do anything but what his architectural conscience told him was right. We have only too few of this sort in the profession. Uncompromising to the last degree, but doing his work so well and with such infinite care and with such wonderful results that though he worked in a style in which few architects even cared to attempt and only a very few ever mastered, his influence on the work of the profession was very strong, in just the way that Mr. Richardson's Romanesque was a powerful incentive to the development of the present Italian Rennaissance work we are doing in this country. The fundamental principles of good architecture were so thoroughly understood by Mr. Vaughan that with his intense devotional spirit his buildings could not fail to have a high value and he worked on up to the very month of his death without any diminution of this earnest spirit. It is given to few men in this world to be able during a long life of active participation in professional work to turn out so uniformly a good product as is manifested by Mr. Vaughan's buildings. They are not many in number: Parts of old Columbia College, a side chapel in the cathedral, the church at Groton; but in every one of them is manifest the same clear appreciation for purity in form and mass and reason in design; while his last great effort, the cathedral at Washington, was a recognition of his pre-eminence in this particular line of work. Nominally this was to be the work of a British architect, but it was Mr. Vaughan's personality that was sure to show in the structure itself. For many years the Boston Society of Architects, of which he was one of the original members, has never seen his face at its meetings, but he was always thought of, spoken of and referred to as an active, living presence for the good of the profession and his death means a vacancy in the ranks which will not be filled by any living architect.

C. H. BLACKALL.

The Atlanta Fire

THE report of the Committee on Fire Prevention of the National Board of Fire Underwriters, on the Atlanta Conflagration, is a document of undisputed value, as it sets forth findings and deductions after a careful investigation by an experienced engineer detailed by the Board.

Briefly summarized, the report states that the Atlanta disaster was essentially a "shingle roof" fire of the, unfortunately, familiar type. It notes that excellent service was rendered by the fire department, commends the assistance rendered by the military, and questions the utility of the dynamiting of buildings.

The emphasis of the report is on bad roofing conditions, summed up in the following statement:

"This conflagration, together with two of the other fires occurring at the same time, emphasizes the ease with which spreading fires may develop in cities where wooden shingle roofs predominate, even when the fire department is mainly well equipped and manned. It illustrates the startling suddenness with which such a fire may grow into a conflagration under favorable conditions.

"For a period of eight hours, the remaining part of the city, including the business district, was practically without fire protection. A shift of the wind during the progress of the fire would have resulted in a corresponding change of the path of devastation, and might have involved the business district, where the high values of the city exist; for it would have been impossible to stop the spread through the shingle roof area which even now extends to the edge of that district."

The chief value of this report is in the facts disclosed as bearing on similarly existing conditions in other cities. There is the same menace of conflagration in every city and village of the United States, with the added possibility of loss of life. Efficiency of fire apparatus, organization and watchfulness are apparently futile when a fire starts under the conditions that existed in Atlanta.

A few cities have taken advantage of the lessons taught by the disasters in Salem, Chester and many other towns and cities, but the greater number are apparently indifferent to the menace of large and quickly spreading fires. No one can tell where the next great conflagration will occur, but it is safe to prophesy that it will take place in a negligent city.

The one important lesson to be learned from these fires, the logical conclusion, would seem to be that untreated wooden shingles should not be permitted in any area where they might serve to extend the conflagration.

In urging that the use of wooden shingles be discontinued, there is a grave possibility that the welfare of a great industry may be endangered and a wrong done to a class of manufacturers who are on record as being equally desirous of preventing these large conflagrations as those who would, by a word, spell the extinction of an industry that represents millions of capital.

The solution of the problem is one that for at least five years has engrossed the attention of experts, and it can be asserted with reasonable certainty that it will not be long before the wooden shingle will be rendered comparatively as safe as many so-called fire resisting roof coverings.

No city, however, would be justified in waiting for the declaration of expert chemists that a means of making wooden shingles less hazardous had been discovered. The obvious duty is to act now in making cities safe from conflagration.

