

THE AMERICAN ARCHITECT

VOL. CXII

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 1917

NUMBER 2177

New Cupola of the New York City Hall

By JOHN WALKER HARRINGTON

THAT "divine little structure," the New York City Hall, regarded by so many architects both here and abroad as the finest example of the American Georgian extant, is, after nearly a century, to have a cupola suited to its admirable proportions.

The cupola, which was half burned last May, has for many years been considered an architectural anachronism and hardly were its charred members cold than the demand came that another be built in accordance with the original design of the City Hall's architect, John McComb, Jr. Mr. Grosvenor Atterbury, whose restorations of the interior of the seat of government of the metropolis are so well known, was retained to make for the building a halo which really fitted. It was understood that he should restore the first cupola as nearly as possible. Just what the original cupola looked like is very hard to determine at this late day, for when it came into being there were no progress photographs and the drawings left by the architect do not absolutely establish the form in which it was finally reared.

The researches of THE AMERICAN ARCHITECT made among the archives of the New York Historical Society and published in August, 1908, brought to light four McComb drawings of the cupola, including a rendered one which has been adopted by

some authorities as that from which the fabric was actually built. There is also a measured drawing in existence which shows interesting variations. Mr. Atterbury, not having before him the authentic portrait of the structure, has based his plans upon all the studies and prints to which he had access. The result may, therefore, be called an interpretation rather than a restoration. It is a composite translation based upon the best available authorities, and not a copy.

The Art Commission took this situation into account when it approved his plans and instructed Mr. Atterbury to get estimates for the reconstruction.

Although the cupola of the New York City Hall has been twice visited by fire, the Art Commission decided that it would not be in keeping with traditions to have the new one fireproof. The outer sheathing only will be of wood, however, and the



THE CUPOLA BEFORE THE FIRE OF MAY, 1917

THE AMERICAN ARCHITECT

body of the cupola will be of steel and concrete and other material which resists flame. It may be that a little copper will be used on the outside, but owing to the high cost of all metals in this age of the world, it was thought best not to attempt to immortalize the cupola in bronze.

The Atterbury interpretation retains the clock, at least tentatively, because the majority of the Art Commission felt that the public had a vested right in the municipal timepiece which has been familiar to several generations of New Yorkers. The dials, albeit, will be placed in the upper and rounded parts of the windows of the cupola, if they are preserved at all. It may be that only skeleton clock faces will be used against the window panes. Whatever may be done along these lines will not seem to be a mere afterthought, but an integral part of a well conceived design. The cupola will be built and temporary dials of both varieties will be installed, and the passing throng may take its choice. The artistic sensibilities of the Commission and its experts will thus be guided by popular usage and tradition.

To sense all the details of the problem with which Mr. Atterbury has had to deal it would be well to go back to origins. The Georgian period in both England and America was near its end when in 1802 the City Fathers took counsel together about a new City Hall, and John McComb, Jr., began the preparation of his plans. However opinions may differ, McComb was a successful builder and an architect of correct taste. His diary and other records which have been published by *THE AMERICAN ARCHITECT* show that he was a disciple of Sir William Chambers, the English architect, who in turn drew his inspiration from Palladia and Vig-

nola. The Georgian in which the New York City Hall was fashioned sprang from the Italian Renaissance, received here and there a touch of the French ideals, and made its way into Great Britain, where it was chastened by Anglican reserve. Without reopening a controversy, it may be said that the architecture of the New York City Hall is a blending of various interpretations of a classic style in which may be traced those qualities which compose our American Georgian.

It was natural that an architecture of Italian birth should give important place to cupolas and campaniles, to watch towers and belfries. So in the Georgian of even solemn old Salem we find houses surmounted with fancy structures, and on those fanes of liberty, Independence and Faneuil halls, are cupolas. A cupola for the New York City Hall was, therefore, a foregone conclusion before the plans of John McComb were completed. Its model and construction seems to have given McComb almost as much trouble as the whole building, judging from the studies and drawings which were left in his papers. The one which was finally erected, if we may accept the



THE CUPOLA, AS INTERPRETED BY MR. ATTERBURY

An alteration of photograph on preceding page

Wall print, a lithograph made in 1826, as authority, was well proportioned and served as an appropriate crown of the labors of the Scotch-American architect. But for the American habit of tinkering it might have remained to this day, barring the patriotic accidents of pyrotechnics.

The City Hall was ready for occupancy in 1812 and sixteen years later it was decided that the mission of the cupola had been missed, for it had no clock. Mr. McComb himself recognized that lack, for he had studied out a scheme of putting a clock in one of the attic windows and once he had con-

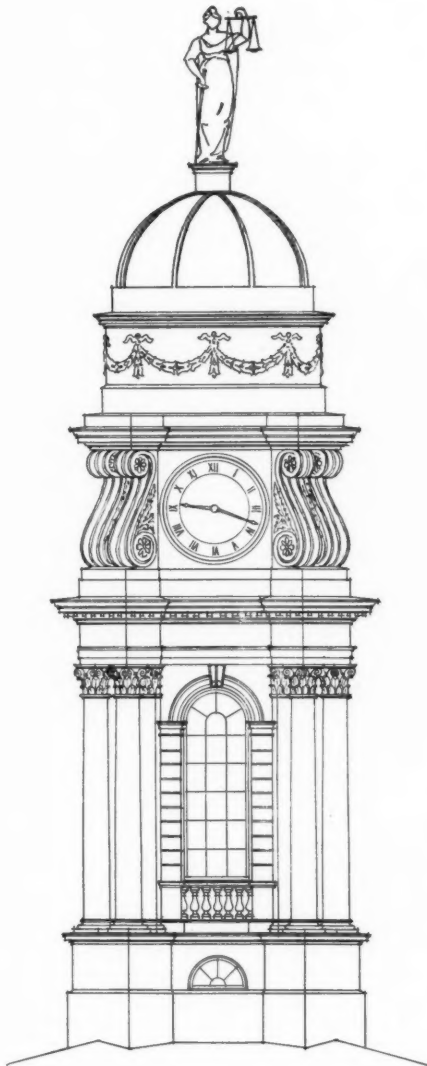
THE AMERICAN ARCHITECT

sidered putting dials in the base of the cupola. A committee of the Council appointed in 1828 brought in the following report:—

"It is altogether practicable to alter the present

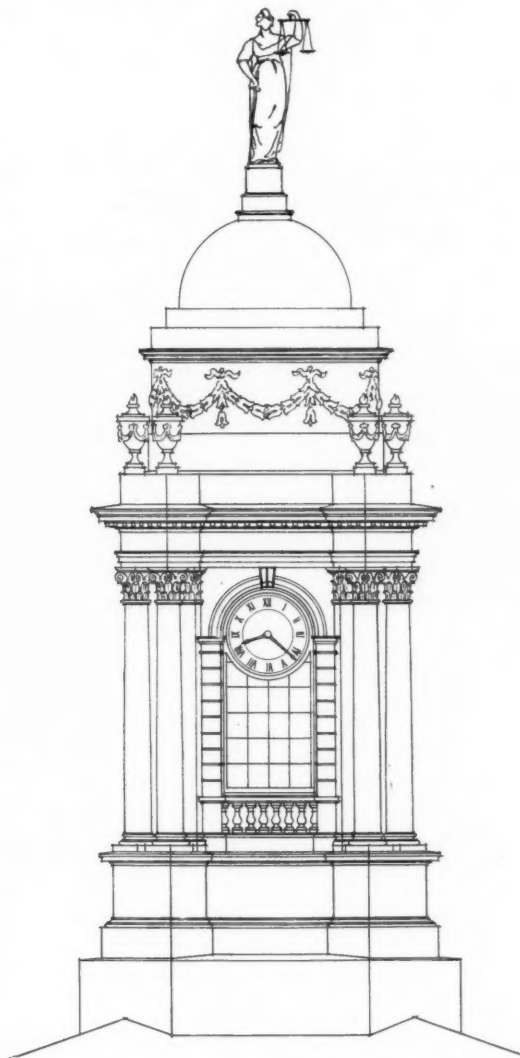
materially to the beauty and usefulness of the building."

The cupola was decapitated and a section eight feet in height was inserted beneath the dome. To



• PRESENT • CUPOLA •

AS BUILT AFTER THE FIRE OF 1858



• PROPOSED • CUPOLA •

DESIGNED AFTER ORIGINAL STUDIES BY McCOMB

cupola by cutting it off near the bottom of the round part and raising it up to receive the octagonal section to show the four dials. The proposed alterations, in the opinion of your committee, would not cost more than \$500 to \$600 and would add

make the outline seem less awkward the disunited architectural members were brought together by inverted consoles. The original urns were retained, however, when the work was finally completed in 1830, and they appear in the engravings of this

THE AMERICAN ARCHITECT

period as though they were being balanced on the noses of infuriated dolphins standing on their heads, for such those ill favored and topsy-turvy volutes resemble.

The engineers of that day were called upon whenever there was some public celebration to invent gigantic fireworks displays. These demonstrations usually centered about the City Hall and often the roof was used as a proving ground for the discharge of rockets, Roman candles and bombs. The pictorial records of the last century show the New York City Hall in seas of glare and surrounded by set pieces spurting jets of flame. The fact that the building had a copper roof brought from England, much of which still remains, gave the authorities the idea that the City Hall was a sort of municipal salamander.

