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The Fifty-First Convention of The American Institute of Architects

Held in Philadelphia April 24, 25 and 27, 1918

ANY report of the fifty-first convention of the Institute should, to be complete, be prefaced by reference to the important meetings held on the evening of Tuesday, April 23.

First of these was a dinner and conference, held at the University Club by the Board of Directors of the Institute. As guests to this conference there were present the president of the National Chamber of Commerce, the president of the National Builders' Exchange. The topic under discussion was the desirability of calling a convention of delegates from the American Institute of Architects, the National Chamber of Commerce, the National Builders' Exchange, and other associated interests related to structural materials, to complete the organization of a permanent committee, with headquarters at Washington, D. C., to conduct a survey of the structural resources of the country. Further, it was decided to ascertain if it would not be equally desirable to include among the duties of such a committee all problems of labor and materials allied to building operations. The purpose of this committee would be to make more readily available for Government use all obtainable data on labor and materials.

It was thought that the work of such a committee, properly co-ordinated, and available to the Government and others, would be a useful and important factor in the dissemination of accurate knowledge of conditions, not only in the building trades, but in high official quarters as well; and that it would thus have a very decided tendency to effect a speedy and sane revival of building operations, now lagging for the very reason that dependable information about labor, materials and the financial factors affecting construction is not accessible.

Another equally valuable matter discussed was the utilization of the large volume of labor now out of employment.

The final conclusions of the conference have not, at this writing, been made public. There is no doubt, however, but that the Institute will lend the most thorough co-operation in such an important movement; nor is there any doubt as to its widespread influence on present building conditions.

At the same time that the foregoing conference was in session an informal meeting was being held at the Bellevue-Stratford Hotel, to consider a means whereby there might be secured a closer affiliation between architectural societies and others allied to the building trades. This conference was composed of the following architects: D. Knickerbocker Boyd, chairman; Messrs. Holzman and Maher of Chicago, Coxhead and Slee of San Francisco, Bolles of Kansas City, Levy, Briggs and Quimby of New York, Warren H. Briggs of Bridgeport, and Borie of Philadelphia.

A report of the action taken by the Chicago Chapter along similar lines was presented at this meeting, and very fully discussed. It was the unanimous expression of the conference that all other Chapters should follow, as far as possible, the course outlined in the Chicago report.

This conference also discussed the question of an amendment to the code of ethics as affecting advertising, with particular reference to permitting members of the Institute to sign their buildings during construction. This question was not brought to an actual vote, but was tacitly postponed for action by the convention.

THE FIRST DAY

When President Mauran called the convention to order on the morning of Wednesday, April 24, there was grouped in the banquet room of the Arts Club a much smaller number of delegates than on previous occasions. As a war measure the number of delegates from each Chapter had been greatly reduced, and the full attendance probably did not

much exceed a hundred delegates. It was early apparent, however, that the reduction in representation was not followed by a reduction in serious effort. It may be stated safely that at no previous convention was the general sentiment of grave responsibility better realized, and at no time has there been made a more serious effort to seek a remedy for a most grave condition.

In fact, at the very outset, these conditions were squarely placed before the convention in the admirable address of President Mauran, printed in full on another page of this issue.

The convention was addressed by Mr. Frank Miles Day, representing the Philadelphia Chapter of the Institute, welcoming the delegates, and outlining a program for their entertainment. The routine of the convention on this day, as on the succeeding ones, was carried forward strictly in accordance with this well-prepared program.

The report of the Board of Directors and the treasurer's report were presented. These will be found summarized on another page, as will also the essentials of the various other reports that consumed the forenoon session of the first day.

The efforts of President Mauran and Messrs. Fenner, Pope and Glenn Brown toward the restoration of the Octagon, as set forth in the report of the Building Committee, were formally acknowledged by the convention in a resolution of thanks that was passed by acclamation, after a series of short talks that expressed the gratitude of the delegates for the generous contribution of money and professional services that have secured the safety of this historic building.

A resolution of thanks to the officers and Board of Directors for their services during the past year was presented and passed with acclamation.

During the brief discussion of the report of the Committee on Competitions, reference was made to certain minor changes that it was believed were necessary, and the Board of Directors was empowered to make these.

In the afternoon the delegates, divided into groups, were guests of groups of members of the Philadelphia Chapter, and were taken on automobile rides to the many points of architectural interest in Philadelphia and suburbs, being entertained at various country clubs for an early dinner, all to meet at the T-Square Club's rooms at 8.30 for the joint meeting of the Registration-Education Committee. This meeting was presided over by Mr. Wm. P. Bannister, the chairman of the Committee on Registration Laws.

Second Day

A proposed amendment to the By-Laws, permitting the present officers to hold office for the coming year, was presented and debated at considerable length. Upon a vote, twenty-three delegates were found to be opposed and twenty-six in favor of the amendment. As there was not the necessary two-thirds vote in approval, the amendment was declared lost. Thereupon the nomination of officers became in order, and the following ticket was submitted:

For President—Thomas R. Kimball of Omaha.

For First Vice-President—C. B. Favrot of New Orleans; Grant La Farge, New York.

For Second Vice-President—George S. Mills, Toledo; W. R. B. Wilcox, Seattle.

For Secretary—William Stanley Parker, Boston.

Treasurer—D. Everett Waid, New York.

Directors—E. H. Donn, Jr., Washington, D. C.; Robert D. Kohn, New York; Ellis F. Lawrence, Portland, Ore.; Edwin S. Gordon, Rochester; Richard E. Schmidt, Chicago.

The afternoon session on the second day was taken up by a series of papers which constituted, in a sense, a discussion of the architect's service. These papers and their authors were as follows:

"The Architect After the War," by Milton B. Medary, Jr.

"The Architect as an Administrator," by R. Clipston Sturgis.

"The Architect in Civic Life," by Elmer C. Jensen.

"The Building Situation, Past, Present and Future," by E. J. Russell.

As far as is permitted these will be printed in subsequent issues of The American Architect.

The consideration of these papers having taken the time of the convention up to five o'clock, the meeting was adjourned.

The committee of the Philadelphia Chapter on Preservation of Historic Monuments then became the hosts of the delegates at Independence Hall, and the group of Colonial Federal Buildings, the restoration of which the committee has had in charge, for the City of Philadelphia. An exhibition of drawings of this work was displayed and an address made descriptive of the relations of the Chapter to the municipal government.

This occasion and the admirable work of the Philadelphia Chapter in the conservation of a group of buildings which the City of Philadelpha has "held in trust for all of the people of the United States," called for the most enthusiastic approval on the part of the delegates. While all were more or less acquainted with these buildings from their repeated illustration and description, many had never actually visited them. To that group the afternoon's experience was one of the most complete enjoyment. Just here it may be well to make some special reference to the delightful qualities as hosts shown by mem-

bers of the Philadelphia Chapter and the T-Square Club.

Philadelphia has a strong attraction for architects, not only because it has within its limits some of the best architectural work in the Eastern States, but for the further reason that, as the center of our Colonial struggle, it presents to-day, thanks to the work of the Committee on Preservation of Historic Monuments, a greater number of well-preserved buildings of our Colonial period than any other section.

The enjoyable meeting at Independence Hall and the numerous motor trips were the never-tiring subject of enthusiastic comment by visiting delegates.

In the evening a gathering of the delegates, as guests of the T-Square Club, developed into an informal conference on Chapter problems of both national and local significance. There was an exchange of views that is bound to result in the greatest good. In fact, these evening meetings, as far as the setting of the practice of architecture in its proper place and serving to show the right road to future usefulness were concerned, were of greater value than the more formal convention sessions. A greater freedom of speech, a more frank discussion of problems and a somewhat severe taking-to-task of that element so largely responsible for what has happened were apparent at all times.

These things may not be set down here, as they are, in a sense, confidential talks, spoken with the knowledge that they were not for publication. But it will be pertinent to state that if the influence of a certain element that has, without reserve, touched the vital points as to present conditions can be of use, we shall soon emerge into the right paths that lead to the highest fulfillment of an architect's service.

The Third Day

At the opening of the session, announcement was made as follows of the result of the election of officers:

Thomas R. Kimball, Omaha, president.

Charles A. Favrot, New Orleans, first vice-president.

George S. Mills, Toledo, second vice-president.

W. Stanley Parker, Boston, secretary.

D. Everett Waid, New York, treasurer.

For Directors—Edward W. Donn, Jr., Washington, D. C.; Robert D. Kohn, New York; Ellis F. Lawrence, Portland, Ore.; Richard E. Schmidt, Chicago.

The following eight members, nominated for elevation to fellowship, were elected:

James E. Allison, Los Angeles, Cal.

Louis Ayres, New York.

Charles Butler, New York.

E. E. Dougherty, Atlanta, Ga.

Alexander C. Eschweiler, Milwaukee, Wis.

Albert Kahn, Detroit, Mich.

John P. B. Sinkler, Philadelphia, Pa.

Wm. L. Steele, Sioux City, Iowa.

Matters of unfinished business carried forward from preceding days were cleared away, and the further reading of papers relating to the architect's services, with particular reference to the Government, the architect and the artisan in their relation to industrial housing, was continued and the discussion brought to a close. Papers were presented by F. L. Ackerman and C. H. Whitaker.

During this session the all-absorbing question of advertising was strenuously debated. An opportunity was afforded the onlooker during this discussion to study the various types of temperamentality that has, in recent years, been developed in those who practise architecture. Naturally the most energetic and persistent advocates of a revision of the present code as referring to advertising were men representing the Chapters of the Middle West, where the demand for revision had its origin. These men very forcefully, in a most practical way, and with characteristic Western abruptness, laid their case before the convention. The Eastern men, with good logic and a fine sense of parliamentary usage, advanced their arguments. While it could be noted that, judged by rules governing debate, there was difficulty in arriving at a fine point of decision between those for and against this measure, the impartial observer could detect that the argument of the Western element was based on a logical and clear-headed interpretation of the things that surround architectural practice now; while those from the older sections of the country, while equally strong, were based on a shrewd conservatism and a disposition to believe that old or present rules governing advertising should not be disturbed without the most careful consideration. The outcome of the debate between two such groups of equally matured opponents, although schooled in different localities of the country, was one of considerable interest, as it foreshadowed, in a sense, the probable attitude of the majority, not only toward the question under debate, but also toward other important matters that will come up for action during the forthcoming year.

The debate centered upon that part of the report of the Committee on Advertising calling for restriction of advertising contained in Section 4 of the Canon of Ethics, which calls advertising unprofessional and imposes a penalty for its use. This canon was repealed. By vote of the convention Article 10 of the Advice on Practice was referred back to the Board of Directors to be phrased so that it would be in harmony with such repeal.

Reduced to simple terms, this action on the part of the convention practically removes the ban on advertising, and permits architects to place their services before the public in such proper manner as their education and a due regard for their professional dignity might suggest. While no steps were taken to replace the discarded canon with one declaring for advertising, by accepting the report of the committee the Institute goes on record as favoring advertising by its members. This report says in part:

"Is there any valid reason why, in this age of democratic endeavor, the American Institute of Architects should cling to this or any other relic? Is it not time that we consider carefully, not only the abolition of the canon on advertising, but how many more of the old worn-out rules, undemocratic distinctions and un-American assumptions we can get rid of it?"

It pointed out that by elevating the dignity of advertising in their code of ethics the worst feature to be anticipated would be "advertising too generally, prompted by honest, if stupid reasoning—a result not without advantages, for in more general use of the harmless sort, the vicious sort would lose its effectiveness, due to the comparative isolation it now enjoys because of the sweeping restrictions in our canon."

The closing exercise of the convention was the annual dinner, held in the house of the Germantown Cricket Club, Manheim, Germantown.

The usual formalities of previous occasions were dispensed with and the dinner early assumed a "get-together" aspect that will probably, by reason of its thoroughly enjoyable nature, largely influence future convention dinners.

The speakers were drafted from that large and patriotic body of men who have unselfishly ignored their personal interests to devote their time and fine ability to the aid of the Government.

Colonel Starrett, chief of the Construction Division of the National Council of Defense, described the large volume of work that had been done and yet remained to be done in the department of construction. He stated that, except in the matter of industrial housing, everything under the department's administration was either well under way or completed, and that the housing problem was rapidly being brought into good shape. He concluded with the statement that in the cantonments now completed and in use, or those soon ready for occupancy, there could be trained each year three million men; and that an army of ten million fighting troops could be cared for without difficulty or confusion.

Mr. Albert Kahn of Detroit, Mich., who has been largely and successfully connected with the construction department of the Aviation and Signal Corps, told the guests how the work had been carried forward. During the course of his address he found opportunity to refer to present conditions as affecting the practice of architecture, and to state what, in his opinion, was necessary for architects to do to insure the retention of the high place they have held in the past.

The usual features of good comradeship were everywhere present on this closing feature of the convention.