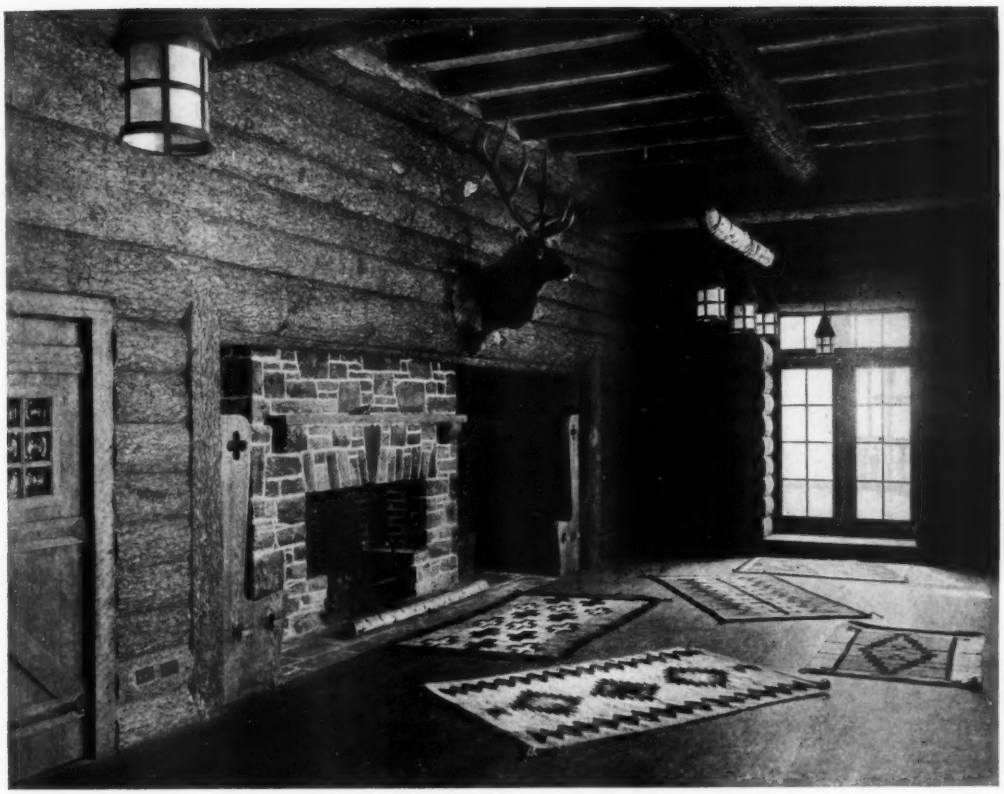
The most important move for public protection against the wooden shingle hazard has originated in the National Lumber Manufacturers' Association. The spirit of co-operation between that association and the National Board of Fire Underwriters is a matter of record.

Dr. Herman von Shrenck, Consulting Engineer to the National Lumber Manufacturers' Association, in collaboration with Dr. Henry A. Gardner of the Institute of Industrial Research, has for a number of years been engaged in experimentation in the production of a paint which would impart to wooden shingles a fire resisting quality. These experiments, it is claimed, have in a large measure resulted in a successful paint that will, when properly applied, serve to reduce the hazard of the wooden shingle to a minimum.

As the final results have not been announced, it would obviously be premature to make any positive statement as to Dr. von Shrenck's experiments, but it is well known among those directly interested that there are good reasons for assuming that the end desired has in a considerable degree been reached. It is a simple act of wisdom to judicially weigh the evidence in any important question, and it is evidence of irresponsibility to loudly condemn a condition without careful investigation. The shortcomings of the wooden shingle are well proven, and it should, in its crude form, as received from the mill, be debarred from use as a roof covering in any locality where it will contribute to the fire hazard. But it would not be wise to ignore the efforts that are being made to find a solution to what is conceded as a present danger and thus very seriously affect a most important industry.