New York was joyously hailing the successful operation of the Atlantic cable in 1858 when the City Hall cupola caught fire from a rocket which seems to have entered it and soon was practically destroyed. It stood blackened and ruinous for a year and was finally rebuilt through the agitation of public spirited citizens. When the next cupola was finished it was little more than a garlanded tinder box ready for the vagrant spark. It retained all the faults of the altered cupola of 1830. The clock was in the same place, the drum went back in the same unsightly fashion and those signs manual of a degenerated architecture, the inverted consoles, were retained, although the urns which stood near them were omitted.

Such was the City Hall cupola when it took fire again early this year while the building was in gala attire on account of the reception to the British and the French Commissions. It is believed that the fire had its origin in coals from a soldering outfit used by a workman, but this is a matter which will be duly determined one of these days when the suit of the municipality against a certain contractor has been duly heard. In this fire, which had its start deep down in the timbers of the roof, the top part of the building suffered severely. The problem of reconstructing the cupola is connected with the building of a new roof over a large part of the City Hall as well. The plans for the rebuilding of the roof provide for raising it about a foot at the southern front. The cupola itself will not be quite so high as were the forms of 1830 and 1850, which included the inserted clock case. The observant passerby will see on the roof and surrounding the

base of the scorched fabric now standing, a model base composed of lath and cheesecloth. This shows a somewhat higher base than the present one and one nearer to the proportions indicated in the Wall print. The model was placed there for study.

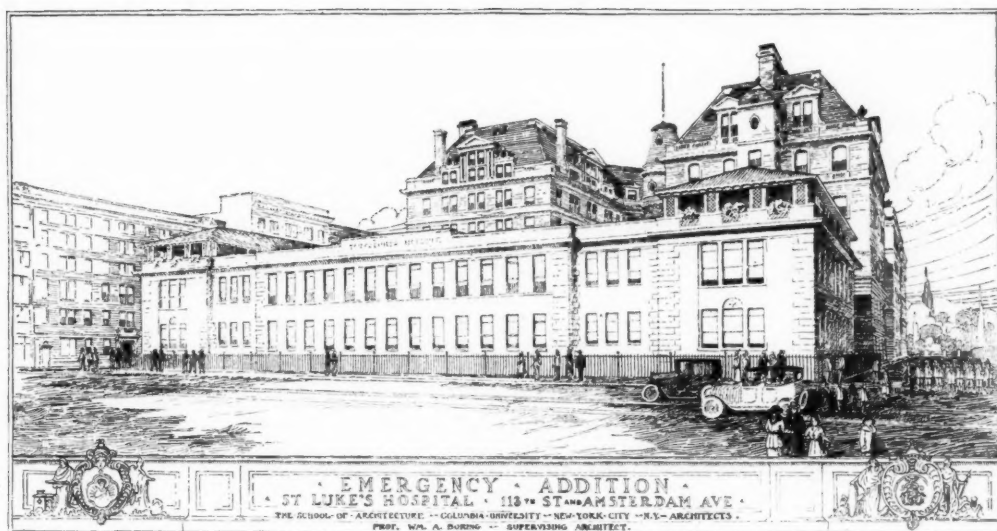
The new form of the cupola as designed by Mr. Atterbury has been rendered in wash upon photographs taken from the same angle as that evidently used by the maker of the Wall print, and the effect which it produces is much the same as that given by the original cupola as depicted in 1826. Every effort has been made to make the last type devoid of any squat appearance, so that it will stand out well poised and strong despite the fact that the structure which it now surmounts is surrounded on all sides by looming skyscrapers.

"The problem of the restoration of the cupola of the New York City Hall," said Mr. Atterbury, "should, I think, be stated as follows:

"1—To find the design which will combine the maximum of architectural beauty and the strictest harmony with the main structure of the building yet represent the closest approach to what, from a study of the documents, appears to have been McComb's finest conception of this feature of the building.

"2—The clock with its recent form and position was foreign to and as actually interpolated did great violence to the original design of the cupola, yet this feature a half century old has become by adverse possession, so to speak, entitled to be considered as an essential part of the New York City Hall. It seems highly desirable, therefore, to incorporate a clock if possible, in the restoration of the cupola, but only if it can be done without violence to the architectural design."

Mr. Atterbury and his associates have approached this new work of restoration and reconstruction in a spirit of reverence. It is their aim to make the cupola which is soon to replace the unsightly ruins of the present one, the crowning glory of the structure to which they have already brought back so much of its pristine beauty. Whether or not they have rendered a pure scheme of Georgian and kept intact the traditions is for the critics to decide. The cupola of the Atterbury design is especially interesting in that it represents a problem worked out with modern materials and complicated by vast changes in the environment of this noble gem of architecture which drew from Henry James the glowing word "divine."



St. Luke's Emergency Hospital

BY RICHARD F. BACH

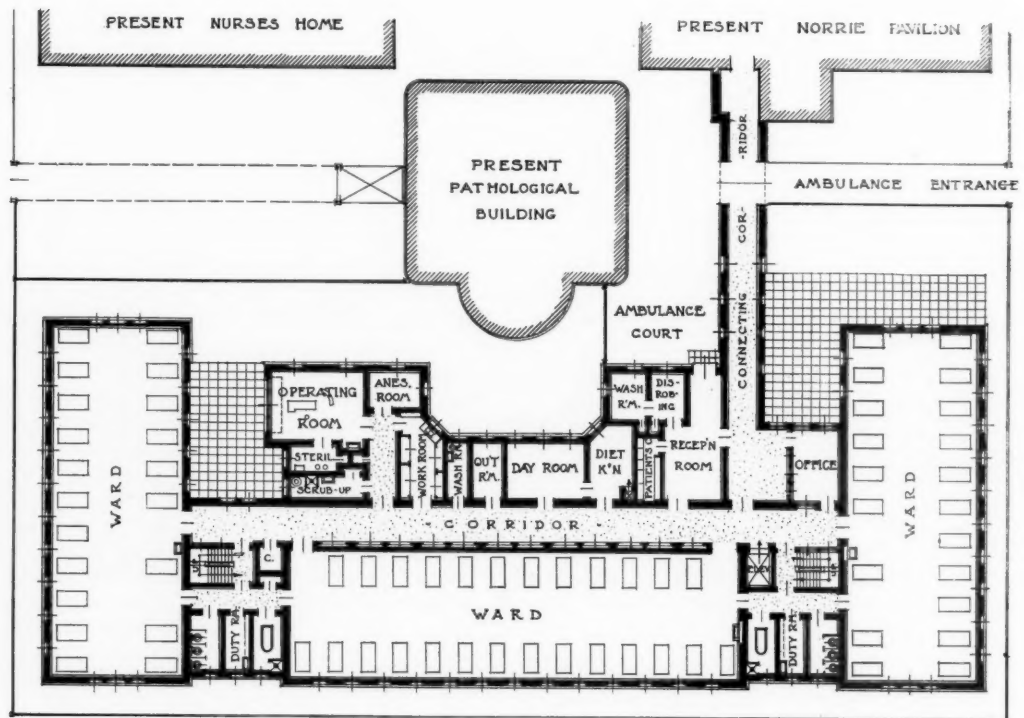
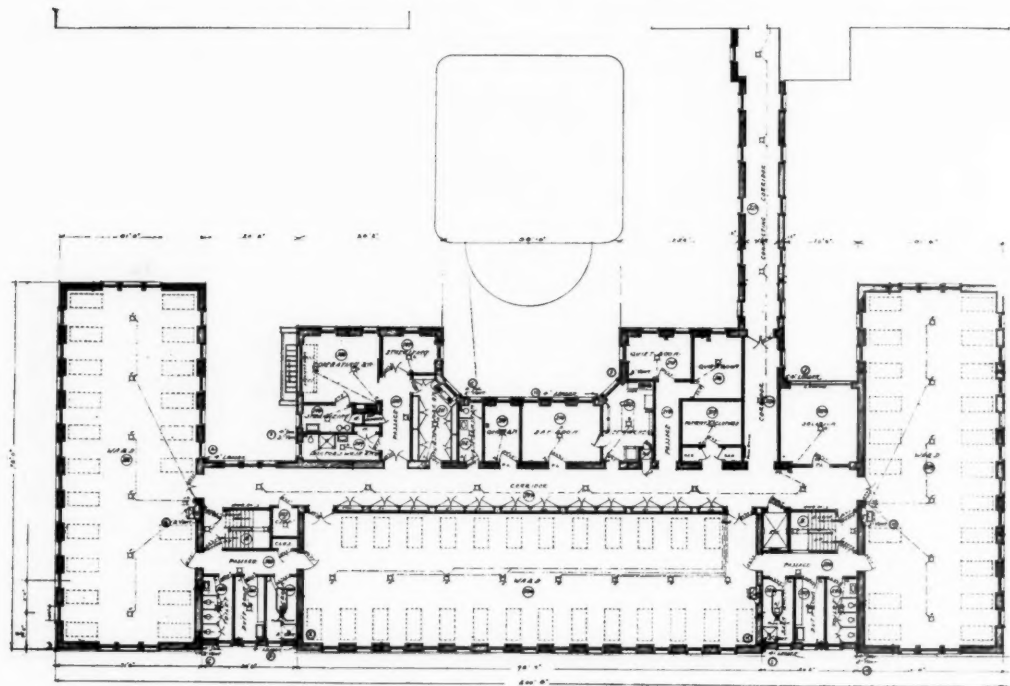
IN the issue of *THE AMERICAN ARCHITECT* for May 23rd were reproduced in plate form several drawings rendered by students of the School of Architecture at Columbia University for an emergency hospital project in connection with the present buildings of St. Luke's Hospital, New York. The drawings then shown were nothing more than preliminary studies in the form of eight day problems, submitted at the request of the authorities of the hospital to aid in determining the feasibility of erecting on land adjacent to its existing pavilions a structure to be devoted to the care of military and naval patients only, and to be turned over to the Federal Government as a war hospital. In view of the excellence of the drawings submitted, the School of Architecture was designated as architect of the new building. An office was set up in one of the University's drafting rooms, this put in charge of an experienced head draftsman to guide the work of a number of student volunteers, who carried out the whole project like a regular commission. In order that the difficulties of the tyro might not mar the smooth course of the work, one of the school's instructors was given control of the whole project as supervising architect; another instructor revised all constructional features, and a third will follow through the actual execution of the drawings, so that from inception to completion, initial design to final super-