It is yet too early to forecast just what good results will accrue from this annual meeting in Philadelphia. Undoubtedly every man who attended the convention has returned to his home thoroughly convinced that there is much work to be done and that if the high aims outlined during the debates throughout the various sessions are to be realized, there must be a very practical and sober-minded action on the part of everyone.

Address of President John Lawrence Mauran

To Fifty-first Convention American Institute of Architects

IN these days of stress and patriotic endeavor, when one of the principal activities of a government at war is *building* why are the architects idle? That is the insistent question on the lips of every member of our profession and of the intelligent citizens who stand amazed in the face of such an anomalous situation.

Heretofore our traditions with respect to the President's annual address have been undisturbed by world convulsions, and it has always been kept within the bounds of an academic dissertation. At the last three conventions the horror of this war, which had as yet left us unscathed, lent its first imprint to the traditional address; but with our awakening to war's actualities—to its exigencies—to its inexorable incorporation of all the resources of the peaceful arts and forces into one colossal machine which shall carry on to victory, it seems to me but logical that my address at this fifty-first convention should deal with the stern reality of things as they are, and not as we would have them.

First, let us review briefly the activities of the Institute and of its officers in those early days when we fondly dreamed that it was but a question of a short time when to us would be allotted that part in the great machine for which our training especially fits us. With the very threat of war in the air, we surveyed our assets and immediately upon its declaration we tendered them freely and proudly in the conviction that they were priceless. Although I have endeavored to satisfy the natural craving for information on the war work of the Institute by sending bulletins to the membership, it will be helpful to consider again some of the steps taken so bravely, which have led us so short a distance on our way, in order to see the complete picture—comprehend the nature and strength of the barriers reared against us, and to discover, if possible, which way lies a hope that the potentialities of our eager, restless, constructive forces may be utilized.

Our pre-war activity was the formation of a Preparedness Committee whose duty it was to ascertain, through careful study, the nature of the service our profession was best qualified to render in the event of war. As soon as the die was cast, a full tender of our services was made to the President in a letter which included convincing excerpts from the report of the Preparedness Committee. Hardly had the formal acknowledgment of our patriotic offer been received, when I was asked by a great number of architects throughout the country to present to the war-making departments, and to the Red Cross, their services without charge, and the services of their office forces at actual cost. You can conceive of my satisfaction on receiving from the Navy Department an almost immediate acceptance for work amounting to something over three million dollars.

No sooner were negotiations under way than the Council of National Defense summoned me to Washington, merely to inform me that the Committee on Emergency Construction had made a report to the General Munitions Board adverse to the acceptance by the Government of gratuitous service. I was told that the committee believed that if the war was to continue a matter of a few weeks or a few months, our splendid offer would be gratefully accepted, but in view of the belief that with protracted war conditions, the architects, as well as the contractors and engineers who had made individual offers of free service, would find themselves without clients other than the Government—which would, of necessity, have to tax these patriotic citizens, serving without remuneration, for the conduct of the war—the committee recommended that in view of this economic fallacy we withdraw our offer. I may say here, that through all the negotiations looking to the employment of the architects, this request has been duly recognized, although we have been ready at all times to adhere to the original offer.

Immediately following the declaration of war, one of our members who had served the French Government in the building of hospitals, had volunteered for a similar service to the Medical Department, and while our united efforts failed to secure his service in the designing of the hospitals in this country, it is gratifying to know that those for over-seas were designed under his direction, with the collaboration of another member of the Institute.

In the meantime, the major portion of the building program of the Navy Department had to be abandoned because Congress failed to appropriate money to provide the much needed hospital extensions, warehouses and other buildings, which we were prepared to handle for them; but very important work was done at the Navy Yard in Philadelphia and the Navy Yard in Brooklyn, under the plan adopted of allotting these enterprises to Institute committees rather than to individual offices, in order to make the service rendered that of the

Institute rather than that of the private architect. How great the service of our profession might have been is indicated by the splendid results achieved in both these cases. In testimony whereof, the officer in charge has written with enthusiasm of the perfection of the drawings and specifications prepared in record time.

In the late summer inquiries began to come to me from various quarters, including the Shipping Board, as to how the advisory service of architects could be secured, and from the Signal Corps as to whether we could furnish three hundred candidates for lieutenancies. Both these services were rendered with a promptness and completeness that has called forth the admiration of those officials who have come in contact with the Institute's war service. In approximately a week we had filled the Signal Corps' quota of three hundred, through the immediate activity of chapter officers who cooperated with the same efficiency that they displayed in responding to the confidential request for that data concerning responsible contractors throughout the country which has proven so invaluable to the Council of National Defense and the Cantonment Division.

As the British and French Commissions had both warned our Government against committing the error of sending technically trained men to the trenches, as summarized in the British commissioner's statement: "We should indeed be fortunate if to-day we had in technical service one-tenth of the architects who lie buried in foreign soil"—we have maintained, from the declaration of war, a card catalogue enrollment of all architects and draftsmen, whether members of the Institute or not, who desired technical service, and since it was early apparent that any attempt to exempt our profession *for* such technical service might be misunderstood and interpreted as an effort to exempt *from* service, this enrollment was utilized to furnish all men of draft age with a certificate of enrollment for technical service and a personal letter from the president of the Institute to the officer in command, requesting assignment to service in technical fields. Whatever may be the measure of our success, and the letters I have received would indicate that it is by no means inconsiderable, no effort has been spared to assist the Government, and to place our men where they can do the most good.

The Institute has been a guiding force in the organization of the Professional Classes War Relief modeled on lines similar to the British organization of like name, which has performed in that country such splendid service.

Major Evarts Tracy was the chairman of our Preparedness Committee and with him your officers had been laboring with the War Department to secure an early organization of a Camouflage Division, but our constant prodding produced uniform replies which may be summarized by the words in the final communication: "Thanking you again for your patriotic offer, I beg to inform you that the American Army will do no camouflage work, as the French Army will perform that service for us." But by the irony of fate, the same mail brought me a letter from Major Tracy beginning: "Three rousing cheers, the Institute is on the map, for I've just been appointed chief of the Camouflage Division of the U. S. A."

The division he organized is now in France; the work in this country is left in the able hands of Capt. Aymar Embury II, while our intrepid major is in charge of this new branch of war in the French college for the instruction of officers.

Typical of the attitude of a Government unused to the employment of highly trained specialists has been the almost tragic delay in recognizing the need for houses as a prerequisite to the production of ships and munitions. In this connection, the service of the editor of the *Journal* has been more than notable. His pen and personality have been dynamic forces in getting the unrelated machinery into any sort of action, while his foresight in arranging Mr. Ackerman's visit to England made the *Journal* the leader and the authority on this momentous question.

The *Journal* has likewise performed a notable war service in its Structural Service Department, so ably and painstakingly conducted by Mr. D. Knickerbocker Boyd, the practical value of which is demonstrated by the use which Government officials are now making of it in connection with war construction work.

In these days when the normal progress of private work has been rudely arrested by the sudden rise in cost and shortage of material, labor and transportation, it seemed a duty to investigate to see if there is not some middle ground between "business as usual" and the equally untenable theory of entire cessation. A discussion of the question will later occupy the attention of the convention.

This record would not be complete without an acknowledgment of the sustained interest and active co-operation of Major—now Colonel—Starrett, a member of the New York Chapter and chairman of the Emergency Construction Committee of the Council of National Defense, for he has been, and still is, the one outstanding official who has sought by every means to secure the recognition of the profession in those fields where he feels, with us, we ought to be in active service. It was on his invitation that an advisory committee of architects was invited to Washington to confer and re-

port to his committee on a construction policy for the Government, which was endeavoring to carry out a colossal building program without any co-ordination of departmental effort.

Major Starrett labored untiringly with your officers to prepare the way for the rendering of those services we all confidently expected would be delegated to the architect as the one best qualified to render them, but it always seemed as if the officials in the war-making departments were too busy with the details of rapidly moving affairs to discuss—let alone reorganize—systems by which this vast amount of detail could be lightened and the work be done by those best fitted to do it. Unhappily, no bureau of public works, such as we have advocated for years, was in existence to handle the sudden expansion of construction work by distributing it among the countless available channels; and so today we find over-expanded governmental agencies far behind with their schedules of building, and, with a few brilliant exceptions, the architect with little or nothing to do, and his priceless organization badly crippled by the inroads of military and civil employment on Government work.

Now a survey in retrospect reveals the underlying forces which have rendered our efforts as unavailing as those of the English and French, for our situation differs not at all from that covered by Professor Simpson's statement to the Royal Institute of British Architects, last December, in his reference to the fact that "unfortunately for the country and ourselves, the profession was completely ignored at the beginning of the war."

The all-explaining truth is that West Point and Annapolis have no course in architecture, but they have courses in engineering, and the training thus acquired has created a tradition which seems to blind the army engineer to the existence of another profession, equally or better qualified to plan and design. He has always made a practice of designing, and of performing all other usual architectural service in those additions and extensions to barracks, training stations and army appendages which are often an offense to the eye of one trained in the intelligent and economic development of purely architectural problems. It is unfortunate, but perhaps natural, with army and navy engineers at the seat of war activities in Washington, that the attempt was made to expand their modest drafting rooms into colossal offices by giving additional engineers commissions in the Officers' Reserve Corps, and by hiring draftsmen away from our organizations which, in the interest of the nation, should have been preserved. And in these vast and newly formed aggregations of unrelated cogs, there was not one master mind trained by successful architectural experience to correlate these cogs into an efficient machine such as could carry out plans conceived with that breadth of imagination which is the peculiarly essential characteristic of the successful architect; not one master mind capable of grasping the opportunity of organizing an efficient army of architects already encamped throughout the country ready to tackle the national job in its local application and under the command of its central authority in Washington.

But, looking backward over this year of rather discouraging experiences, it seems impossible now to avoid the conclusion that our efforts were far from being in vain. In administrative circles, at least, the architect is finding a steadily increasing appreciation of his services, while there is also a decided tendency to utilize private organizations in many lines of work. We must remember, however, that no government in the world is so highly organized as immediately to utilize the services of all its professions, and it is not unlikely, when the facts are all known, we shall find that the United States was quicker to utilize the services of architects in war than were the nations of Europe.

Many ascribe our failure to receive earlier recognition to the unfortunate lack of cordial relations with Congress and official Washington; to a lack of understanding of the functions of an architect, and even a lack of "appreciation" of the profession which they conceive to be its earned due, which some as yet undiscovered magic needle of publicity might inject into the sluggish circulation in the veins and arteries of the body politic.

To my mind, based on an intimate view of the constantly shifting picture at the national capital, both theories of cause and cure are based on the error of superficial appearances; true indeed it is that Congress and official Washington do not conceive that there is a natural and well earned right of our profession to "appreciation"—true indeed it is that these same people whose position clothes them with a subtle something of apperception not possessed by the ordinary mortal have little if any conception of the "functions" of an architect, but —have we ever stopped till now to ask ourselves— why?

Stop now and think, who are these awe-inspiring Senators and Representatives—these Cabinet Officers and Bureau Chiefs? Why, forsooth, they are the next door neighbors, the fellow townsmen of members of the American Institute of Architects from one end of this broad land to the other.

If, in the aggregate at Washington, these officials lack "appreciation" and fail to understand aright our "functions," these qualities have not been instilled into the individual (who goes to make up the aggregate) when he lived "back home." If this be true, is it not possible that the fault lies

with *us* as individual architects, rather than with the professional body of which we are component parts—and if we have thus failed should we not seek the sources of failure?

Have we stood shoulder to shoulder with the budding politician in civic activities, showing that executive, constructive grasp of civic problems which is the heritage of every architect worthy of the name; or have we held aloof only to be drawn into some "City Beautiful" movement, born but to die, because we do not insist that our talents are dedicated to the City Practical—for no city is practical wherein development does not unite both beauty and utility—and in our professional practice with these officials in their capacity of private citizen and fellow townsman, have we established through efficient and capable professional *service* rendered, that deep-seated conviction of the administrative ability of an architect, or has the congressional conception of an architect as a dreamer and long-haired creator of useless but expensive dewdaddles come to the Capitol only from the supervising architect's office?

No lawyer ever became famous in his profession through forensic brilliancy which bore no fruits of cases won.

No doctor ever won eminence through an "appreciation" of his profession which was not founded on lives saved, in his "service" to mankind.

A modernized hybrid proverb might be worded: "Deliver the goods and they shall return to you after many days."

And if I ask you, as honorable citizens, what price you are willing to pay to avoid such lack of cordiality as may exist between the Institute officially and a few officials and congressmen with whom we have locked horns in support of our duty as we saw it, I know your answer in advance.

Rather than disturb the slowly growing tolerance of Government officials toward the Institute would you have seen your officers stand supinely by while the beauty of our beloved Capital was marred by that unsightly power house invading its dedicated park area?