"Competition is the life of trade," but no competition that seeks to strike a killing blow at a well-established manufacture can be considered fair. The shingle manufacturer is keenly alive to the bad name that great conflagrations have given to his product, and the evidence goes to prove he is trying by every means in his power to remove the stigma that attaches.

The skill of the chemist is being exerted on the solution, and, as stated, it is believed very important results will soon be announced. Meantime, it is but common prudence to regard untreated shingles in the light of their previous history in large fires, and to await a development of a protective element that may, in a large degree, solve this vital question.



THE LOG CABIN ROOM ON THE ROOF

Abercrombie & Fitch Building

Madison Avenue and 45th Street, New York

MESSRS. STARRETT & VAN VLECK, ARCHITECTS

THE Abercrombie & Fitch building illustrated in this issue affords an interesting and instructive example of the many and complex problems that are presented to architects for solution.

Modern merchandising has, in common with other modern efforts, become one of specialization. Lines of merchandise that twenty years ago formed but a department of any one of many large stores have now become so diversified in character, so interdependent one on another, as to demand the largest space, and to call for in the handling, groups of experts in the various phases of retailing.

It is a healthy and satisfactory tendency of the everyday life of men and women that they live more "in the open" than ever before. The healthful habit of exercise has become developed, and the demand for all the various equipment and accessories of this athletic tendency are many and diverse. The city athletic club and its country cousin, the country club, have shown a most remarkable architectural development. As any form of exercise, whether indulged in as a recreation or a sport, or for those health-giving qualities that are perhaps the most valuable, is best pursued when one is properly dressed and equipped, there has sprung into existence during the past twenty years an industry that caters entirely to the clothing and every phase of the equipment of those who indulge in the life out-of-doors and the many athletic recreations.

This building has been designed from cellar to roof to serve the purpose of merchandising every

form of equipment for every form of in- or outdoor sport. All the various features called for by the client, and which to him were of the first importance, were of necessity considered by the architects, and the variations of plan, to the minutest detail, studied and re-studied to effect the purpose desired. And when all these various utilitarian purposes had been served there yet remained that which to the architects was of greatest importance, the imparting to the whole structure the best architectural features and a final result that would, as far as their opportunities permitted, afford them the satisfaction of a work well done.

VIEW IN MAIN SALESROOM

The Abercrombie & Fitch building is eleven stories and basement in height, with high parapet around the roof, which makes it appear from the outside to be twelve stories high. It is thoroughly fire resistant, and constructed in accordance with the latest requirements of the Building Department and the Board of Fire Underwriters. It is equipped with a full 100 per cent sprinkler system, with the usual fire tower stairs, inclosed elevator shafts, etc. It is of skeleton steel construction, 120 lb. live load, has two freight and five passenger elevators and low-pressure boilers. To avoid the general and unsightly practice of running the sprinkler-protecting piping, exposed, under beams and girders, an interesting method has been pursued.

The girders and beams were punched at fabricating shops, to a carefully worked out scheme, so that when put in place the sprinkler piping was installed at a minimum clearance between the beams and the soffits of the ceilings.

By this means the piping is barely noticeable, and the result of this method is a marked improvement in sprinkler installations.

A separate entrance is provided on the northerly side of the building along Madison Avenue for the four upper floors, and an entrance hall entirely shut off from the store, with two elevators serving these floors exclusively, to give tenants the best possible facilities.

The building is of especial interest on account of the many features designed to serve the business of

the owners. It was planned with the view to furnishing every possible modern facility that a store of this character could require. It also has many special features designed to meet peculiar requirements. For example, in the basement will be found a specially constructed target range, where high-powered rifles may be tested. Here the sportsmen may pattern their shot guns, and in fact all forms of firearms may be tried out with safety.