intendence of the building and materials, the sanctity of the practical professional aegis has not been disturbed and the actuality of metal and concrete has given color to an undertaking that could too easily have been made to savor of the usual academic task with its paper limitations. It should be stated also that the volunteers engaged upon the drawings received credit in terms of relief from other professional drawings required of them.

To all intents and purposes there was set up for the first time a professional laboratory for draftsmen, the sort of laboratory which a brighter day to come may see as an adjunct of every school of architecture; a definite and important commission was regularly undertaken and executed and the volunteer draftsmen had the enjoyment of a bit of real service to the country combined with the consciousness of a practical professional gain.

As it appears in the final drawings reproduced, the St. Luke's Emergency Hospital will be a building measuring 200 feet on Amsterdam avenue, between 113th and 114th streets, and extending through these streets to a depth of 75 feet. It will be set apart from the main hospital units, but all necessary communication will be made possible by means of a corridor in two stories serving each of the two floors of the emergency building. The structure is to be regarded as a temporary building, but its height of

THE AMERICAN ARCHITECT



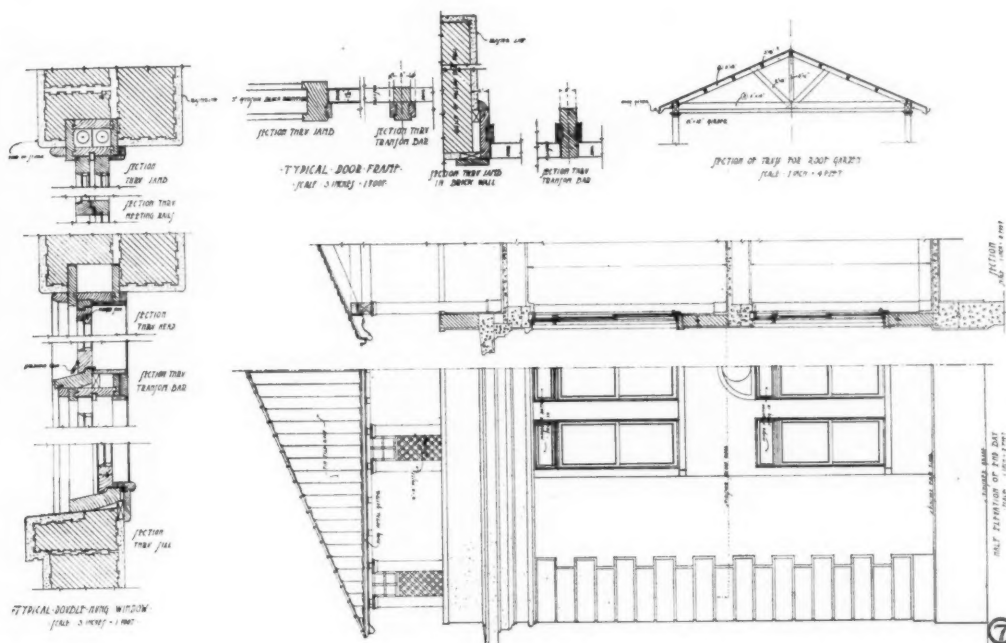
FLOOR PLANS, ST. LUKE'S EMERGENCY HOSPITAL, NEW YORK

THE AMERICAN ARCHITECT

two stories will require observance of the New York City law in regard to fireproof construction.

The capacity of the structure will be 150 beds divided into six general wards, three on each floor. Connection with the main building will be made

will be used for major operations and the necessary medical and nursing service will be supplied from the general hospital organization which will require but slight amplification to meet this additional demand. Steam heat, steam for sterilizing,



through the existing Norrie Pavilion. Throughout the idea of this connection has controlled the plan, so that the needs of the addition might be met with maximum economy, from the main buildings. Thus it was possible to dispense with kitchens in the addition, with the obvious exception of diet kitchens. Similarly the existing facilities in St. Luke's

hot water, electricity and telephone service will all be connected with sources in the main hospital.

In the design rigid simplicity has for obvious reasons been the guiding principle; a light colored stucco will bring the emergency addition into harmony with the existing pavilions. At both ends roof gardens will be provided.



Marble and Granite Industry of Venice District

Italy is one of the world's most famous sources of supply for both art and building marbles. Marble, granite, and building stones are the common materials used for buildings. Venice is a fireproof city built of stone of Istria and marble and the foundations and first courses at least of all palaces, public and municipal buildings, Government and business edifices are of these materials. They are used more than brick and wood, the use of the latter being confined almost entirely to interior finishing.

Venice is immediately adjacent to famous marble quarries with an inexhaustible supply of raw material, worked by cheap labor. The Istrian stone, which is quarried just across the Adriatic, reaches this market by the cheapest forms of water transportation, being loaded on sail barges at the quarries and disembarked at the exact point where it is to be used. These Istrian quarries are now temporarily closed to Venice as a source of supply, but the demand for such material has also temporarily ceased, and substitutes, even for Istrian stone, are in easy reach within a few miles.

MARBLE QUARRIES AT VERONA

The most important quarries in the Veneto are at and near Verona, the Veronese red and yellow marbles having been favorite building stones since the time when the Colosseum at Verona was constructed. For building they rank next to the stone of Istria in popularity and are true marbles, while the stone of Istria is not a true marble, although a very hard limestone, much used in Venice, because it resists the action of salt water and sea winds.

Besides their value for construction the Veronese marbles are in great demand for decorative work. Among the names of the several varieties of Veronese marbles are: White nembro, coral pink, white peach, partridge eye, yellow snail, yellow azure, and paradise.

A few years before the war a number of famous structures were built or decorated with Veronese marbles. In Vienna the palaces of the exchange, the municipality, and the parliament were adorned with the red, white, and yellow marbles of St. Ambrogio and with stone of Incaffi. The postal palace of Verona used the red nembro of St. Ambrogio and the façade of the postal palace at Zurich is adorned with the red and yellow marbles of St. Ambrogio. The Duke of Brunswick's monument at Geneva is made of red marble from Valpentina. Vienna in recent years has made use of Veronese marbles for decorative furniture.

The marbles are of excellent quality and are

variegated in hue from the light yellow of alabaster to dark yellow, from ashy to gray, from pale skin-colored pink to blood red and vermilion, and are also speckled, shaded, spotted, girdled, streaked, veined, piebald, and mottled. They combine lightness and solidity and are well adapted to the uses of sculpture.

Austria-Hungary and Germany were the principal export destinations, but large shipments have also been made to the United States. In late years, however, exportation seemed to be steadily diminishing, due to high freights to the Italian frontier and high customs duties of other countries on worked marble.—*U. S. Consular Report.*

Hardware for Southern Europe

The United States now has an opportunity to supplant Germany in the hardware markets of Italy, Spain, and Portugal, according to a report issued by the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, Department of Commerce. The publication was prepared under the direction of C. W. A. Veditz, Commercial Attaché at Paris, who asserts that American hardware can more than compete with German products in these markets if American manufacturers will make slight alterations in their lines to meet local conditions, and will cater to the demands of the trade.

The report reviews the general conditions affecting the hardware trade in each of the countries where the investigation was carried on, and describes the system of business. It outlines the steps which the American producer should take in entering these markets, and tells of the competition that will be encountered both from domestic manufacturers and producers in other European countries.