Would you, for the sake of that same "commercial peace," have had your officers stay their vigorous protest against the breaking of the Government's faith toward the profession in abrogating its contract with the winner of the competition for the Department of Justice Building? Would you have had the *Journal* refrain from attacking and defeating the public-building bill, merely because in thus revealing the story of the waste and blundering involved in a traditional national policy of treating the people's public buildings as a part of the partisan political machine, we might incur the enmity of a few congressmen? No, ten thousand times, no! And if I could believe you counted these battles for the right as errors of judgment in policy, then would I glory indeed in being a party to such errors.

No, my friends, the common loss of the Government, and our profession, is attributable to the combination of unfortunate conditions which I have outlined to you, and to accentuate the handicap, the one post of Supervising Architect of the Treasury, which the law requires shall be filled by a trained architect, has not been so filled for a number of years.

That the strenuous efforts of your officers and the host of Institute members impatient to serve found a strong barrier of misunderstanding to break down is illustrated by the attitude of one Cabinet Officer who languidly replied to my assertion that architects were eager and willing to serve in *any* way, so long as they might thus show their patriotism: "Oh! yes, I've heard a lot about the hordes of architects who are pestering everyone with their offers of free service and their complaints that their professional value was not being recognized, and I'm getting a bit weary with it." So patent was the inference that I was stung into the hot retort which shattered his complacency: "Mr. Secretary, is it fair for you and the host of other Government officials who are firmly entrenched in the satisfaction of serving our country in its hour of need, to impute unworthy motives to a profession which has been consistently denied that God-given privilege, but whose every act and self-sacrificing offer of service betokens a depth of patriotic feeling which entitles them to that same satisfaction that you enjoy?" In an instant his whole attitude changed, and he replied: "Mr. Mauran, I never thought of it in just that way; now tell me how I can be of assstance."

In closing, I wish to dwell for a moment on the admirable devotion of the chairmen of the hard-working Institute committees; of the treasurer in his arduous and not always pleasant task, and of the secretary—and here may I particularize for your own enlightenment. In addition to a voluminous, carefully considered correspondence, your secretary has compared, *word* for *word*, every submitted draft of Chapter Constitution and By-law—not once only, but in some cases several times, in the conscientious performance of the duty entrusted to him.

And so I can say with full conviction: Whatever may be the measure of success in advancing the best interests of our country and of our beloved profession, labor toward that end has been given lavishly and without hope of reward other than the satisfaction of having done one's best in a cause to which one's devoted interest has been dedicated.

Extracts from the Report of the Board of Directors

Honorary Membership

THE Board recommends to the convention for election to honorary membership Mr. William R. Irby, a public-spirited citizen of New Orleans and a powerful ally of those who have been successfully striving to preserve its important historic monuments; General W. W. Harts, for many years officer in charge of Public Buildings and Grounds, and, throughout his administration of this office and that of Secretary of the Fine Arts Commission, the firm advocate of all measures aimed at the beautification of Washington and the fulfilment of the visions of the Washington Plan Commission.

Government Relations

The main topic for discussion at the fiftieth convention last year, or rather year before last, to be exact, was "Government Architecture." The report of the Board referred to the title as being inadequate and possibly misleading, and said, "It is rather the attitude of the people of the country and of their representatives in Congress, toward every question into which the arts enter, and toward the Government's policy, or rather lack of policy, in the construction of public works."

Prior to the last convention the Institute had been active in this regard, principally in endeavoring to bring about a revolution in the Government's public building policy and in advocating the institution of a bureau of public works.

The importance of this general subject has been forced upon your directors with increasing intensity during the past year, the vast Government building program required by the war serving to bring into view new facets of this many-sided problem. Also, a new point of view toward it was required of the profession, and the Institute, through its president, was not slow in showing its appreciation of this fact and in taking appropriate action. The Institute promptly laid its individual and collective services at the disposal of the Government, which, barring the few instances which stand out as significant exceptions, politely but very clearly intimated that it had no need for such services.

We were recently told, in so many words, that the Cantonment Division had had no architectural problems. They had merely built a dozen or more cantonments, each being a city of 30,000 to 40,000 inhabitants. The difficulty in such a circumstance is to know whether to laugh or cry.

It is the pondering of the state of mind that made such a declaration possible that has led to the selection of the "Architect's Service" as the main topic for discussion at this convention, for at the root of all the difficulties that your officers have encountered in their attempts, both to aid the Government by furnishing expert service and to aid the legitimate interests of the profession by striving for its rightful recognition and use, is the monumental lack of understanding by those in power of the main function of an architect in the practice of his profession.

Let us hope that in the discussions of this convention some inspired soul may utter the pregnant words that shall be able to bring a clear vision to the astigmatic politician as well as to the myopic army engineer.

There is no need here to repeat at length the steps taken by the Institute. Your president has already reported on them in the December *Journal* and in his opening address to-day, and more will develop in the later sessions of the convention.

Membership

The total membership of the Institute on April 15, 1918, was 1490, a gain of 63 during the year.

Registration Laws

Fourteen States have passed laws for the regulation of the practice of architecture, four having done so since the last convention, and there are others having similar laws in preparation. At the fiftieth convention it was

Resolved, "That the regulation by law of the practice of architecture is neither advocated nor opposed by the Institute, which believes that the desirability of such legislation is a matter for each State to determine for itself."

While the Board still holds to the second part of this resolution and does not believe that the Institute should at this time actively advocate the passage of a registration law in every State, it is in agreement with the present committee in feeling that the Institute should without further delay adopt a standard form of registration law to serve as a model for future legislation, and to determine a standard of academic training and practical accomplishment, which should be required of those admitted to practice under the title of architect

The committee presents for the consideration of the convention a first draft of a model law, and feeling the importance of the subject the Board has set aside an evening session for its discussion. The determination of minimum requirements for educational and practical proficiency will be far more difficult than the drafting of a good model registration law. It is a fit subject for the joint

labors of the Committees on Education and Registration, and it is the hope of the Board that the next convention may have for consideration not only a definite set of values but a practicable method f testing them.

Advertising

On the subject of advertising, the waves have been beating higher and higher in recent months, and the Institute has been bombarded with private and public admonition to wake up and take cognizance of the rising storm.

It is, perhaps, only fair to intimate here that the Institute has been very much alive to the importance of careful consideration of this matter. In January, 1917, the Board discussed the question of advertising and the obvious difficulty of drawing a clearly defined line between legitimate publicit and improper advertising.

This discussion has, of course, prevailed heretofore in the gradual development of the present Canon No. 4 from earlier qualified forms to its present direct statement, which simply says it is unprofessional to advertise.

In order to survey this vexing question once again a committee was appointed which presented a report to the Board at its September meeting, and this report in substantially its original form is presented to the convention for consideration.

The substance of this report is that advertising to excess is a question of bad taste, that it is practically impossible to define and control matters of taste by legislation, and that it is better, therefore, to remove advertising from the list of punishable offenses and revise the Canons of Ethics accordingly. The Board refers this report to this convention without recommendations.

Signing of Buildings

Closely related to the report on advertising, and inevitably bound up with any discussion of it, is the request made by the Illinois Society of Architects, and later reinforced by several Chapters of the Institute, relative to "signing of buildings" in course of construction, embodied in the following resolution:

"*Resolved*, That the Board of Directors of the Illinois Society of Architects request the Board of Directors of the American Institute of Architects to consider and report at the next convention of the Institute upon the advisability of amending Section 13 of 'A Circular of Advice Relative to Principles of Professional Practice' regarding 'signing buildings,' so as to provide that it is recommended that every member of the Institute display upon every building under construction his name and rank in the Institute, with the further suggestion that a committee be appointed to recommend the form of sign to be used by all members of the Institute.'

The Board does not deem it necessary or desirable to comment at length on this suggestion, believ ing it is better for the *pros* and *cons* to be developed from the floor of the convention, and so refers it to the convention without recommendation.

Professional Treatises

Another closely related matter is that involved in the addition to Section 9 of the same "Circular of Advice," which the Board of Directors at its meeting in January, 1918, voted to present to this convention for consideration. Section 9 is entitled "On accepting commissions or favors," and now reads "The architect should not receive any commissions or any substantial service from a contractor or from any interested person other than his client." The addition the Board suggests is as follows:

"The issuance by an architect of a professional treatise or a monograph of his work, in the form of a book or pamphlet, which is supported by advertisements, whether privately printed or published through regular channels, tends to lower the dignity and standing of the profession and is to be condemned."

The Board believes there is no sound argument to the contrary and advises such amendment of the circular.

The Committee Reports

Fifty-first Annual Convention, American Institute of Architects

THE report of the Building Committee in charge of the Octagon and dependent buildings indicates that the care of these historic structures is in good hands, and that every possible safeguard has been used. Unfortunately, owing to lack of funds, many details of repairs are, of necessity, postponed; but we have the assurance that such postponement will not affect the safety of the structures.

The report of the committee states, in part:

> With regard to the Octagon building proper, the exterior is in fairly good shape except certain parts of the sandstone water table. As the condition of this water table is not structurally dangerous, the committee believes it better to defer this restoration until funds are available to replace it with stone of a better grade. The entrance hallway has been put into good shape but is yet to receive the final coat. Under authority given at the January board meeting the renovation of the staircase, hall and Treaty Room are now in contemplation.
>
> Under the able personal direction of the treasurer, Mr. Waid, a modern sprinkler system of the dry pipe type has been installed. Heads are located throughout the building in all closets, storage rooms, basement, roof space, stairways and similar places exposed to fire danger, but not in the principal rooms and stairways of the building, where sprinkler heads would have been unsightly. The installation of this system has reduced the insurance on the property materially, and is one of the most important steps which the Institute has accomplished in preserving the Octagon for the future.
>
> The property at 521 Eighteenth Street has been rented to the Navy Department for use as an office building under a yearly lease, for the period of the war. No increase in rental was asked for, but the department agreed to put the building in first-class repair, so to maintain it, and to turn it over to the Institute at the end of the term with all improvements intact. These improvements, which have been extensive, will accrue to the property without cost to the Institute.

The Lincoln Highway, which became an assured undertaking some four years ago, has been aided very materially by the efforts of the Institute. The committee of the Institute, appointed to conserve the architectural integrity of this undertaking, has performed valuable service. Through its efforts we are assured that this great roadway will not become diverted to serve the sordid ends of those who would, perhaps, seek an opportunity to convert a great undertaking into personal gain.

While, owing to war conditions, much of the program outlined for 1917 has been abandoned, the committee is able to report that, in co-operation with the various local committees, much important work has been accomplished.

The following items of interest in connection with the Lincoln Highway are included in the report of the committee:

> Proposed Lincoln monument at Jefferson, Iowa. Statue of Lincoln purchased; co-operation of committee asked in determining upon location.
>
> County line markers for the entire highway are being developed and your committee has offered its services, which have been accepted.
>
> South Bend, Ind., is to provide markers in that state and services of committee will probably be used.
>
> Movement inaugurated to mark entrance of highway into Philadelphia. Women's Civic Club addressed by Messrs. Day and Sellers.
>
> Monument to cost $25,000 commemorating ill-fated Donner party to be erected near Truckee, Cal. Not yet determined if committee services will be used.
>
> Definite steps have been taken to improve the so-called "desert gap." Accomplishment of this feature will largely increase popularity and importance of the highway in the West.
>
> In Illinois the Legislature has submitted a bill for $60,000,000 bond issue for roads. The Highway Commission has decided to improve the Lincoln Highway first, and your committee is co-operating with the commission.
>
> The committee has done some work in determining what portions of the highway in Illinois are Indian trails, looking toward development of historic interest.

The report of the Committee on Materials and Methods, of which Thomas Nolan is chairman, has, apparently, during the last year covered a wide field of valuable work.

In addition to the several activities of the committee as set forth in its report, it is stated that the standardization and classification of sash pulleys has been considered. Also the standardization of details for the application of standard hardware, for which a series of plates have recently been published by the leading manufacturers of hardware. These plates, accurately drawn, are of real service to architects in detailing and specifying the application of hardware according to recognized standards. These matters are referred to to illustrate the character of the miscellaneous activities properly belonging to this committee.

The following recommendations were made by the committee:

That the American Institute of Architects endorse the recommendation of its Committee on Materials and Methods, and affirm the following standards of the American Society for Testing Materials: Standard specifications for structural steel for buildings, standard specifications and tests for Portland cement. It is urged that the members of the Insti-

tute refer to these standards in writing all specifications involving the use of these materials.

That as the American Society of Testing Materials has adopted definitions of terms relating to materials and methods employed in building construction, namely, standard definitions of terms relating to sewer pipe; of terms relating to paint specifications, of terms relating to structural timber, and tentative definitions of terms relating to the gypsum industry, the American Institute of Architects urge architects to familiarize themselves with these terms and to use them when referring to these materials. The Congress of the United States has enacted laws defining the standard sizes for barrels for certain commodities, and also the standard gages for metals.

That the American Institute of Architects urge the United States Bureau of Standards to ask Congress to define a standard perch of stone and to require each State of the Union to abandon its own definition and adopt a United States standard definition.