The ground floor is richly designed in Elizabethan style. The second to fifth floors are given over to the various departments of the business. On the sixth floor are located the general offices of the company, and the seventh floor is given over to stock.

An interesting feature of the building is the roof, which is designed for the exhibition of outdoor equipment of all kinds. Everything that requires outdoor tests will be available on the roof. The three elevators which serve the store run clear through to the roof, thus giving customers easy access to all of these facilities.

The roof is also equipped with a fly-casting tank, so that sportsmen may try out their flies under actual "wet line" conditions.

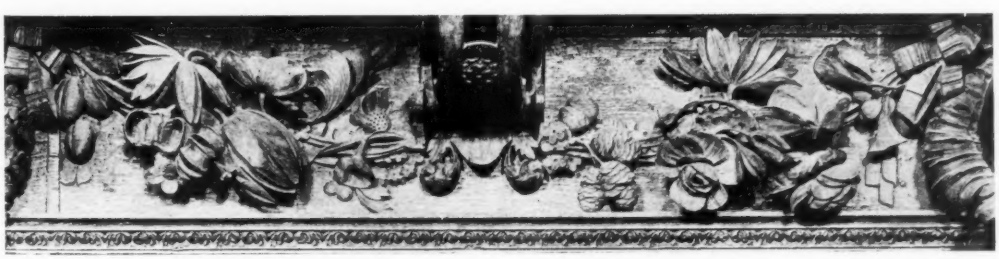
In addition to all of the things above described, there are on the roof three rooms of especial interest. One is a commodious dining room and buffet for employees.