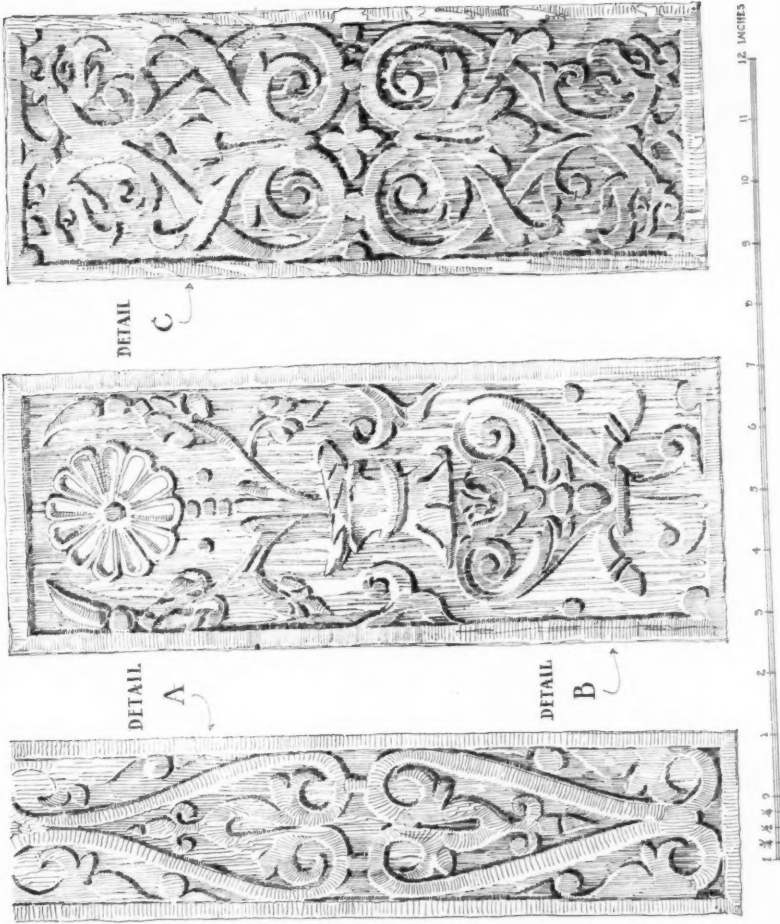
An accurate description is given of conditions in each of the countries as to mechanics' tools, cutlery, agricultural implements, garden tools, builders' hardware, shelf hardware, vehicle hardware, harness and saddlery, pipefittings, cabinet hardware, firearms and ammunition, sporting goods, marine hardware, house furnishing goods, electrical supplies, lamps and lanterns, abrasives, paints and varnishes, brushes, and masons' and miners' tools.

A collection of 133 samples from Spain and Portugal is available for inspection at the New York district office of the Bureau. Copies of the report may be purchased for 15 cents each at the district offices of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or from the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C. Its title is "Markets for American Hardware in Italy, Spain and Portugal." Miscellaneous Series No. 55.