That the American Institute of Architects express its approval of the idea and general character of the National Electrical Safety Code, and endorse the United States Bureau of Standards' proposal to give this code a thorough field trial, with the co-operation of all agencies concerned, of which the Institute is one.

The Committee on Allied Arts, Lloyd Warren, chairman, reported:

> That in accordance with the instructions of the board it has given consideration to the award of the Institute's medal for craftsmanship, and that it recommends that the first award of the medal be made in favor of Henry C. Mercer of Doylestown, Pa., for distinguished achievement in the design and manufacture of decorative tiling.
>
> At a time when fictile art in this country was at a low ebb, Mr. Mercer made a thorough study of the methods of early German settlers in eastern Pennsylvania, and successfully revived their processes. He schooled the young men of his own neighborhood in an industry thus awakened, and soon he reproduced with the utmost artistic success decorative and historic motifs for tiles found in the museums of Europe. Later, with growing confidence, he produced his own designs. Some of these illustrating early American scenes, in clay of harmonious coloring, are a testimony of his originality and skill.
>
> Mr. Mercer has placed at the disposal of American architects additional means of decorating buildings in a permanent and beautiful manner. He has given a definite direction and marked impetus to the craft of tile making and setting, and his position in that craft is so notable that a signal recognition of his ability by the American Institute of Architects is, in the opinion of this committee, fully merited.

Just at this time when historic monuments in Europe are being laid waste, the importance of the work of the Committee of the Institute on Preservation of Historic Monuments in the United States is greatly emphasized.

In this country interest is stimulated in the preservation of the few remaining historic landmarks from the danger of possible injury through overt acts of our interned enemies.

Referring to these conditions, the report of this committee states:

> Besides the precautionary measures taken to safeguard public buildings, it is of interest to note that the city of Philadelphia has called upon the local chapter of the Institute to make an accurate survey of Independence Hall as an official record of this national monument, from which it could be restored in event of injury to it.
>
> Referring to the resolution adopted at the forty-ninth annual convention of the Institute in protest against the threatened destruction of the old State House at Hartford, Conn., it is gratifying to record the success of those interested in this landmark, and not only is its preservation assured but funds have been provided for its restoration.
>
> There is a commendable effort on the part of societies and individuals to secure records and measured drawings of colonial buildings and the preservation of structures of especially historic or architectural interest. In the case of the John Paul Jones house at Portsmouth, N. H., the activity of a member of your committee resulted in having the landmark placed under the protection of the local historical society. In Connecticut the Society of Colonial Dames, with an advisory committee of architects, has undertaken to compile a record of the ancient buildings of the state. This is supplemented by the work of individual architects who are making surveys and measured drawings of such buildings in that territory, and your committee has had occasion to express its appreciation of this and to acknowledge on behalf of the Institute the receipt of copies of such drawings which have been deposited at the Octagon for preservation and reference.
>
> The New York State Association of Architects by resolution adopted at its last annual meeting has called upon the Institute to consider some procedure whereby students in architecture may be encouraged to make measured drawings of ancient buildings, a suggestion in harmony with the action of the Architectural Department of the University of Pennsylvania in requesting the Philadelphia Chapter to designate buildings of interest that might be surveyed by students, and thus assist in compiling a record of fast-vanishing examples of our early American architecture.
>
> The American Institute of Architects is the logical organization to father such a program of cataloging all existing colonial buildings, since a project of such value could be granted its proper dignity nowhere as well as under the aegis of so well recognized, well established and well regarded an institution.

The report of the Committee on Fire Prevention discloses conditions existing among members of the profession, with particular reference to chapter organizations that indicate the necessity for some action that will place the profession of architecture more squarely in line with other technical organizations as regards fire prevention.

The report states that the committee addressed a letter to each of the thirty-nine chapters of the Institute, making inquiry as to what each chapter was doing in the way of fire prevention work. It was

further asked if there was a committee on fire prevention, and if the chapters had any relations with the local boards of Fire Underwriters. More active interest on this important matter was urged, and an early reply requested.

The report states, in referring to this circular letter, and the small proportion of replies received:

> Two things are particularly noticeable: One is, that no reply has been received from more than twenty chapters a month and a half after the letter was sent. The second is, that many chapters apparently do not get the point of the circular letter and believe that the purpose of the Committee on Fire Prevention is to educate the public, whereas, its real purpose in this case is to educate the architects. A number of the replies very naïvely say that the architects would not be interested in such a committee, when it is the particular point of the propaganda to make the architects realize their own responsibility from which no law and no city authorities can relieve them.
>
> The Committee on Fire Prevention has answered all inquiries with more information as to the possibilities of such work as is done in New York. It asks to be continued with power, so as to insist upon consideration by every chapter at some meeting at least of the possibilities of educating the architect up to his responsibility in fire prevention work. The committee feels that nothing will advance this cause more than a realization by the individual architect when he is making his plans for buildings, from private dwellings at five thousand dollars to skyscrapers at five million—that he can do more to safeguard life and property in buildings than anyone else, if he only knows the fundamentals of fire protection; and furthermore, that it is his duty to know these fundamentals and to apply them and get his client to accept them, whether the law requires them or not.

Owing to the enlistment of a large number of architectural students, the Committee on Education, of which R. Clipston Sturgis is chairman, reports that the attendance at all of our architectural schools has been reduced at least one-half. This is as it should be, states the report, and one is glad these young men have gone into the service. They will gain in every way quite as much as if they had remained in the school, and when the war is over will be as well equipped to follow their profession as if they had spent the same time in school. They will have missed school instruction, but they will have gained the instruction of life, and in most cases will have had the opportunity to see something of the Old World, which otherwise might have come only through winning a scholarship. The schools maintain most of the older teaching force and are carrying on the work as usual.

The standard and nomenclature of the architectural degree is discussed at some length in this report. Referring to this subject, it is stated:

> The degree is designated either with or without the word science. There is, on the part of architects, a strong feeling against the use of the word science in a degree of arts, and in view of the popular interpretation of this word this feeling appears to be justified.
>
> There is, however, no art that is not also a science and this is doubly true of architecture. Nor is there any science which does not include the fundamental element of the arts—imagination. Faith is the knowledge of things unseen, and it is in the realm of the unknown that sciences make progress.
>
> Science, therefore, is not so wholly inappropriate a word to describe an architectural degree. Unfortunately in many cases a school of architecture has been an adjunct of a technical or engineering school and the degree with the word science included has carried with it a wholly false implication that architecture is a branch of engineering. The reverse is nearer the truth. Architecture is and must always be an all-embracing art and science.
>
> It is indeed so all-embracing that no one man can pretend to all the knowledge requisite for the service demanded. Therefore architecture is more and more the product of an organization led by one who understands the vast field of knowledge to be covered, knows the value of the specialist and how to use him, and is himself so well trained and so experienced as to be humble and know his own limitations.
>
> Under such conditions it is not unusual to find a man of little or no artistic ability handling well architectural problems, and one also finds men who are essentially artists, and yet, with an organized office force, fully capable of handling work efficiently.
>
> If, therefore, there is a general unanimity among the authorities who are trying to determine the nomenclature of degrees to retain in that of architecture the word "science," the profession may reasonably accept it; but if the word could, without confusion, be omitted it would, in the opinion of the committee, be more truly descriptive.
>
> In any case it is highly desirable that a degree, which in each school means the same thing, should have the same nomenclature.

The report of the Committee on Contracts and Specifications covers the various documents revised and approved by the Board of Directors.

By direction of the board the committee has prepared and the board has approved and issued a form of agreement between owner and architect on the fee-plus-cost system, with an explanatory circular.

By direction of the board the committee has in preparation a form of agreement between contractor and owner for use when the cost of the work plus a fee forms the basis of payment, together with an explanatory circular. In the form of a third tentative draft these papers have been distributed for criticism to the officers and chapters of the Institute and to architects, contractors and members of the bar, as well as to technical and trade associations. After criticism they will be revised and submitted to the board for approval and issuance.

At its meeting in January, 1917, the board instructed the committee to prepare a handbook of architectural practice. A first tentative edition of that book was issued last September with a view to securing criticism. Many helpful suggestions were made, in the light of which it is now being rewrit-

ten. A second tentative edition will appear in the autumn. Again the book will be revised after criticism and it will then be submitted to the board for approval and issuance.

The report of the Committee on Basic Building Code is, in full, as follows:

The Committee on Basic Building Code has had no meetings and has been altogether inactive during the past year. This activity has been due to the inability of the Chairman to arrive at a satisfactory solution as to the best and most effective method of procedure.

It appears that the preparation of a Basic Building Code cannot be terminated successfully and authoritatively by a committee of men in the actual practice of their profession, as they cannot give it the time and close attention necessary, nor can it be done by calling together a group of such committees from kindred societies, as this only multiplies the difficulties. The preparation of such a code requires the employment of many capable experts who shall give their entire time and attention to the matter in the compilation of data and the great amount of investigation necessary.

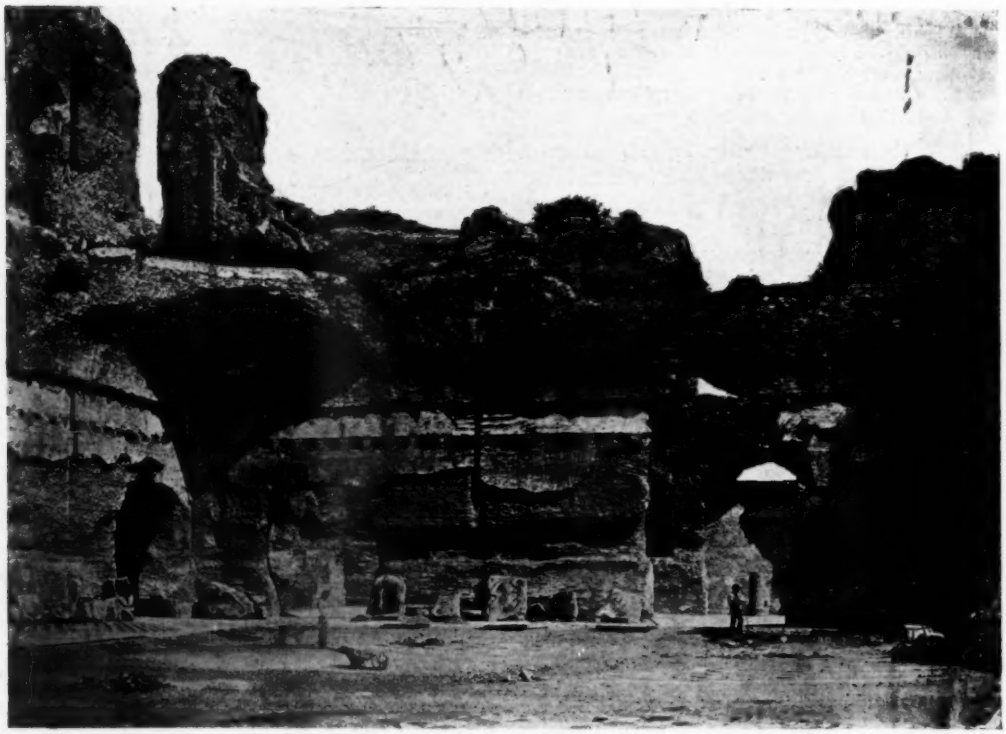
That there is urgent need of such a code in unifying practice and establishing standards of safety, there can be little doubt. The matter is of extreme importance also from the viewpoint of conservation, and for this reason the National Government should be called upon to undertake the work through the Bureau of Standards, and should provide the necessary funds for the employment of experts.

In order to bring the matter to the Board in concrete form for its consideration, the undersigned recommends that the Board of Directors of the Institute consider the advisability of inviting kindred societies to join in a request to the National Government, through the Bureau of Standards, for an appropriation for this purpose.

The work of the Bureau could well be carried on under the advice of a committee appointed by the Institute and such kindred societies as, in its judgment, would be interested; this committee to co-operate and advise with the Bureau of Standards on scope, methods, etc., to the end that a Basic Building Code may be formulated which will be fundamental, authoritative and conclusive.

The suggestion in the foregoing report that the National Government should undertake the work of preparing a basic code through the Bureau of Standards is worthy of the most careful consideration.

The report of the Committee on Registration Laws is conformed to the presentation of a general form of registration law, which the committee strongly recommends.