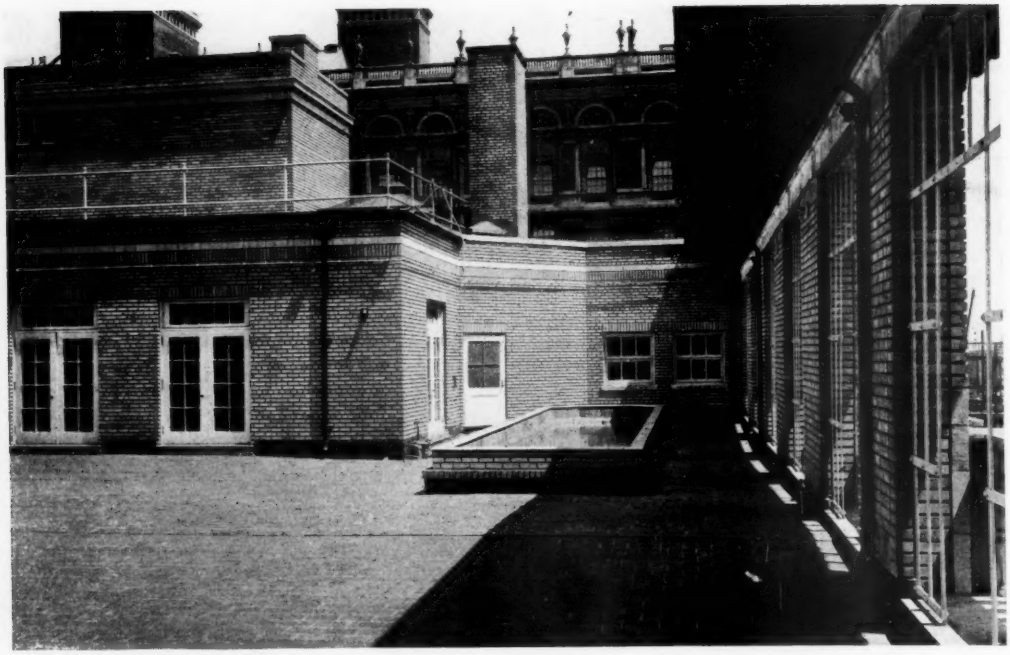
THE DIRECTORS' ROOM

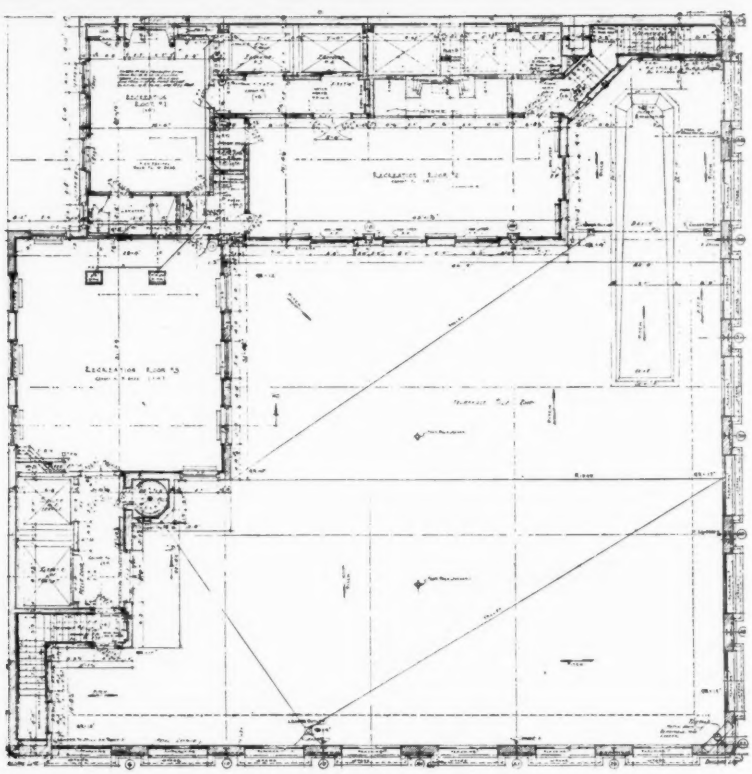
The board of directors' room, handsomely wainscoted in oak and fitted up appropriately in Old English furniture and containing a large Elizabethan fireplace, is perhaps the handsomest room in the building.

A log-cabin room is built in imitation of a camper's log cabin with log constructed walls and a great inglenook fireplace built in a rough stone chimney and surrounded by a flagged stone hearth. This room is about 50 feet long by 20 feet wide, with the inglenook making a jog on one side of it. Here the guides from the north woods will meet their friends and book their camping trips. The room will be furnished in rustic style.

The proximity of the log-cabin room to the employees' dining room is such that it will be possible to serve banquets from the perfectly appointed kitchen. It will also be possible to serve meals in the open on the roof, which is so arranged that tent poles can be set up and a canvas tent bent over its entire area, thus affording a place for such events as dog shows, sportsmen's shows, etc. The elevators are so arranged that this roof can be used at night without the necessity of bringing the public through the store, closed at that time.







VIEW ON ROOF AND ROOF PLAN

ABERCROMBIE & FITCH BUILDING—MADISON AVENUE, NEW YORK.

MESSRS. STARRETT & VAN VLECK, *ARCHITECTS*

A Seventeenth Century English Staircase

WE reproduce from *The Architects' and Builders' Journal* of London, two views of a staircase in a shop at Guildford. In the description of this shop, built in the seventeenth century, the following occurs with reference to the staircase:

"The staircase is of a type not widely adopted in England, although there are several examples of its kind. The newels are stout and plain, and the handrail and strings are correspondingly massive. But the particular feature which is most noteworthy is the boldly carved balustrade. This type is so unlike anything which the traditions of England could supply that the conjecture is probably correct that we owe it to Dutch sources; and in support of this theory may be cited an example quite as fine, if not finer, in that small but interesting house the Brewers' Hall at Antwerp. Provided the theory is correct, it is curious to suppose that while English and Dutch politicians were fighting, the workmen of the two nations should have been fraternizing. (They are fraternizing, with a considerable difference, to-day, at Petrograd and Stockholm.) In harmony with the balustrade are the boldly carved vases which serve as finials to the newels."