PLATE 100

DRAWINGS AND PHOTOGRAPH
BY WALTER G. THOMAS



FIREPLACE IN BOARD ROOM, ABBOT'S HOSPITAL, GUILDFORD

ENGLISH DETAIL
NO. 9

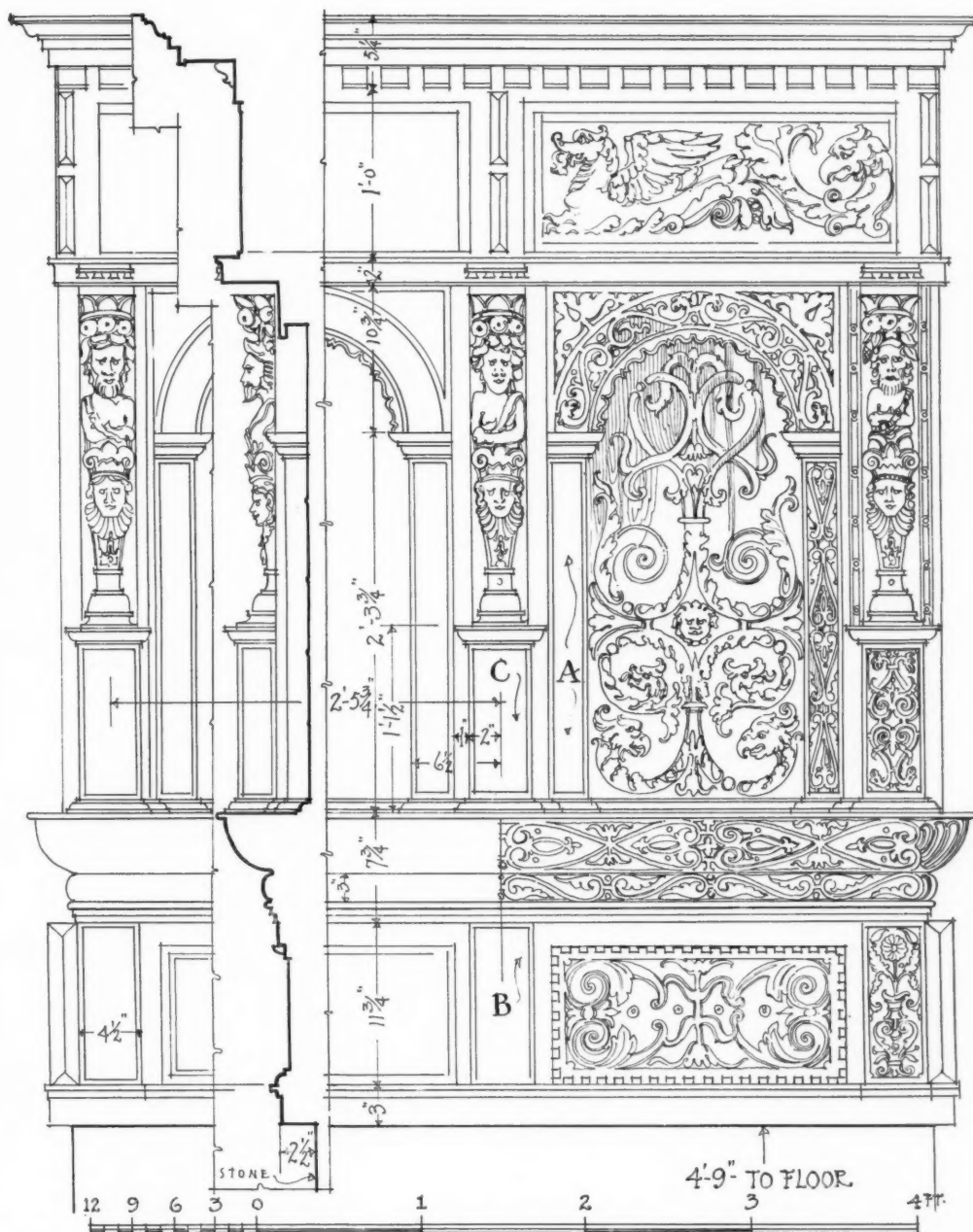


PLATE 101

FIREPLACE IN BOARD ROOM, ABBOT'S HOSPITAL, GUILDFORD

DRAWINGS AND PHOTOGRAPH
BY WALTER G. THOMASENGLISH DETAIL
NO. 9

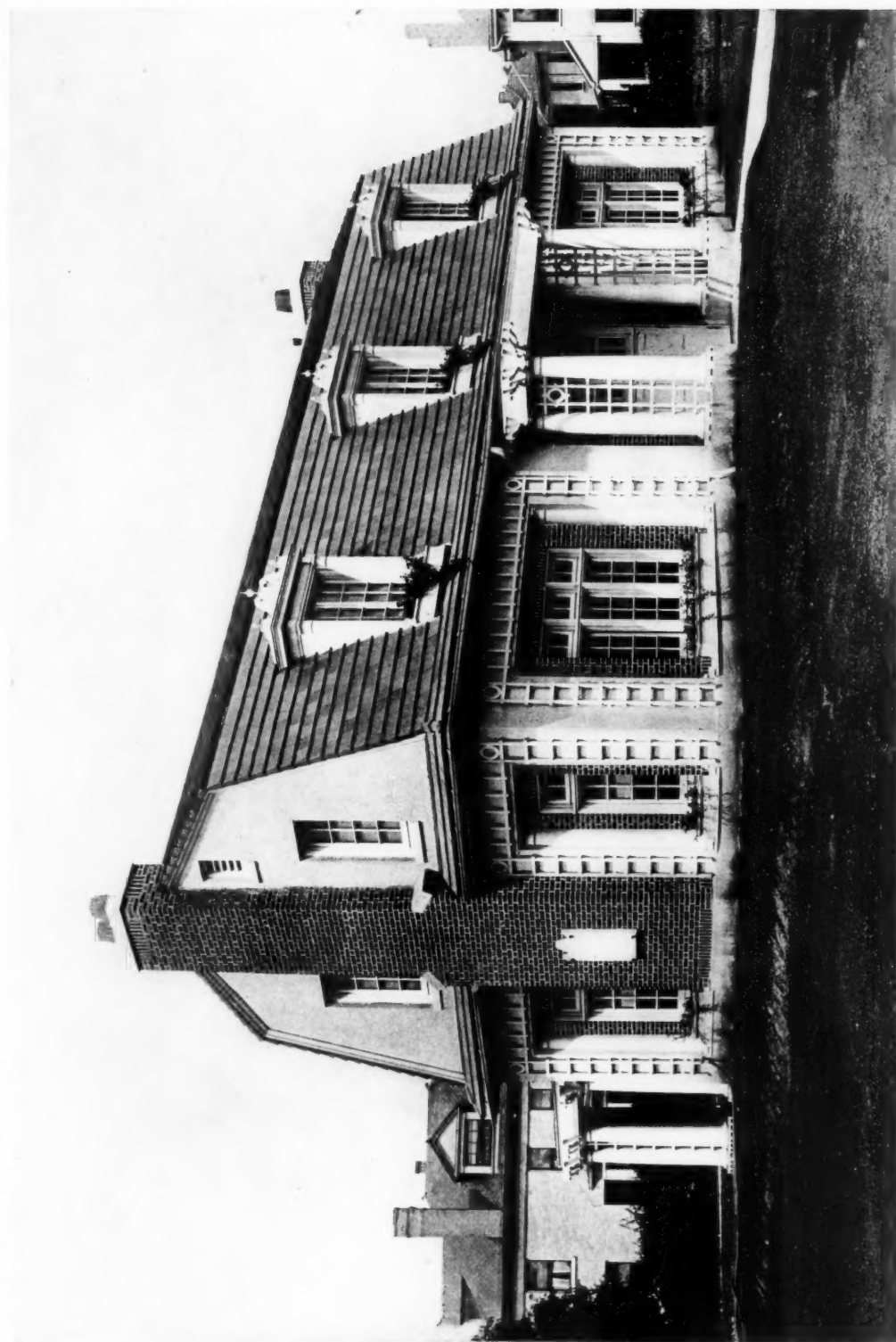


PLATE 102

FIRE APPARATUS STATION, DAYTON, OHIO
THIES & THIES, ARCHITECTS



PLATE 103

REAR VIEW

FIRE APPARATUS STATION, DAYTON, OHIO
THIES & THIES, ARCHITECTS

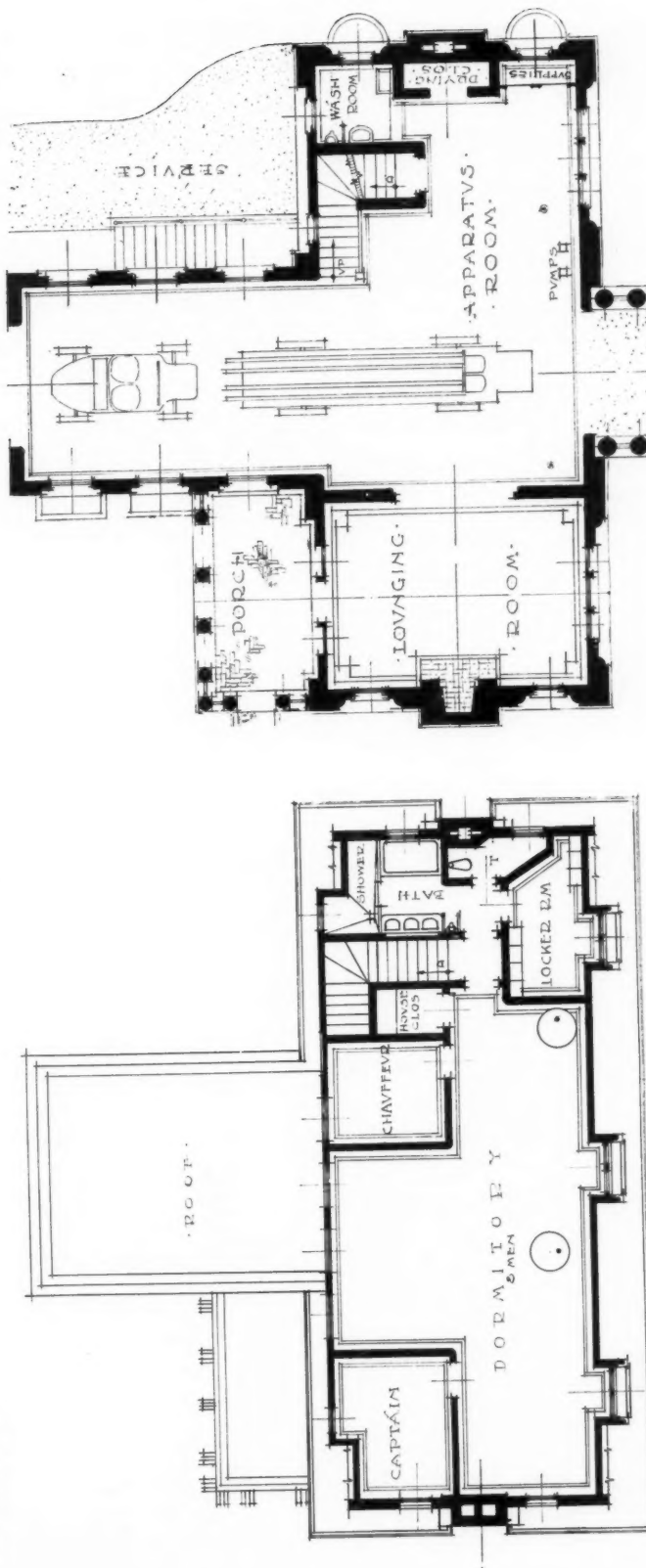


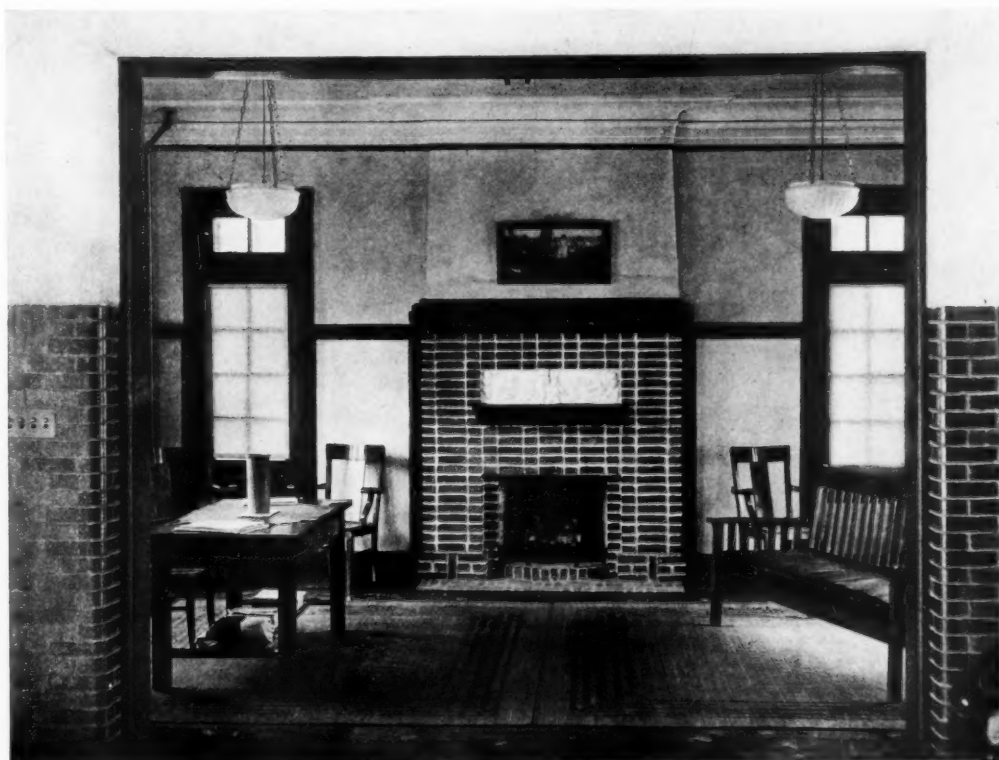
PLATE 104

FIRE APPARATUS STATION, DAYTON, OHIO

THIES & THIES, ARCHITECTS



APPARATUS ROOM



LOUNGING ROOM

PLATE 105

FIRE APPARATUS STATION, DAYTON, OHIO

THIES & THIES, ARCHITECTS



PLATE 106

FIRE ENGINE HOUSE, WESTVILLE, CONN.
BROWN & VON BEREN, ARCHITECTS

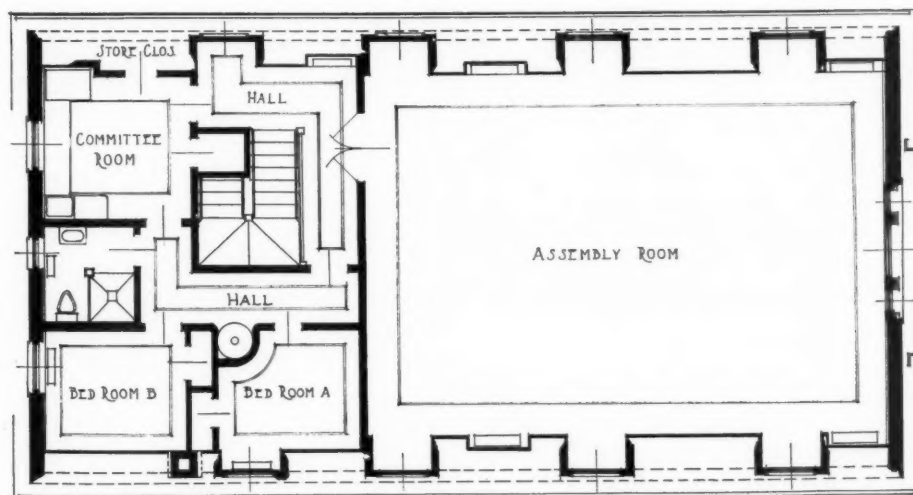
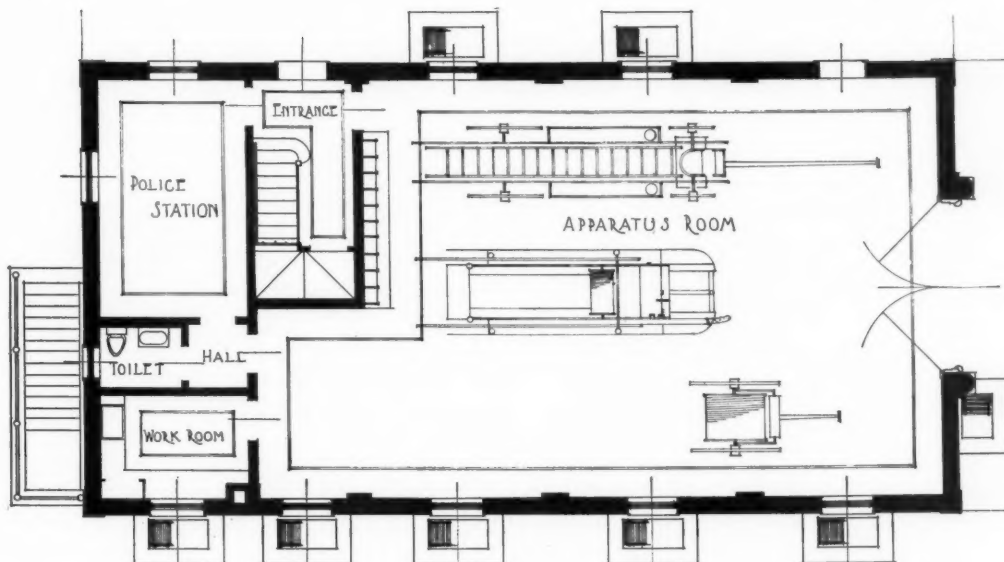