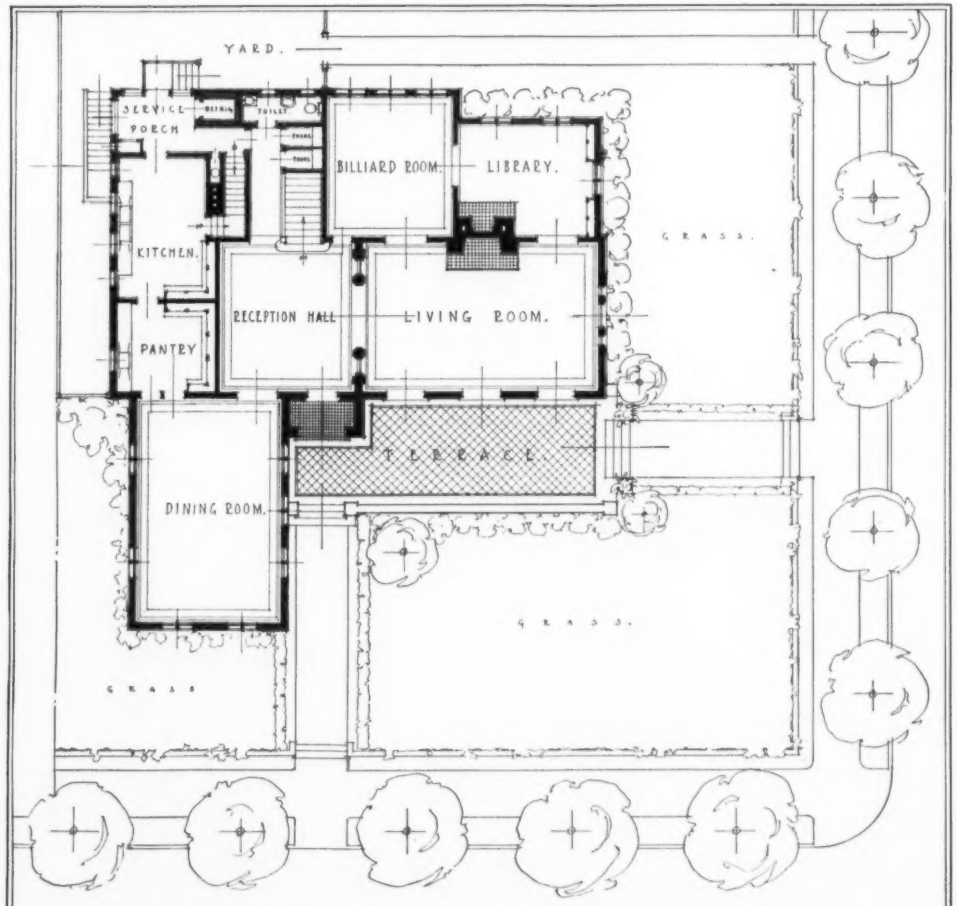


INTERIOR, BATHS OF CARACALLA, ROME

PLATE 170

THETA DELTA CHI FRATERNITY HOUSE, UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, BERKELEY, CALIFORNIA

WILLIAM C. HAYS, *ARCHITECT;* NORMAN W. SHAW, *ASSOCIATE*



FIRST FLOOR PLAN.

THETA DELTA CHI FRATERNITY HOUSE— BERKELEY, CALIFORNIA.

SECOND FLOOR PLAN

THETA DELTA CHI FRATERNITY HOUSE,
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA,
BERKELEY, CALIFORNIA

WILLIAM C. HAYS, *ARCHITECT*; NORMAN W. SHAW, *ASSOCIATE*

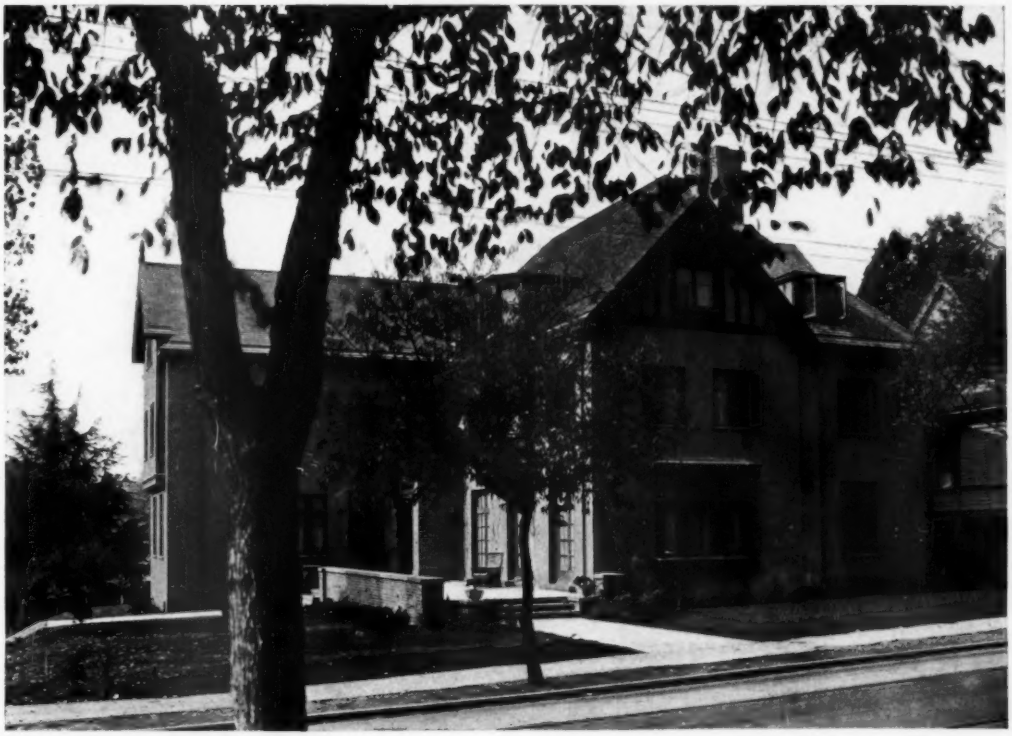


PLATE 172 RECEPTION HALL AND LIVING ROOM

THETA DELTA CHI FRATERNITY HOUSE, UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, BERKELEY, CALIFORNIA

WILLIAM C. HAYS, *ARCHITECT;* NORMAN W. SHAW, *ASSOCIATE*

LIBRARY

LIVING ROOM FIREPLACE

PLATE 173

THETA DELTA CHI FRATERNITY HOUSE, UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, BERKELEY, CALIFORNIA

WILLIAM C. HAYS, *ARCHITECT;* NORMAN W. SHAW, *ASSOCIATE*

PLATE 174

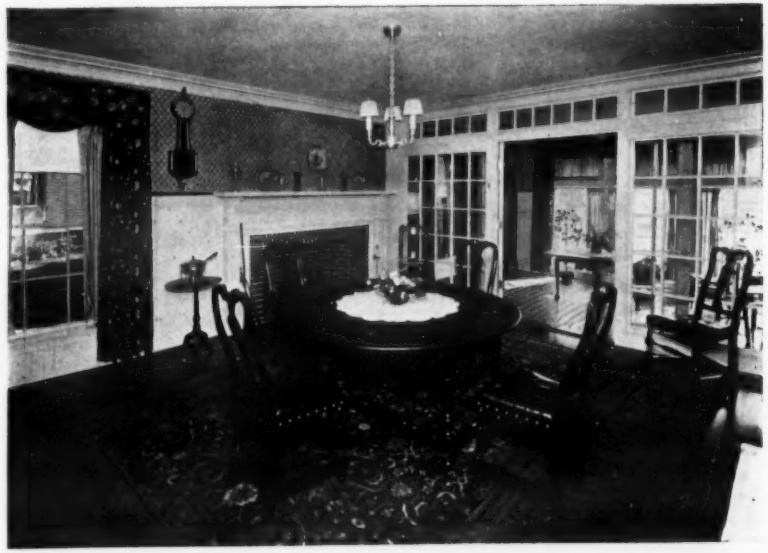
HOUSE OF DR. G. A. STICKNEY, BEVERLY, MASS.

HENRY BAILY ALDEN, *ARCHITECT*

PLATE 175

HOUSE OF DR. G. A. STICKNEY, BEVERLY, MASS.

HENRY BAILY ALDEN, *ARCHITECT*



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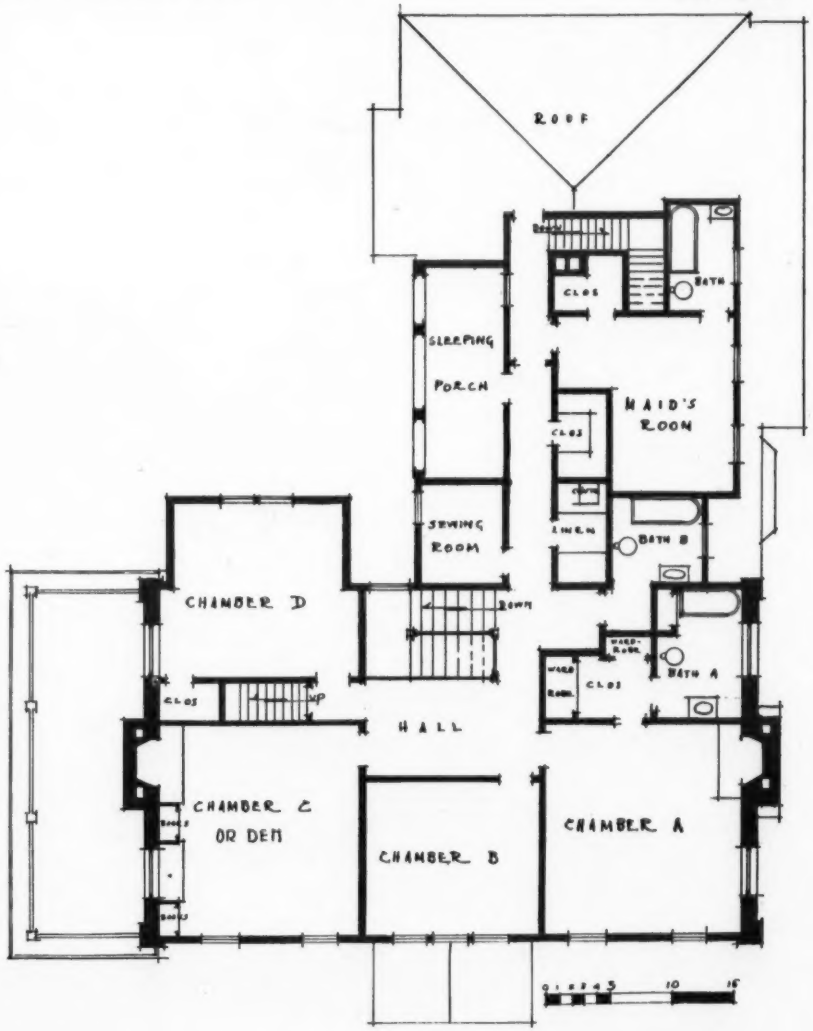


PLATE 177

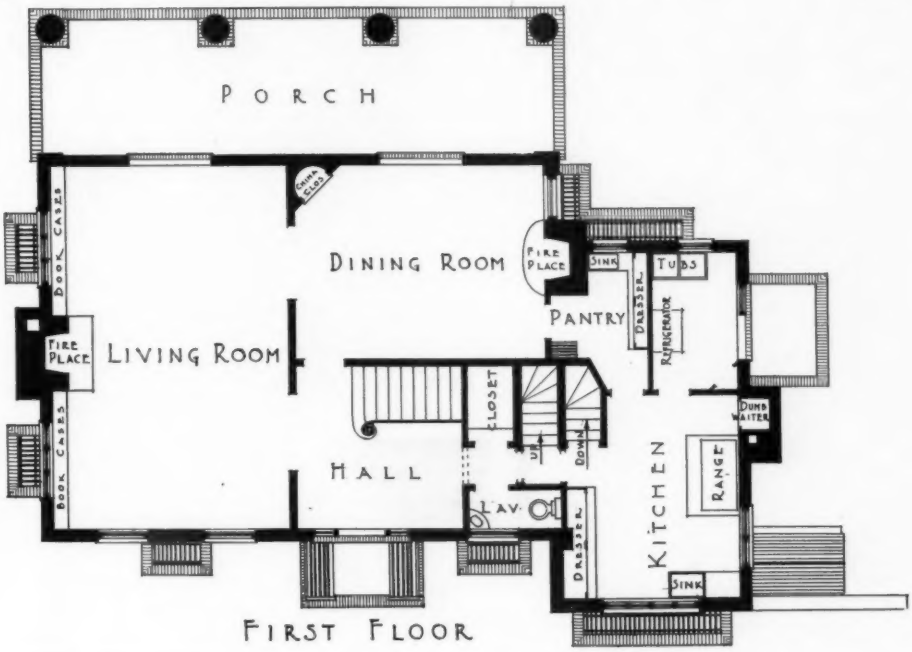
HOUSE OF DR. G. A. STICKNEY, BEVERLY, MASS.

HENRY BAILY ALDEN, *ARCHITECT*

PLATE 178

HOUSE OF WILLIAM SHEWELL ELLIS, MOYLAN, PA.