DETAILS OF CRAFTSMANSHIP.
STAIRCASE, GUILDFORD, ENGLAND
(From The Architects' & Builders' Journal)

DETAILS OF CRAFTSMANSHIP.
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A Ministry of Fine-Arts

The group of men in England that believe there is a very pressing need for the institution of a Ministry of Fine-Arts are using every possible means to carry to the general public a realization of the benefits that would accrue through such a department.

It has been very plausibly advanced that when the war is over and the many schemes that now lie dormant become active there will in all the haste and confusion be errors made that could not possibly occur if these matters were under one competent, central control.

Mr. Gerald du Maurier in the course of an address when he distributed the prizes at the City of London School, referred to the advantages of a Ministry of Fine-Arts.

"There would be no mean streets," said Mr. du Maurier; "no tawdry palaces, no jerry-built houses, no post-futurist-vorticist-cubists, no 'anyist' pictures

or statues to wound the sight and mar God's beautiful world. Thanks to such teaching in the study of Shakespeare as the boys in the City of London School enjoy, there would be no quarrel whether a picture was by Romney or by Humphrey, whether a settee was made by Chippendale or by Hepplewhite, or by the local carpenter. A thing of beauty is a joy forever, and a work of art is not a cheque. There would be no doubt whatever whether a thing was made in Germany. Thanks to the Minister of Fine-Arts and to Shakespeare, who grouped his wonderful words as Nature did her wild flowers, there would be no commonness of spirit, no ugliness of diction, and everyone in London would speak beautifully." Let us all hope so. Few have urged the necessity for a Ministry of the Fine-Arts more persistently than we have done, but if it is to be as full of round men in square holes as some of our recently chosen Ministries, and as irresponsible to public opinion, we had rather wait a while till we have a Government graced with the gift of judicious selection!

Fifth Avenue Association, New York

The Fifth Avenue Association in New York, through whose well directed efforts all the architectural and commercial possibilities of Fifth Avenue have been conserved, has initiated a movement for the decoration of second story windows of buildings on Fifth Avenue with growing flowers, plants and shrubs. The committee having the matter in charge recommend that no elaborate floral treatment be attempted as this would detract from the shop window displays. It is, however, suggested that a dozen or more shops on each block unite in undertaking this proposed form of window gardening and that the groups of little gardens so formed be placed under the care of some florist, that the boxes may, throughout the year, present an attractive appearance.

Daylight Saving as a War Measure

Daylight saving as a war measure has been adopted by France, Hungary, Italy, Portugal, Sweden, Denmark, Norway, England and Holland. It has also been adopted by Germany.

In France the law is a permanent one. France, by the enactment of this law, is estimated to have effected a saving of at least $10,000,000 a year and England about $12,000,000 a year.

In this country the enactment of a daylight saving law has met general approval. President Wilson and every member of his cabinet have expressed approval of such a measure. The American Federation of Labor, representing organized labor, numerous chambers of commerce throughout the country, all favor turning the clock back for an hour during the summer months.

In response to this widespread sentiment the Senate passed on June 27 a bill establishing by law the standardization of time. The bill delegates to the Interstate Commerce Commission the power to define all limits of the standard time zones into which the United States for the last thirty-four years has been unofficially divided.

In this bill the daylight savings provisions are embodied as follows:

"That at 2 o'clock ante meridian of the last Sunday in April of each year the standard time of each zone shall be advanced one hour and at 2 o'clock ante meridian of the last Sunday in September in each year the standard time of each zone shall, by the retarding of one hour, be returned to the mean astronomical time of the degree of longitude governing said zone, so that between the last Sunday in April at 2 o'clock ante meridian and the last Sunday in September at 2 o'clock ante meridian in each year the standard time in each zone shall be one hour in advance of the mean astronomical time of the degree of longitude governing each zone respectively.