PLATE 107

FIRE ENGINE HOUSE, WESTVILLE, CONN.

BROWN & VON BEREN, ARCHITECTS

hi
It
co

fo
th

Fire Station, Dayton, Ohio

THIES AND THIES, Architects

This fire station is situated in Dayton View, a high-class residence suburb of the city of Dayton. It is located on an irregular plot of ground on the corner of Salem and Oxford Avenues.

In plan the main body is T-shaped and provides for an exit and an entrance. This scheme obviates the necessity of backing into the apparatus room.

glazed brick wainscoted walls, except in the lounging room. The second floor is yellow pine on wood joist, with the exception of bath, shower and toilet, which have tile floors and wainscots.

The designers, keeping in mind at all times the necessity of eliminating the hose drying tower in this design, and to make it harmonize with the surroundings, provided a hose drying apparatus in the basement, operated by fan blast, heated by a small boiler separate from the general heating unit.



THE PORCH

The lounging room occupies the south end of the main wing, with a commodious porch adjacent. The north end is occupied by stairs, wash room, clothes drying closet, pumps, and work space. On the second floor are located a dormitory (which has cross ventilation), captain's and chauffeur's rooms, bath and locker room. The house has accommodations for eight men, including captain and the Chief's chauffeur.

Construction is composite, the walls being stucco on hollow tile with Flemish bond and brick curtain walls. The ground floor is reinforced concrete with

Several other features enter into the construction which are interesting. On winter days the men have experienced some trouble with snow and ice collecting in front of the large doors. This is taken care of by excavating a distance of 4 feet out and under the doors and installing heating coils to melt all ice and snow.

The clothes drying closet on the ground floor is heated by coils and ventilated through the chimney.

Another novel feature is the engine exhaust. The requirements of the Department are, that the motors of the apparatus be "warmed up" four times each

day. To take care of the gas fumes an exhaust has been placed in the floor with outlet through separate flue in the north chimney.

The lighting in lounging room and dormitory is semi-direct. Trip lights are located in each room and danger signal at curb. These trip lights are operated by the first stroke of the gong and provide light automatically when it is needed most. These are switched off after the call is completed.

The exterior in design is Dutch colonial, the roof being of mingled shades of green tile. Care was taken to keep the whole scheme low in appearance, in fact, to make the house look more as a residence, and the small pergola in front of the large doors is successful in concealing this large opening.

It is to be regretted that the planting is not finished, for this undoubtedly will improve the whole scheme.

Recent Legal Decisions

THE MECHANIC'S LIEN AND ITS PROTECTION

In view of the fact that the mechanic's lien is receiving greater study and consideration than ever before, a brief review of the various attitudes the courts are taking in the matter is here set forth.

To begin with, the mechanic's lien, as we find it in the various States, is solely a creation of the respective States' statutes, designed to enable the architect, contractor and subcontractor and all others having to do with the construction or alteration of buildings to compel the owner to pay their just claims. Being wholly dependent upon the statute of the particular State in which the service or labor was performed or material furnished, whatever effort is put forth to collect must be strictly in compliance with the words of the particular statute; otherwise, the courts are not inclined to extend the protection which the statute seeks to extend. Indeed, the mechanic's lien is such an extraordinary and powerful instrument that unless its use is exactly in compliance with the statute, it works an injustice instead of an equitable remedy. For instance, not long since, the Springfield Court of Appeals, Springfield, Mo., in *Springfield Planing Mill Lumber & Construction Company vs. Krebs* (owner) and *Ragsdale* (contractor) had before it for determination a case where the contractor had apparently been fully paid the entire amount for material, labor, etc., but he had failed to pay the company which supplied lumber, chats, sand, etc. While the owner claimed he did not know at the time he paid all of the contract price that the material was not paid for, the material company could have nevertheless collected for material if it had fully complied with the Missouri statute, in its mechanic's lien suit; not having so complied, the court ruled against the company.

In *Rude vs. Mitchell*, 97 Missouri 365, the court said: "These liens are creatures of the statute, and the lienor must make and file an account which is fair and substantial compliance with the law. If

he fails to do this, he has no lien for the materials and work not thus specified."

The object of the statute, which in practically all of the States requires an itemized statement of the account, is to notify the owner, and other parties interested in the property sought to be charged with the lien, of the nature of the work and the amount of the claim, to enable them to inquire into the validity of the claim as an incumbrance.

Not long ago the Supreme Court of Minnesota, in *Lamor vs. Anders*, ruled that an architect who, under contract with the owner of land, furnished plans and specifications for the construction of a building thereon, is entitled to a lien upon the building and land upon which it is constructed, though he does not supervise the construction. If the owner, after the plans are furnished, of his own volition and without fault of the architect, abandons the construction of the building on the land, the architect has a lien on the land. An actual improvement is not necessary to a lien.

Profiting by the law of the above Minnesota case, architects should see to it that an accurate, legal description of the land upon which it is proposed to erect the building he is planning is written in the plans and specification and in all contracts, from beginning to end, which the architect may make with the owner of the land.

In *Sanguinett vs. Colorado Salt Co.*, recently decided, the Texas Court of Civil Appeals made an interesting ruling in favor of architects. The mechanic's lien law there affords a lien to "any person, firm, corporation, artisan, laborer or mechanic who may labor or furnish material to erect any improvement on land." It does not mention architects, but the court said that even if the one who filed suit (a firm of architects) was not an artisan, laborer, or mechanic within the meaning of the statute, the act included the architects by the significant phrase, "any person or firm * * * who may labor."

(Continued on page 189)

THE AMERICAN ARCHITECT

Founded 1876

PUBLISHED EVERY WEDNESDAY BY

THE ARCHITECTURAL AND BUILDING
PRESS (INC.)

No. 243 West Thirty-ninth Street, New York

G. E. SLY, PRESIDENT

E. J. ROSENCRANS, SECRETARY AND TREASURER

Address all communications to "THE AMERICAN
ARCHITECT"

SUBSCRIBERS' RATES

In the United States and Possessions (Porto Rico, Hawaii,
Philippine Islands and Canal Zone), Mexico and Cuba

TEN DOLLARS PER YEAR, POSTAGE PAID
ALL OTHER COUNTRIES . . . \$12.00 PER YEAR
SINGLE COPIES (Regular Issues), 25 CENTS

CHICAGO OFFICE, 2105 *Mallers Building*
Page A. Robinson, *Western Manager*

Owned by United Publishers Corporation—H. M. Swetland, President;
Charles G. Phillips, Vice-President; W. H. Taylor, Treasurer;
A. C. Pearson, Secretary.

Entered as second-class matter January 6, 1909, at the Post Office at
New York, New York, under the Act of March 3, 1879.

VOL. CXII SEPTEMBER 12, 1917 No. 2177

A Triumph of Building

THE building industry may safely claim the first big victory in the present war to make the world free for democracy. A force of more than one hundred thousand men, the largest industrial army ever recruited, has, within a little more than two months, constructed over 24,000 buildings for housing the newly-organized National Defense force.

While in this country, great undertakings in the engineering and construction field follow so closely one upon the other as to excite but little comment, as it is always believed that the record created today will be surpassed by the event of tomorrow, it is doubtful if this great achievement in building will be surpassed even during the strenuous times through which we are now passing.

The 24,000 buildings that are now ready are said to be the most complete and perfect quarters ever erected for a fighting organization. To meet the requirements of the Government, these cantonments had to be complete and ready for occupancy by September 1st. The history of this operation from the approval of the plans to the completion of this vast number of buildings of many different types is a record of building efficiency that has no parallel in this country or in Europe.

This remarkable achievement has been made possible only by means of the high patriotic co-opera-

tion of the lumber and building material manufacturers, architects and engineers and other expert service that has been called on by the Government and that has responded with an alacrity that should create a sense of pride in every citizen.

Not only was it necessary to secure, and promptly, the full amount of supplies of all kinds, but it was also vital that this great store of material should be quickly transported and distributed at the various widely separated points at which it was required. The railroad companies have responded to this call for patriotic service in the most efficient way, and the result is one that will serve to show our enemies how thoroughly we are prepared to meet the conditions that are always present when a great nation is at war.