MORRIS & ERSKINE, *ARCHITECTS*



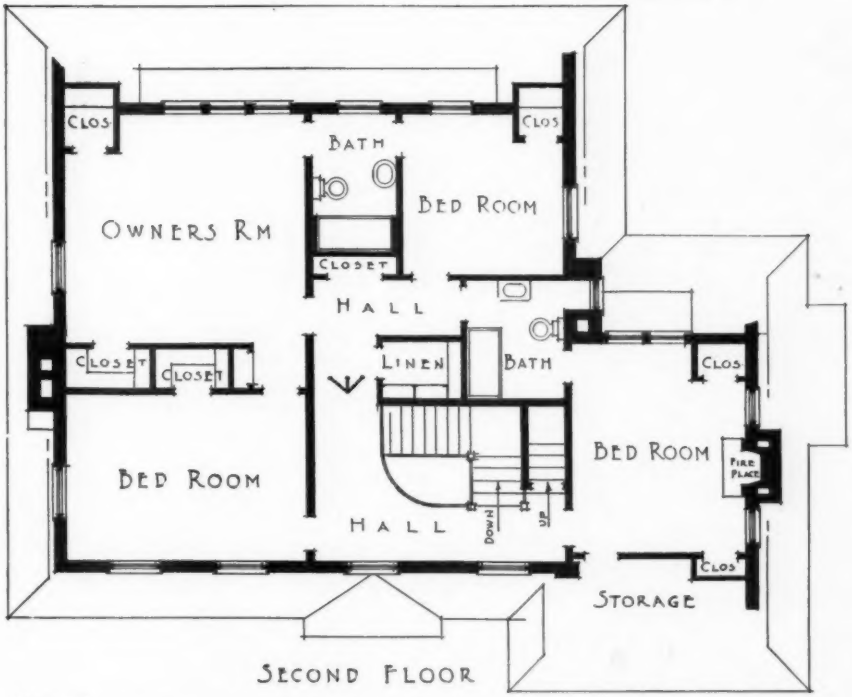


PLATE 179

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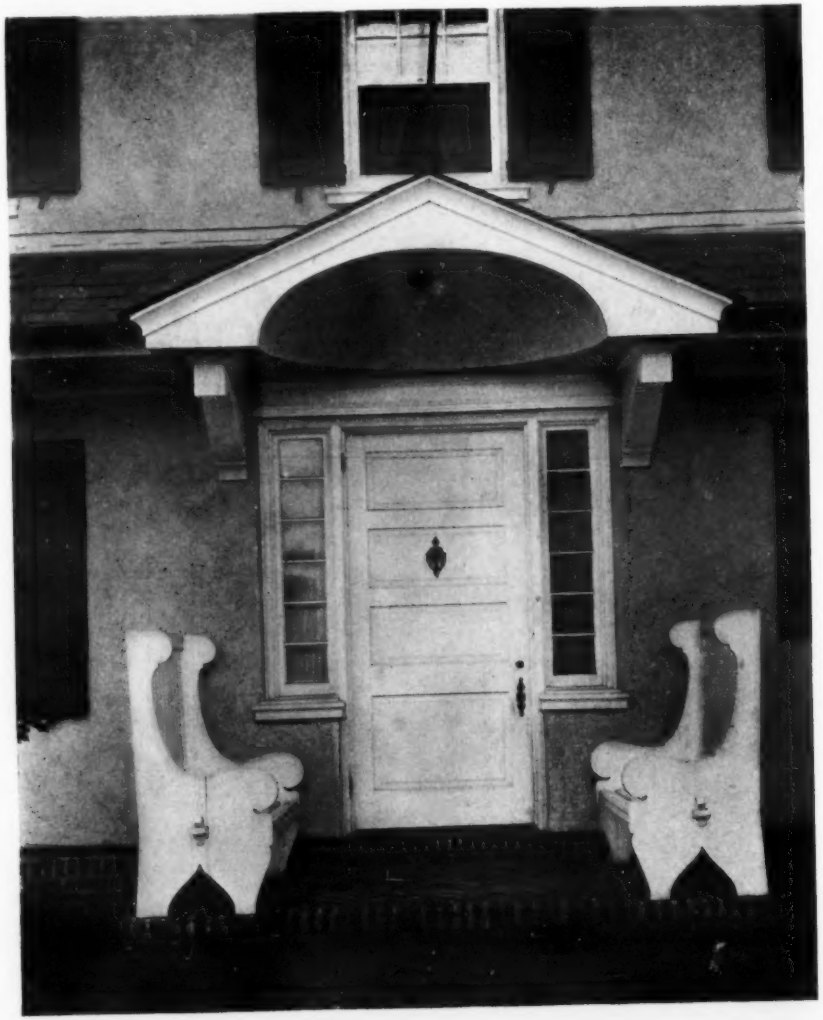
MORRIS & ERSKINE, *ARCHITECTS*



HOUSE OF WILLIAM SHEWELL ELLIS
MOYLAN, PA.

MORRIS & ERSKINE, *ARCHITECTS*

DETAIL IN LIVING ROOM

PLATE 181

GENERAL VIEW

HOUSE OF TRUXTON BEALE, SAN RAFAEL, CAL.

BAKEWELL & BROWN, *ARCHITECTS*

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The Recent Convention

UNDOUBTEDLY the fifty-first convention of the American Institute of Architects was the most efficient, the most fruitful of good results, and in every sense the most successful that the Institute has ever held. Many influences contributed to this very satisfactory outcome, not the least important of which was the feeling generally expressed that, the mistakes of the past fully realized, now is the time to set about their correction.

While a suggestion has been made for the formation of an organization national and truly representative, and the questions involved in such a procedure have been very thoroughly discussed in these columns, it is now believed, in the light of this convention, that the American Institute of Architects is the organization best qualified to undertake the work to be done, if it will only do so. Whatever prestige may have been lost, whatever misinterpretation of the architectural profession may have been made, can all be set right by the Institute.

An idea, very generally held, not only by the public at large but also by many government officials of high repute, that architecture belongs only to the arts of peace, has been disseminated widely. Owing to the admirable and patient course pursued by Ex-President Mauran and his Board of Directors, this erroneous view of architects and their work, may, if followed by an equally efficient course on the part of the incoming officers, be corrected. Through wise guidance the profession is now emerging from the partial obscurity that threatened it; and it is becoming each day more widely realized that an essential part of our war preparation and war work must, if successfully carried forward, be entrusted to the initiative and supervision of trained architects.

Architecture, while first of all an art, has all the elements of a serious business. The efforts made by those with selfish ends to serve, to create in the public mind the impression that architects as artists fail in practical ability, have been thwarted.

The whole convention was marked by the most level-headed procedure. Many things occurred which indicated that a past conservatism, closely allied with "old fogeyism" had seen its day, and that there were in the saddle a lot of men who fully realized the work cut out for them, and knew just how to set about it.

In no instance was this better shown than in the Convention's action with regard to advertising. Every man who had kept step with the march of progress, a march which during the past year has been made in "double time," fully appreciated that the restrictions embodied in the Code, were, in many instances archaic, but none more so than in the case of advertising. By the act of the Convention, architects are now practically unrestricted in this matter, and are restrained only by the unwritten rules which govern a proper observance of the dignities of their profession. The way has been opened to legitimate advertising on the part of the architect. It is safe to assume that the majority will carefully follow these unwritten laws as to advertising with the same care that they follow the moral code governing their daily lives. The portent as set up by the Convention's action in the matter of advertising is a most happy augury for the future, as it carries the assurance that the administration of the government of architectural practice will be so safe and sane as to insure the preservation of every right and dignity.

It is well to remember that the initiative of this movement for less restricted interpretation of what might constitute advertising had its origin and its most strenuous advocacy among the groups of men in the Middle West whose broad vision and practical views were a very important feature in all the convention proceedings. That this and other matters of importance were brought to a successful conclusion was largely due to the high administrative qualities as an executive officer at all times displayed by Ex-President Mauran.

At no time did the business of the Convention halt; at all times was the presiding officer ready with a suggestion or a word of advice that cleared the tangle of discussion and set the proceedings

smoothly and surely on their way. An enormous amount of important business was transacted and solely to the skilful conduct of the Convention by its officers is this result due.

Another feature which contributed to a successful outcome was the small number of delegates representing each Chapter. As a measure of war economy the usual delegation was reduced. The result was in every way satisfactory. It is doubtful if there will be a return to the former large and oftentimes unwieldy representation. The loyalty of every delegate to the best interest of the profession, the determination everywhere apparent to co-operate on issues that meant the restoration of prestige, begot an enthusiasm which never abated from start to finish.

The manly and dignified aspect of architecture was at no previous Convention ever more consistently displayed. There was an elimination of non-essentials, an absence, truly refreshing, of an over-accentuation of the purely social phase. Every man had his mind set on his work, and he went about it in the most direct way.

With this attitude toward the problems now existing there is no doubt that we shall once more assume all the honors and dignities rightfully ours. And there will be the comforting assurance on scanning the names of men who will guide the Institute during the coming year that there will be a continued wise, and, it is to be hoped, successful, administration, and that all the many things which will occur during a time so abnormal will receive the most careful attention. This group of men, let us hope, will receive the support of every loyal member of the profession without regard to affiliation.

Post-Bellum Building Projects

AFTER-THE-WAR home building projects are, even now, beginning to take shape. Every architect in this country should be prepared for activity in the planning and direction of domestic architecture, an activity that will, without doubt, be greater than at any time in the past. During the three years of the war there has been practically a cessation of the practice of domestic architecture. (Of course, no note is taken in this connection of the enormous operation of industrial housing going forward all over the United States.)

Thousands of prospective builders who have abandoned projects of home building now await only the return of normal conditions. This halting has been due to the high cost of certain materials, the patriotic use of money that had been set aside for building and the further evidence of patriotism that prompted co-operation with our war preparations.

With all of these conditions set aside, and with the fast-growing need for an increased number of dwellings, there will undoubtedly be a strong tendency to "catch up," and as quickly as possible, with the demand for houses born of an unusually long period of building inactivity. It is reliably stated that more than 200,000 houses are planned for the suburbs of cities in this country. In England and Wales there has been shown a pressing need for a quarter of a million dwellings in urban areas, and a further hundred thousand in rural districts. In France the demand will be far greater. It is, therefore, safe to assert that at the close of the war there will be an immediate demand for upward of a million dwellings. In this country, the Committee of National Defense is perfecting plans while in England and France the respective governments have taken action to permit this vitally necessary building to proceed with the least possible delay.

There will be districting of new communities and re-location of factories with reference to new housing locations. With the rapid growth of new communities the vital questions of transportation, development of park areas and all the necessary adjuncts to large housing operations will have to be considered. Many of these can be studied now in their broadest aspect. It is folly to wait until necessity compels. There will be an unprecedented demand for the architect's services, for materials in quantities so enormous as to be almost incomprehensible, and for the money to finance all these million small undertakings.

While architects may, in a measure, have been unprepared for the emergencies confronting them at the outbreak of the war, there can be no excuse for their unpreparedness for the conditions that will inevitably exist at its close. Now that the urgent needs of the Government, combined in a certain degree with the shortsighted policy of manufacturers, have created shortages in many lines of building materials, there should at last be learned the lesson of preparedness for what is as certain to happen as is the culmination of this war. Have we learned the lesson of preparedness; have architects seen the handwriting on the wall? Let us hope they have, and that they are failing in no direction to meet the rush of building projects that will follow the signing of an armistice between the nations now in conflict.

Architecture as a Service

Following are excerpts from a paper read by Argyl E. Robinson, past president of the Illinois Society of Architects, presented at a recent meeting of the society:

"A reason that architects are criticised is because, being specialists, they have thought their way through constructive problems more generally than the average owner has, and the owner is apt to oppose the spending of money for those things which he does not, with his own understanding of the problem, consider absolutely essential. Every architect should, and I believe does, understand that if the architect's reputation is to be maintained an owner's building should not be rendered impractical by unreasonable expense for which no adequate return can be obtained. Our architectural societies have recognized that there are many who can build buildings so that they will stand up, and that the distinctive feature of our profession is to secure men who can build logically and beautifully. Have we developed along this line to such an extent that the general public considers it a defect? Are we too far ahead of the man in the street? Can we afford to relax in the promotion of an essential so difficult to acquire?

"The code of ethics of the structural engineers does not disapprove of advertising, and I have before me an advertisement of an engineer in which the owner of a plant is quoted as saying that, by the use of the engineer's system, he saved $25,000 more than he would have done if he had built the plant himself. Isn't this a clever inference which has no backing in fact? How does the owner know this? I can, of course, conceive that if I should attempt to buy a steamboat with no knowledge of what a steamboat ought to cost, that it might cost me $25,000 more than it would if I had consulted some one who did know what it should cost. What, then, is this system? Most of us who have written definite specifications have found that competitive figures run very close because the price of materials is fixed as well as the price of labor, and known quantities of both, applied in a definite manner, are pretty sure to cost close to a definite figure.