"That this act take effect and be in force from and after January 1, 1918."

The Farmhouse Improved

Under the above title the Kansas State Agricultural College has issued, as its May bulletin, a pamphlet of eighty pages and numerous illustrations that contains articles on the designing, planning and the many accessories that should find place in the modern farmhouse.

The time when the average farmer gave more thought to his barn, his granary and his corn cribs is happily passing. Owing to the educational campaign carried forward in recent years by the agricultural States, the character of the farmhouse is being constantly improved. This tendency is not only a very good thing architecturally, but as in every instance where the architectural surroundings are good the tendency is toward the mental and social uplift of the farmer and his family.

Very important results are being accomplished in the direction of improved housing for farming people, and the present pamphlet will be of considerable interest to architects as showing how Kansas has set about this important work.

The book may be procured by application to the Engineering Experiment Station, Kansas State Agricultural College, Manhattan, Kansas. Ask for Bulletin No. 7.

Final Report of Zoning Committee of New York City

The final report of the Committee on Building Districts and Restrictions of New York City—more commonly known as the Zoning Committee—is a book of 299 pages and 149 maps, charts, photographic views and other illustrations.

It will be an interesting document to residents in New York, but it should be of even greater value to other cities contemplating the passage of laws restricting and defining the location and class of buildings erected.

One of the many interesting features of the book is the pictures showing some results of the former haphazard developments. Pictures show actual conditions in many sections of New York in which factory buildings are cutting off light and air from tenements, and in the downtown office district, where, in the narrow streets lined by thirty-story office buildings, artificial light has to be used near the windows on a sunny day up to a height of twelve or fifteen stories.

A full description is given of the use, height and area districts with the specific boundaries of the several districts in each class covering every part of the city.

The commission tells of the great urgency of the problem that was forced upon New York, with its congested areas containing a greater density of population than any other section of the world. The considerations of business efficiency, convenience and protection for investors from loss by deterioration of the character of shopping and residence districts and protection from appalling fire losses are matched by the considerations of health and the menace to life and limb.

An important feature of this report has reference to that section of the city where large areas may be made available for the segregation of tracts of land on which manufacturing plants might be built.

The report takes cognizance of the fact that few improvements can be made in built-up sections, and urges that the lessons that may be learned from a study of such localities may serve to teach the avoidance of similar errors in the comparatively unimproved outlying sections of the metropolitan districts.

Co-operating with the Government

As instancing the co-operation with the Government on the part of large corporations, it is interesting to note that the Pennsylvania Railroad has put into effect a reduction of train schedules that cuts down the passenger movement of trains to an equivalent of 2,268,000 train miles a year or more than 6,500 train-miles a day.

The purpose of the restriction of passenger trains will be to release trackage and locomotives so as to provide increased facilities for the movement of troops, Government supplies, foodstuffs and other necessary traffic.

An American Architect and a Painter Receive French Decorations

On the occasion of the Fourth of July celebration in Paris, Whitney Warren received the cross of Officer of the Legion of Honor, and William A. Coffin, N.A., was named a Knight of the Legion of Honor.

The Town Memorial

Comment is made in an English architectural journal, on the case of a certain town where it was proposed to erect at a cost of $1,500 a war memorial, in the form of a clock tower. As the amount first proposed would not have been sufficient to erect a memorial of sufficient dignity either to the town or the heroic dead it was proposed to honor, the work was halted and a spirited campaign begun toward the acquiring of a larger fund.

It transpired that when the facts had been placed before the townspeople they promptly realized that the first proposition would have been a grave error.

In place of the $1,500 at first proposed an amount approximating $15,000 has been secured. A competent architect has been engaged and the result will undoubtedly be a memorial that will be a pride to the townspeople and a dignified expression of respect and gratitude to the men whose services it is intended to commemorate.

We may learn some very good lessons in this country at this time from just such instances as that set forth above.