In short, an undertaking of magnitude exceeding perhaps the building of the Panama Canal, has been brought to a successful termination within a few short weeks without friction, strife or scandal.

A War Convention

THE Chamber of Commerce of the United States has issued an emergency call to the business men of the country for a war convention to be held in Atlantic City, September 17-21. It is confidently expected that this will be the largest gathering of commercial interests ever held in this country. It will be an emphatic notice to the whole world that the American business man fully recognizes the duty that is now before him, and will serve to prove to our allies that as a nation we are alive to our responsibilities.

As President Rhett declares in the call issued by the Chamber of Commerce, "The nation's business today is War," and it will therefore be necessary for every business man in this country to set aside all personal aims and to join in a movement that will lead to a safe and conclusive victory and peace.

Seeking the Co-operation of Architects

THE disposition on the part of the heads of city governments to seek the co-operation of architects in matters of city planning gives encouragement to the hope that future civic development in this country will be relieved of many of the grave errors that have occurred in the past. No one group of men is so largely responsible as are architects for the inspiration that the whole country has received in matters of town planning. It is through the benefit of their wise councils that projects of civic planning have been evolved and carried to successful conclusion.

That this service is being appreciated is evident

THE AMERICAN ARCHITECT

to the careful observer. It is gratifying to read the statement of a city official, printed in a recent issue of a Dallas, Texas, daily paper. It shows an appreciation of the great technical value of the service rendered by architects and it also sounds a warning to cities that are not disposed to take this very proper view of the value of the relation of architects to all forms of civic development.

The statement referred to is as follows:

If the well-seasoned architects of Dallas had been consulted, we would not have become the victims of so many monumental monstrosities. They would not have approved the present location of the municipal building, without a proper perspective; they would have required the Dallas approach to the Oak Cliff viaduct to be equally distant from each side of the street. Philadelphia avoids many such mistakes by first passing all of its plans for public improvements of this character to its Art Jury before they are finally accepted. If Dallas will take advantage of the offer that the architects be given "a share of the burdens involved in the promulgation and execution of plans for civic development," Dallas will be much the richer by the experience.

Co-operating with the Government

THE National Board of Fire Underwriters are at this time rendering a valuable and highly technical service to the Government in their co-operation with the Council of National Defense and also with the various State Councils.

Just at this time the destruction by fire of buildings and the large stock contained represents something more than a certain pecuniary loss. The retardance of war preparations due to preventable fire is a more serious thing, and it is to safeguard property so as to minimize fire loss that the National Board of Fire Underwriters is lending the most valuable co-operation. Every branch of the Government's activities in war preparation in which fire loss is possible has been safeguarded as far as human endeavor can accomplish, by the splendidly

organized effort of the National Board. Not only does this supervision and safeguarding apply to usual and generally recognized fire hazards, but there has also been stationed in every cantonment or concentration camp a corps of qualified men whose duties are mainly to see to it that proper measures are taken to safeguard the buildings under construction from loss or damage by fire and thus to insure that they shall be ready for the troops assigned to them. The enormous number of buildings erected at various points throughout the country in an amazingly expeditious manner involving haste, and therefore an unavoidable degree of carelessness, have been brought to completion without material fire damage.

In addition to these valuable services, members of the National Board of Fire Underwriters are stationed at Washington as advisory engineers on fire prevention and water supply. The benefit of their highly trained experience has been acknowledged by the Government and the excellent results of their work have been so apparent as to call forth the approval of officers of the Army with whom they are now co-operating. All this is a patriotic service of the highest order. The work of the National Board of Fire Underwriters and similar technical organizations at this time is being carried forward so efficiently and at the same time so quickly that it is possible it may be overlooked by the general observer whose attention will be perhaps held by more spectacular but less valuable service.

It is fitting that a service so patriotic should receive recognition. The lessons that are being learned at this time of unusual activity will be of great value when we are again at peace, and it cannot be doubted that much of the well directed effort in fire prevention just now will have a most important bearing on the reduction of the fire loss in future years.



Recent Legal Decisions

(Continued from page 186)

Again, the New Jersey Court of Equity, in *Federal Trust Co. vs. Guigues*, where it was claimed that during a long delay in the work the architect did nothing to keep his lien alive, the court held that the visits made by the architect to the work to see that things were safe, etc., was sufficient to give vitality to the lien, as they were a part of the architect's duties.

In connection with our consideration of the ruling of the above-mentioned case, we must not lose sight of the fact that the mechanic's lien law is not a contract—it is a means of supporting and enforcing the contract and the better the contract in its completeness, the greater the protection afforded by the mechanic's lien law. Many contracts specifically set out just what the architect will do in plain and concise language, thus making it unnecessary, in many instances, for the courts to determine whether or not he had done his part of the contract and how much he should receive in compensation or damages. Such contracts, complete in detail and simple in language, are worthy of consideration and are fast becoming the custom.

Giving the Architect a Square Deal

Mr. Charles de Kay, commenting on the unfinished state of most of our public buildings, and the common failure to carry to completion the final artistic touches on which the architect has depended for his ultimate result, states that these mistakes are undoubtedly the result of a common belief that the people can escape from the rules which govern the world.

No architect needs specific reference to a public building where either through false economy or ignorance of the essentials the result has lacked the charm that the architect would, if he was afforded the opportunity, add to the building.

Referring to the New York Public Library, Mr. de Kay writes:

"One of the edifices in New York of which the citizens have reason to be proud is the Public Library. Suppose we pass up the broad steps, between the lounging lions, and, passing the Corinthian columns, let us find ourselves in the grand entrance hall. It is of noble proportions and worthy of the splendid emplacement and of the facade that rolls its length from Fortieth to Forty-second street. From the two stairways, upward right and left, and from the balustrades of the galleries before us, we get the suggestion of a monumental interior. The architect seems to have put his finest

sentiment into this hall. But it is not finished. The white marble glistens from every side, from the floor and from the ceiling, and we see that thus far it is good, but the last touch has not been given it—the touch that introduces light and shade, that produces mystery, that leads one on. Is it fair to the architect to leave what is perhaps the very best thing in the building incomplete? It is like an etching or engraving without light and shade, interesting and promising for its design, but still embryo. Metaphorically speaking, there is no sky above, there is nothing to hint or suggest the horizon, except for some natural darker parts which do not receive as much light as the others. The whole has no *chiaroscuro* to speak of.

"Well, now, let us consider what ought to be done to make this hall more attractive and give the architect a 'square deal.' Observe that the walls around the two great stairways have been so treated by the architect that six spacious panels have been provided, for what? Evidently for paintings or tapestries. But so far nothing has been done. The floor itself is too light in tone, but suppose this be remedied and these great panels hung with modern tapestries of just the right hues, say of those colors which make our autumnal foliage among the most wonderful and glorious products of nature, and suppose, under the arches, as you look forward from the door, the two blind doorways were enriched with tapestries or paintings—how different the impression! What a superior impression would one gain on entering this storage house of literature!"

An Important Archeological Discovery

An extraordinary find of historic pottery and relics has been made by Earl Morris, excavating Pueblo ruins at Aztec, San Juan County, N. M., with a force of twenty-five men for the American Museum of Natural History.

The discovery includes sixty pieces of rare pottery, over 20,000 carved red and black stone heads, baskets, matting, knives, battleaxes and other stone implements. The turquoise beads, mosaics and shell ornaments are classed as among the finest ever excavated in the Southwest.

Grains of corn with cobs, tassels and husks were found intact, as were also beans and bean pods, pumpkin seeds, pine cones, cotton fiber, yucca leaves, rushes, cotton yarn and cloth, sandals, snowshoes, beaver teeth and bones of animals and human beings. One skeleton in a sitting position indicated the man had been decapitated. The find was made in an underground communal dwelling buried for centuries.

To Organize a Company for Camouflage

Major Evarts Tracy, of the architectural firm of Tracy & Swartwout, has been appointed by the War Department to take charge of a department of camouflage, and has reported to Washington for that purpose.

With reference to the details of the organization at this time of one company of camoufleurs, we learn, from the *Journal of the American Institute of Architects*:

"It is proposed to organize one company without further delay than may be incident to the requirements involved. This company will consist of commissioned and non-commissioned officers, and will, it is expected, be selected from among architects, painters, and sculptors. The enlisted personnel to bring the unit up to the proper strength will comprise metal-workers, carpenters, modelers, cabinet-makers, scene-painters and artisans whose trades have fitted them for the multitudinous occupations involved in the application of camouflage to modern military needs. As far as possible, the commissioned and non-commissioned officers will be chosen from among those who have already registered with the Institute or other bodies. It is not essential that a man should have had previous military training, or that he should speak the French language, although these things are of material advantage. There is no age limit, but it is believed that none will be acceptable over forty-five.

"For the information of those who have made inquiry on this subject, as well as for others who desire knowledge, it should be stated that the department of camouflage will be a strictly military adjunct to the army, governed by military regulations. Its work embraces every conceivable kind of operation, from advanced reconnaissance under fire to the simplest form of concealment work designed to secure every form of military operation from observation by the enemy. It is in no sense a studio affair, but a definite factor in modern war requiring a knowledge of how to use every form of artifice and how quickly to carry out plans which have been perfected through study and experience.