"I think it is safe to state that the saving, if it was made, was due to the substitution of something cheaper, which any of his intelligent competitors could have done also, so that the saving should reflect no particular credit to the advertising engineer, and by advertising a system he is misleading the public, and is really saying: 'I am a shrewd business man selling "let-the-buyer-beware" goods instead of reliability, which is the professional man's commodity.' Every architect knows of the injustice of substitutions, and what a favorite weapon it is to damage the reputation of the architect. A man may set out to buy a tailor-made suit, and some one may tell him that overalls are cheaper, and the owner may buy them, but that fact does not prove that overalls are the most suitable, and, if worn every day, that they will reflect credit on the adviser or the wearer as men of proper discrimination. It is a very difficult thing for the professional man to advertise and not become so over-enthusiastic for his own abilities that, with the best of intentions, he will say things which look like advertising, but it is usually so camouflaged that it is harmless to the profession."

"Have We the Sand?"

In the April issue of the *Bulletin* of the Illinois Society of Architects there is published a protest from a prominent Western contractor who has been trying to break into Government war work, which will surely interest those who are not readers of the above publication.

He first states his former belief that our President and the Government in general were opposed to centralized business control and then goes on to show how, in the practical working out of war contracts, this principle has been so handled as to nullify it entirely and center almost the whole control, not in the Government or any of its officials, but in the lucky general contractor. He then indicates the bad effects such a course has already had on construction interests, showing that, owing to it, certain coteries of contractors are driven and find it impossible to do justice to either themselves or their work, while numbers of others are absolutely without any employment, resulting in there being many unemployed men in the country—60,000 in Chicago alone.

He advocates a more general division of general contracts, and that a greater responsibility be placed on the architectural profession, through whom alone he feels can come salvation.

His suggestions are so pertinent that they are quoted in full.

"What is the solution?

"In my opinion the solution lies in the architects of the country.

"Where has the architect been, and where has his organization been? Do they expect the Army and Navy Department, amidst the grand rush of increasing their departments' business one hundred fold, to come with humility and decorum searching for an architect or architects and then hand him the commission on a silver plate? Not when the general contractors are hammering down the doors for a chance to get busy and build buildings.

"Is the country to lose the accumulated wisdom and experience that comes to the architect after years of building?

"Is a man unethical if he is a go-getter?

"Does he have to sit idly by and complain of hard times and shut up his office and lose his individuality by getting on some pay roll?

"Why don't the architects wake up and submit some coherent plan to the Government that would place them in a position to do the most good for the most people?

"For instance, as an organization, get together and lay out a campaign, call on the Army and Navy Departments (1) for a list of buildings they have erected; (2) location of buildings; (3) name of general contractor and sub-contractor on each building; (4) number of buildings; (5) time of erection; (6) cubic contents of building; (7) square feet of radiation in buildings; (8) number of plumbing fixtures and kind; (9) cost per square foot; (10) cost per cubic foot; (11) cost of apparatus per square foot; (12) cost of plumbing fixtures, etc.

"The same information should be had for buildings now under construction, and also a list of those to be built by the Ship Building Board and the Housing Board.

"When you have received this information analyze it as an individual member and in committees and finally in the parent body, and then write up a report upon your analyzation, stating what combined judgment sees in the matter of constructive criticism and offer a plan that will improve on present methods."

He further outlines a plan for accomplishing this, but this being a detail which can be worked out later, we do not publish it.

War Does Not Change Architecture of French Buildings

Architecturally there has been little change in the French villages back of the lines and not in the line of fire or pillage.

The single change, perhaps, has been the general addition of dormer windows to second-story bedrooms. They probably can be called dormer windows, although they are but slits cut in roofs covered with a little window on hinges—in other words, ventilators.

The "Tommies" are responsible for this innovation all over northern France. The English soldiers are billeted in these little tile or thatched-roofed huts where the custom of ages has made the sleeping rooms as air-tight as possible.

Making of Clay Products Restricted

The United States Fuel Administration issued, on April 17, regulations, approved by the War Industries Board, restricting the manufacture of clay products and rearranging and dividing the manufacturing program of this industry in such a way as to place it on the basis of war industry.

Ten orders of this series were signed by Fuel Administrator H. A. Garfield, the products dealt with being arranged in classes and manufacture curtailed on a percentage basis, as follows:

	Per cent restriction.
Face brick	50
Common brick	50
Paving brick	50
Terra cotta	50
Roofing tile	50
Floor and wall tile	50
Sanitary ware	50
Hollow tile	25
Drain tile and sewer pipe	25
Stoneware (except chemical)	15

Curtailment in each case is based on the average output of the past three years. It will be noted that the percentage of curtailment is not equal in all classes of clay products. These figures have been reached after careful investigation and represent rates of production which will be for the best interests of the necessary Government work and in general for the interests of the manufacturers involved.

The experience of the last year has brought two facts clearly to the front: First, that as far as possible the new war work must be put into old factories to take the place of less essential production. This method of producing war supplies prevents building problems, housing problems, and transportation problems which necessarily follow the setting up of new plants for war production; second, that in addition to this transference it will be necessary for many industries to make deliberate sacrifices of a part of their ordinary business in order that there may be transportation, men, and materials enough for war production.

The War Industries Board and the Fuel Administration have been for several months obtaining information which would enable them to reorganize lesser essential industries, such as building materials, which tax transportation facilities and fuel supplies to the largest extent.

The Bureau of Standards and experts associated with each industry have placed their services at the

disposal of the Government and have aided in reaching conclusions.

In general the minimum basis of running for the year has been established in each class of clay products. This minimum has taken account of the more necessary requirements outside of strictly war activities as well as the necessities of the Government. Beyond this, it is arranged that whenever the Government departments certify requirements in any of the divisions exceeding the productive capacity of a given district on the minimum basis, such facts will be certified to the Fuel Administration and permits for additional running will be issued.

The aim has been to conserve the larger interests of the trade involved. Equal treatment for all plants is provided wherever possible. Allowance, however, is made in the plan for recognizing individual instances where an abundance of fuel and absence of congestion make it desirable that a large proportion of production be permitted in a given district. The granting of such additional output has been hedged about with safeguards so that general conditions in the different trades will not be seriously affected.

The full form of the order relating to common brick is produced in order to show the general requirements of the Fuel Administration in dealing with all of the clay products. The orders relating to the other products are of the same general form and tenor.

March Building

Official reports of building permits issued by 117 of the larger cities of the country, and compiled by *The American Contractor*, show a moderate gain over the figures for February, but a decided falling off from the totals for the corresponding month of last year. March was the last month of 1917 when this country was not at war, so comparisons must take that fact into consideration. It so happens, too, that March of this year just precedes the drive for the third Liberty Loan, and people are holding back the expenditure of money for other purposes.

The reports from the cities show some substantial gains, but for the most part they can be attributed to construction work undertaken by the Government and incident to the war. The total, a little more than thirty-eight million dollars, does not look very large as compared with the nearly eighty-five million dollars of improvements provided by the permits issued in March of last year.

In only six cities of the country did the permits for the month exceed one million dollars, and Cleveland was the only one of the six where the total was larger than for last March. Two permits for large public buildings were responsible for the gain in the Ohio city.

While it is practically certain that the building record for the year will fall behind the records of all previous years of the last two decades, at least, the number of permits issued during the remaining months of the year will be something of an indication of how this country is standing the strain of war, for the comparisons will be with previous months in which we were also at war.

And even though building continues light during the war there is an almost certainty that after the war ends absolute requirements for business and housing will bring about a revival of construction which will put the records above normal.

Special Trains Bring Material to Expedite Wooden Ship Production

Special trains, carrying huge fir logs from the Pacific lumber States, have been rushed across the continent to the Atlantic and Gulf States shipbuilding plants. Particular effort has been made to speed up production sufficiently to expedite the completion of the 18 wooden ships, totaling 63,000 tons, which were expected to take the water about May 1. All reports indicate record-breaking production for the remainder of the year, now that the East and South have found their stride. It is stated that nearly 75 per cent of the carpenters doing shipbuilding work in these States were formerly house carpenters. Wooden shipbuilding in these regions was practically unknown before the war.

Concrete Vessels for New York's Barge Canal

The construction of fifty-one steel and twenty-two concrete barges for use on the New York Barge Canal will be begun immediately by the Government. Director General McAdoo has allotted $6,000,000 for use in developing the canal traffic, and it is estimated that this will be sufficient to provide for 200 750-ton barges ultimately. These barges will carry approximately 4,000,000 tons of freight a year on the barge canal.

The total capacity of the canal is estimated at 10,000,000 tons annually. The amount of wheat normally moved from Buffalo to seaboard by rail is 5,000,000 tons. The seventy-three barges, which it is planned to construct this year, will carry about 1,500,000 tons of this wheat, relieving the railroads to that extent.

Development of American Shipyards

Edward N. Hurley, chairman of the United States Shipping Board, in an address delivered before the National Marine League, made some interesting statements as to recent developments of American shipyards and the rapid growth of our shipbuilding facilities.

He stated, in part:

"As to the development of our shipyards, the 37 old steel yards now have 195 ways, as against 162 eight months ago. Other parts of their plants have increased proportionately. Thirty new additional steel shipyards are being erected with a total of 203 shipbuilding ways. Thus we now have, in the aggregate, 67 steel shipyards either wholly or partly engaged in Fleet Corporation work. These yards will have a total of 398 steel building ways.

"Of these yards, 35, with 258 ways, are on the Atlantic and Gulf coasts; 19, with 66 ways, are on the Pacific coast; and 13, with 74 ways, are on the Great Lakes."

In addition, the capacity for wooden shipbuilding has been increased until we now have 81 such yards, with 332 ways, completed or near completion. Mr. Hurley estimates that our output of wooden ships will approximate 2,300,000 deadweight tons annually.

The 332 wooden shipbuilding ways added to the 398 steel building ways give a total of 730 berths on which to build steel and wooden vessels—an increase of 495 within a few months.

As to the number of employees in shipyards, Mr. Hurley stated that whereas in 1916 there were less than 45,000 men employed in all the shipyards of the country, on March 2, 1918, the number had increased to 236,000, of whom 170,589 were working on actual shipping construction. In addition the board has recruited a volunteer force of 250,000 highly skilled mechanics, who have agreed to hold themselves in readiness for a call.

Statu Quo Ante-Bellum

We find much use of the terms *statu quo ante* and *statu quo ante-bellum* these days, both in relation to the affairs of nations and to the business world, but the fact of the matter is, to use the slangy expression, "There ain't no sich animal." The term is used to mean a return to the exact state of affairs which existed before the war. That is something the world never does. It doesn't turn back to things that existed before. It rounds out cycles, but there is always a difference. As one of the national weeklies says, in commenting upon the days following peace terms, "The world, and our relation to it, individual and national, after the war is over, will be something very different from that somnolent world which Germany kicked in the ribs on Aug. 1, 1914."

As *The Southern Architect and Building News* sees it, the first point to get in mind in connection with the times to come after the war, is that there will be no return of the old conditions. It is going to be a new deal all around, and there will be many changes, also a general readjustment, a thing we should be thinking about and preparing for to the best of our knowledge and ability. But in making this preparation it is a mistake to assume that we will return to old conditions. The thing we will do will be to make new conditions. No man can tell just what these will be, but perhaps the more we think about them and prepare for them the less hardships will be experienced in the readjustment that must come.

Plant for Concrete Ships to Be Built at Wilmington, N. C.

President Wilson having approved the estimate of appropriations for $50,000,000 for concrete shipbuilding, plans are being made for the immediate erection of a large plant at Wilmington, N. C. It is expected that the 7500-ton type of ship will be built there, rather than the 3500-ton, as had originally been planned. The possibilities of this type of construction are almost unlimited. It has been estimated that it should be possible to have 5,000,000 deadweight tons afloat by Jan. 1, 1919.

Artists Visit Shipyards

Art and shipbuilding may at first glance seem strangers, but they met recently when a party of distinguished American artists were shown through a number of Delaware shipyards by the Emergency Fleet Corporation.

Headed by Charles Dana Gibson and Joseph Pennell, these men, who have been devoting their talents and a large part of their time to presenting war facts to the people pictorially, visited Hog Island, the plant of the Sun Shipbuilding Corporation at Chester, the New York Shipbuilding Company at Camden, and Cramp's at Philadelphia.

The artists found much of the picturesque in the yards and made many impromptu sketches. It is expected that the trip will prove a source of inspiration to many of them that will result in notable shipyard and shipbuilding posters.

Influence of Conquest on Building

Wherever Arabian conquerors have prevailed, declares a writer in the *Magazine of Decoration,* they have utilized the conquered artists and artisans to create household furnishings and all the decorative objects for their mosques. Their principal mosques were designed and built by Christians. Even the holiest of all Islam's buildings, the Kaabah at Mecca, was built by a Coptic architect named Dokhoun, according to the Arabian historian, El-Umany, and a great portion of the building materials employed were originally prepared for a Christian church the Copts had intended to construct in Abyssinia. Mahomet himself worked as a mason on the Kaabah, and possibly as an overseer of the rebuilding of the great Moslem shrine at Mecca. But Mahomet labored under Christian direction on this work. The original shrine had been half tent and half constructed of inflammable materials. It was burned down two years before Mahomet began preaching, and before Islam was established.