New Colors for Railway Signal Indicators

A new color scheme of signal indications by which white lights will be eliminated altogether has been placed in effect on the Pennsylvania Railroad, east of Pittsburgh.

The decision to eliminate white from the signal color scheme was reached on account of the increasing use of white lights of various kinds in buildings, driveways, roads and streets close or adjacent to the railroad's right-of-way. Under the new plan,

green will replace white for "clear" or "proceed." "Caution" will be indicated by yellow. Red will mean "stop" as heretofore.

The Dangerous Grade Crossing

In California, where the State Railroad Commission has exclusive jurisdiction over all grade crossings, some radical changes are taking place, looking to the safety of these menaces to life.

Among the many recommendations that have been made, none are more important than those urging the removal of all advertising sign boards and the cutting away of trees and shrubbery that mask the tracks and prevent an uninterrupted view.

Every motorist can recall crossings that are approached with more or less trepidation for the reason that he cannot secure a clear view of the track in either direction until so near a point of danger as to constitute a very great risk.

If by reason of the many legal barriers that oppose the removal of sign-boards along rights-of-way we must tolerate what many regard as a positive nuisance, there can be no reasons legal or commercial that would justify their location at or near grade crossings.

California's example is a good one for all States to follow.

University of Illinois

At the Commencement exercises of the University of Illinois, held at Urbana on June 13, Bachelor of Science degrees were conferred on twenty-six graduates in architecture and thirty-one in architectural engineering.

Henry Vaughan Dead

Henry Vaughan, architect, died at his home in Boston on June 30. He was seventy-two years old. An appreciation of Mr. Vaughan's life and work will be found on another page of this issue.

Personal

Walter F. MacGregor and Harvey H. Warwick, architects, have established offices in the Baron Building, St. Cloud, Minn., and would be pleased to receive manufacturers' catalogs and samples.

James M. Green, Jr., formerly of Philadelphia, has opened architectural offices in the Bethlehem Trust Building, Bethlehem, Pa., and will be interested in manufacturers' samples and descriptive literature.

INDUSTRIAL INFORMATION

Three Pamphlets on Paints

Three publications of general interest by Henry A. Gardner, assistant director of the Institute of Industrial Research, Inc., Washington, D. C., deal very thoroughly with paint compositions and uses. A ten-page pamphlet entitled "Notes on Prepared Paints for Metal Surfaces," covers priming paints, protective coatings and waterproofing bituminous paints. Bulletin 52 on Marine Paints is a detailed textbook on the constituents of this class of coatings, the importance of color effects in promoting invisibility of ships, water-line and bottom compositions, and interior paints. Bulletin 54 is devoted to the White Pigment Industry, and describes the white lead, zinc and lithopone paint questions from mining through the melting and mixing processes to the finished products. It is freely illustrated with photographs, reproductions of plants and furnaces. Any of these publications can be secured by application to the Educational Bureau of the Paint Manufacturers' Association of the U. S., Philadelphia, Pa.

Genuine Bangor Slate

The Bangor Slate Association, Inc., of Bangor, Pa., is gaining publicity for the products of its members by the circulation of carefully-prepared advertising matter which deals with Bangor Vein Slate and its many uses. One of these publications, a twenty-four page booklet, recites and illustrates the advantages of this material for both flat and inclined roofs. Another folder deals with sanitary slate blackboards, laundry tubs, sinks, steps, toilet and bath stalls and similar accessories. For descriptive literature address the secretary of the association.

Illuminating and Temperature Efficiency

The J. G. Wilson Corporation, 8 West Fortieth Street, New York City, have issued a booklet giving results of tests made with their Venetian type interior blinds for admitting and diffusing direct sunlight with the most favorable results in lighting and air circulation. The booklet is illustrated with photographic reproductions of interiors used in making these tests and will be found interesting to anyone concerned with the subject of efficient lighting.