"For the present, one company will be formed. When it will go to France is not known. When other companies will follow has not been determined. In making arrangements for transportation, consideration has to be given to the order of necessities. Many architects and artists of all kinds are impatient to do something. They chafe under the delay. Yet patience is required in these matters, and the practice of it can render a distinct service. All is being done that is possible, and it is far wiser to wait pa-

tiently for a chance to do the work for which one is best qualified than to take up something simply for the sake of being active."

"Any Statute to the Contrary Notwithstanding"

The Senate has passed the bill of Senator Swanson for the construction of a building for the use of the Treasury Department on Pennsylvania Avenue, directly opposite the Department, at a cost not to exceed \$1,250,000, by a vote of 45 to 16. The point in the bill that at this time is of special purport to the building trades is that the Secretary of the Treasury is given the power "without regard to civil service laws, rules or regulations to obtain such special architectural or other expert technical services as he may deem necessary and specially ordered in writing, and to pay for such services such prices or rates of compensation as he may consider just and reasonable from the appropriation for said building, any statute to the contrary notwithstanding." At the time the bill was under discussion an attempt was made to remove the language quoted, but to no avail. The opinion was expressed on the floor of the Senate that it was a very unwise policy when the Government has a supervising architect to deprive him of control of the building of the proposed new Treasury Building and to employ special architects upon this project. When the bill comes before the House an effort undoubtedly will be made to remove this section.

Hals Was Only Second to Rembrandt

A local tradesman, the best painter of Haarlem, was Frans Hals. Not an exemplary tradesman; rather too fond of drinking and notoriously quarrelsome with his wife; having to be fetched from the tavern now and then when his services were wanted; unthrifty, and dying at last in the poorhouse. What was worse, he was a little careless and slovenly at times, but, even in the poorhouse, so much the best workman to be had and so sure of his likeness that one had to employ him. He had even been called as far as Amsterdam once, thirteen miles away, but came back before he had finished the great guild picture he began there. He is inimitable at these great guild pictures; half a dozen of them are to be seen in the town gallery. They have not much composition, but are put together anyhow; they have not even, at least the early ones, any general harmony of tone, being full of bright colors

THE AMERICAN ARCHITECT

rather than of color. But they are miracles of rendering, unimaginably dexterous, marvelous in freedom and precision. Nobody can paint a sash or a halberd, a glass goblet or a cut-velvet jerkin, as he can. His handling is like sword-play, as free, as dazzling, above all as accurate. It is made up of separate, sharp, slashing touches, each falling into its exact place, each of the right shape and size to a hair's breadth, each more wonderful for its precision than for its rapidity. And there can be no doubt about his likenesses. You would know one of these men anywhere; you do know some of them at once, when they turn up again after an interval of years. They are not psychological masterpieces, these heads; there is no great depth of feeling or subtlety of expression about them. Hals is content with externals; but for exact portraiture, sheer physical resemblance, it would be hard to better them.

Later, and in other things, single portraits of burghers and their wives, Hals can be graver and more solid. Nobody but Rembrandt could improve on the portrait of Vrouw Bodolphe in the Morgan Collection, and even Rembrandt could not much improve on it as mere painting; its free handling based upon impeccable draftsmanship, its quiet color perfect in its relations of tone—*From "The Golden Age of Painting," by Kenyon Cox, in the July Scribner.*

Safeguarding Industry

Under the title, Safeguarding Industry, the National Board of Fire Underwriters have issued a booklet of directions for the prevention of fires.

The purpose of this pamphlet is the highly important one of preventing fires in industrial plants working under the abnormal conditions of war-time industry.

At this time every ounce of efficiency counts in the ultimate result. To fail to safeguard any building in which the many needs of the Government are being provided would be the grossest form of neglect.

A pamphlet such as that issued by the National Board of Fire Underwriters is therefore one of the greatest value. It may be had by addressing W. E. Mallalieu, Secretary, 76 William Street, New York.

A Correction

In our issue of July 25 illustrating the City Hall at Cleveland, Ohio, it was stated that the special lot of sketches of the building by Mr. J. Alfred Seeforth were published through the permission of Mr. Charles Fuller Dowd. The drawings in ques-

tion are the property of Mr. I. N. Houghton, president of the Houghton Elevator Co. of Toledo, Ohio, and it was by his permission that we are able to reproduce them. To Mr. Dowd we are indebted for securing Mr. Houghton's permission for reproduction.

Personals

J. R. Lyman, Jr., architect, Tucson, Ariz., has been appointed consulting architect to the Arizona Commission on State Institutions.

W. H. Wheeler, architect, of the firm of Wheeler and Halley, San Diego, Cal., has been commissioned a captain in the Officers' Reserve Corps.

G. R. Wright, architect, of Portland, Ore., has removed to Billings, Mont., and will become associated in professional work with W. A. Dedrick.

J. T. McLaughlin and W. R. Burnham, architects, have established offices in The Peoples National Bank Building, Lynchburg, Va., and are doing business under the name of McLaughlin & Burnham. They would be pleased to receive manufacturers' catalogs and samples.

Aymar Embury II, architect, New York, has been commissioned a Captain of Engineers and temporarily assigned to the Camouflage Corps at Washington, where he will assist Major Evarts Tracy in the formation of the Company of Camoufleurs being organized by the War Department.

Announcement has been received regarding the dissolution of the architectural firm of Graham, Burnham & Company, Chicago. Ernest R. Graham, Pierce Anderson, Edward Probst and Howard J. White have purchased the interest of Daniel H. and Hubert Burnham in all the existing business and contracts of the late firm, and will continue the practice of architecture at 1417 Railway Exchange under the firm name of Graham, Anderson, Probst & White.

As announced in THE AMERICAN ARCHITECT of last week, Daniel H. Burnham and Hubert Burnham will continue the practice of architecture in the Rookery Building, as D. H. Burnham & Company.

Industrial Information

Building Code Department for Hollow Tile Association

The Hollow Building Tile Association has opened a building code department, under the management of John A. Ferguson, engineer. This department is established for the purpose of co-operating with State and city building committees in revising their codes, with a view to supporting the interests of hollow tile as a building material. The engineer in charge will also make tests and conduct investigations covering the fire-resistant qualities of this product to see that it is properly recognized by the fire underwriters.

The association now has 65 manufacturer members, representing approximately 90 per cent. of the output of building tile in the United States.

The Production of Wood Pulp

"Nature has largely segregated her natural resources in the far Western States. There the forests necessary to the manufacture of wood pulp and paper line the banks of the falling water. Far more spruce, larch and hemlock timber is coming to fruition and wasting each year in our Western forests contiguous to also wasting water powers than sufficient to produce, at cheapest cost, all the wood pulp and paper required by the newspapers of this country.

"Of the 60,700,000 water horsepower in the United States, but 5,300,000, or 8.8 per cent, has thus far been developed.

"Of the 40,000,000 water horsepower contained within the Pacific Coast States, being 70 per cent of all the water power of the United States, but 2,500,000 horsepower, or 6 per cent, has thus far been developed.

"The States of Oregon and Washington contain more available water power and more pulp wood than any other two States in the Union. Out of the 17,000,000 horsepower within the borders of these States, but 2 per cent in all has thus far been developed. The Government forest reserves in these two States contain over 44,000,000,000 feet of timber suitable for the manufacture of wood pulp.

"It seems almost incredible that an enlightened Government like ours should keep laws in force which bar the way to the development of this great natural resource. Canada, Norway and Sweden have been developing their water powers, and the

United States census shows that over 400,000 tons of wood pulp were imported into the United States from those countries during 1915.

"Were the present Congress to enact practical water power legislation, under which capital could be obtained for development purposes, the erection of plants for production of wood pulp and paper would be undertaken, of a capacity sufficient to supply at a reasonable price the full requirements of this country without importations."

—*From an address by H. J. Pierce of Seattle, Washington.*

Fire-Retardant Window Efficiency

A booklet of 16 pages issued by the S. H. Pomeroy Company, Inc., New York City, is a reprint of a paper on the subject of Fire-Retardant Windows, read by S. H. Pomeroy at the June meeting of the New York Chapter of the National Fire Prevention Association. The particular interest which attaches to this article lies in the fact that it is the first complete and comprehensive analysis of fire window efficiency ever presented. As such, it claims the consideration of every one having to do with building construction and maintenance. Mr. Pomeroy's identification with the fire-retardant window business from its very inception qualifies him to speak with the authority of an expert.

Elevator Door Hardware

The September issue of "Door-Ways," house organ of the Richards-Wilcox Manufacturing Co. of Aurora, Ill., deals with the subject of the company's Ideal brand of elevator door hangers and door-closers. There is an article by a member of the sales organization, and a number of letters and photographs testifying to the satisfactory use of these products in large buildings are reproduced. Names of inquirers directly interested in buildings will be added to the mailing list of the company. to receive monthly issues of this publication and full advertising literature on the Ideal line.

"The Story of Lazalite"

The history of the downfall and rise of the art of making sidewalk and vault glass, is contained in a little pamphlet published by the Jeannette Glass Company, Jeannette, Pa. The story comes to a climax with a description of Lazalite, the product of the Jeannette works. Illustrations showing various stages in the process of making, inspecting, and treating Lazalite are scattered through the text.



HOUSE IN SALAMANCA, SPAIN

THE AMERICAN ARCHITECT