A most important fact for students of Oriental art to remember is this very curious and remarkable circumstance that the most holy of Moslem temples was erected by a Coptic captive, who gave lessons in church architecture to the mighty founder of Islam's power. This Christian architect, named Dokhoun, who laid out the general plan for Moslem mosques which finally prevailed from Cordova in the west to the furtherest cities of mysterious India, was one of the oppressed, unnamed great artists and craftsmen of a misunderstood and unappreciated misnamed epoch in the great history of art.

The Tower of Babel

Recent translations of old Assyrian records would seem to indicate that the Tower of Babel was only 140 ft. in height, but that it was built upon an elevated foundation, and was the loftiest object in the city of Babylon, a city of low buildings spread over a flat plain.

The tower was a temple, and the architectural pride of Babylon. The lowest of its seven stories was 272 ft. square. The structure was built of the only available material, sun-dried brick. It was probably topped with an astronomical observatory, or rather one for the use of astrologists.

Babylon at that time, with a population of two million, was the metropolis of the world, and its great area, twice that of London, was encircled by a wall 55 miles in length. The Tower of Babel was a temple containing the art treasures of the world, and it was in attempting to describe these that the tongues of men were confused.—Illinois Society *Bulletin.*

More Color for To-day's Architecture

War ravages are largely responsible for the almost total absence of color in the present-day exterior architectural embellishment, according to Leon V. Solon, fellow of the Royal Society of British Artists and of the British Ceramic Society, in a recent address at the Art Institute of Chicago.

Mr. Solon spoke on "The Greek System of Architectural Polychrome" before the Illinois Chapter of the American Institute of Architects. He said that, contrary to the general assumption, the classic Greeks, instead of working pure white or gray outdoor material, had an elaborate system for utilizing color effects, but that the knowledge had been lost for centuries owing to the general destruction of Greek temples and other public buildings during the Teutonic drives, which practically overwhelmed Greek civilization in the third century A. D.

Despite the hampering effects of the present military upheaval, Mr. Solon said, researches were now bringing to light perfection of the classic Greek color system, and he predicted a wider interest in color for architectural purposes.

New Building Halted

SECRETARY MCADOO WITHDRAWS REQUEST FOR APPROPRIATIONS FOR FEDERAL WORK

To save money, labor and materials during the war, Secretary McAdoo has withdrawn requests for minor appropriations aggregating $4,300,000 for extensions and improvements of Federal buildings which are not essentially necessary. These enterprises will be postponed until peace times.

Few of the items withdrawn provide for new buildings, and in all cases, it was said, Government work would not be hampered. One of the largest single items was $100,000 for a Government building at Honolulu.

Pittsburgh Plans Housing for Colored Labor

The war, with its increased opportunities for work in the big industries, has brought 18,000 to 20,000 negroes into the Pittsburgh district, and housing conditions, even with alleged greatly inflated rents, have practically broken down, the City Council, sitting as the Committee on Public Safety, was told by a delegation from the Urban League of Pittsburgh for Social Service Among Negroes. To relieve the overcrowding the Council was asked to urge the Government to build homes for colored industrial workers.

Do You Want to Put the National Magazines Out of Business?

It is not too late to put the weight of every individual reader of periodicals behind his representatives in Congress, demanding a repeal of the grievous error of the 50 per cent to 900 per cent postage increase by the zone system. Last year the Post Office Department showed a balance above expenditures of almost $10,000,000, yet under the guise of a war measure a few misguided members of Congress succeeded in forcing the passage of a bill which will make a man pay for his national magazines at a varying rate, depending upon where he lives, far in excess of the cost of the business to the Post Office Department. Should it become effective, it must ruin many magazines of national circulation. Remember, Congress completely disregarded the findings of the only two commissions which even investigated the cost of handling periodicals. Publishers are willing to bear an equitable war tax, but this is to be a permanent postage increase—unless you do your part. Write to your Congressman *to-day*. Tell him you want the periodical zone rate of postage repealed.—*Concrete.*

A Drafting-Room Kink

We have discovered, writes a subscriber to *Concrete*, that pencil drawings on tracing paper could be made twice as fast as with ink on cloth. However, the blue prints were very poor. This was overcome by using black carbon paper behind the tracing paper, placed so the carbon impression would come on the back of the tracing. This reinforced the pencil drawing, and permits good blue prints to be made. Changes were easily made.

Keeping in the Public Eye

Just because the requirements of the Government have temporarily obliged business men to become comparatively inactive is no reason, states the *Mississippi Valley Lumberman*, why they should give the country the impression that they are going out of business. Keeping yourself before the public in times when trade is slow is one of the best assets on which to realize when there is a return to normal conditions.

Government Housing Operations

The work of building 1000 houses, under the Government housing proposition, has been undertaken by the Fairview Realty Company, a subsidiary of the New York Shipbuilding Company. This project is established on Mount Ephraim Pike, near Westmont, N. J.

Competition for Dormitory

The Board of Regents of the University of Arizona, Tucson, Ariz., have arranged a competition among architects in the southwest, for the designing of a girls' dormitory for that institution. The sum of $100,000 has been appropriated for the erection and equipment of the structure. Three prizes will be given, one of $500, one of $300 and one of $200.

Ohio Fire Congress

During the week of May 27 the Industrial Fire Prevention Committee of the Industrial Commission of Ohio plans to hold a Fire Congress in Memorial Hall, Columbus, Ohio. This is to be made a patriotic event for the purpose of awakening the fire conscience of the citizens of the State in the general campaign to reduce the national fire waste.

New York Board of Education Consults A. I. A.

The American Institute of Architects has been asked to give its advice on the plans for school buildings prepared by C. B. J. Snyder, superintendent of school buildings, New York City. This new departure is for the purpose of getting the best construction possible at the lowest cost. The purpose is to open the door of the building market as wide as possible. It is the purpose to ask for the appointment of an advisory board of architects.

Personal

By reason of the departure of Mr. James L. Fyfe, architect, to active service as Major in the Quartermaster's Department of the National Army, the firm of Von Holst & Fyfe, 1525 Edison Building, Chicago, Ill., has been dissolved. Mr. H. V. Von Holst will continue the practice in the offices previously occupied by the firm.

N. Max Dunning, president of the Illinois Chapter, American Institute of Architects, was recently appointed principal assistant to Mr. Eidlitz, chief of the Bureau of Housing, Department of Labor, at Washington. Mr. Dunning will have direct charge of the Department of Specifications and Estimates.

Department of Architectural Engineering

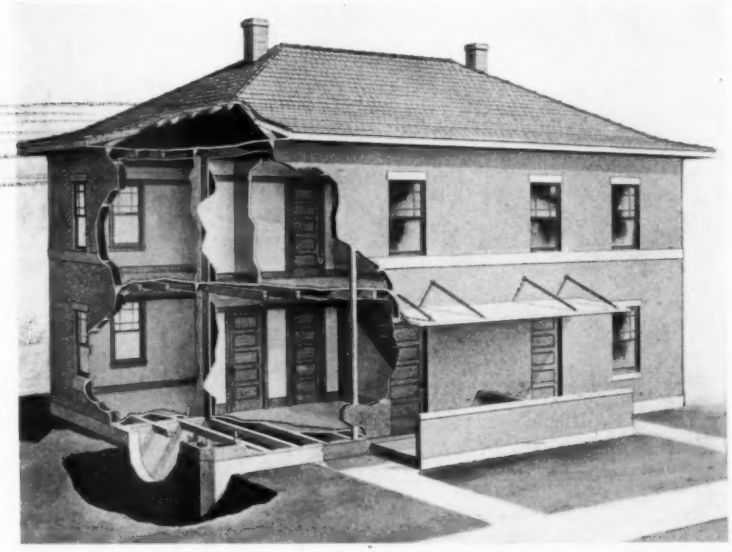


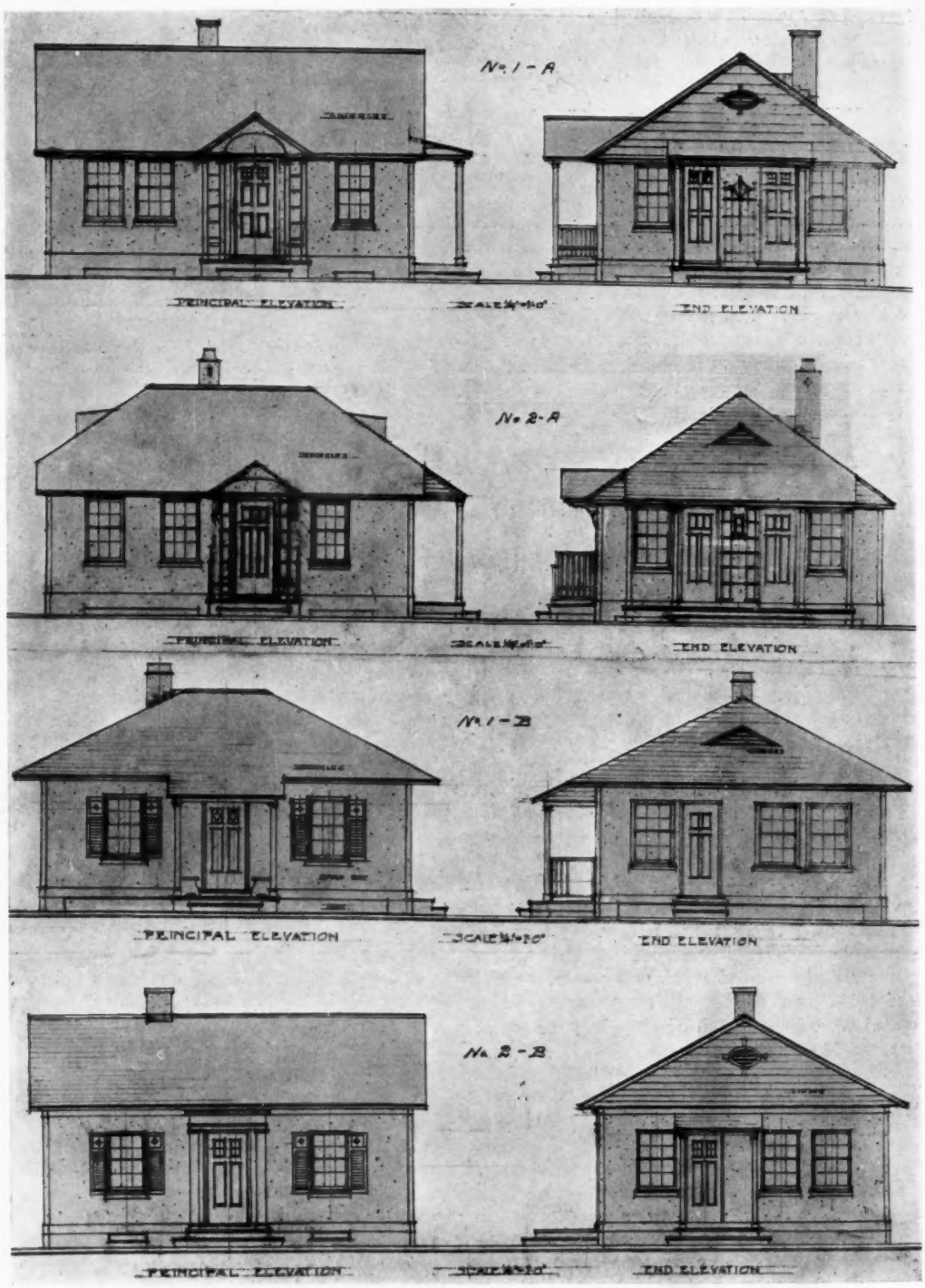
FIG. 1—TYPICAL DETAIL OF GUN-CRETE HOUSE CONSTRUCTION

Fire-Resisting Building Construction

AT this time many types of construction for workmen's houses are being proposed. Of the many suggestions some few will find favor and become permanent types. Of the kinds proposed there are two classes which are widely different in character. One type consists of the wooden frame of the ordinary kind or the brick wall building with interior wooden construction, and the other group tends to eliminate combustible parts as much as possible. There is considerable ingenuity displayed in the designing of the latter type of construction, some of which promises a fire-resisting house without objectionable features and of moderate relative cost. If this objective can be attained as a commercial success it will be a great step in advance toward affording that protection to the small investor which has heretofore been denied to him.

A form of construction here illustrated has been devised by John V. Schaefer, M.E., of the Cement-Gun Construction Company. The details of the wall construction are shown in Fig. 2, and consist of concrete studs placed 24 in. on centers with an outer wall slab 1¼ in. thick. The studs are reinforced with two vertical rods tied together at intervals with metal ties. To the outer reinforcing bar is attached a layer of metal lath and to the inner rod is attached a wooden strip as shown.

This exterior wall surface is constructed by using a vertical, wooden trough-shaped form which forms the slab and the two sides of the stud, the wood strip forming the back of the stud. In erecting these forms they are clamped to the vertical strips. After the metal lath is placed in position the wall slabs and studs are shot with cement-guns. For this reason the form is called a shooting form. At the proper time the interior metal lathing is placed and

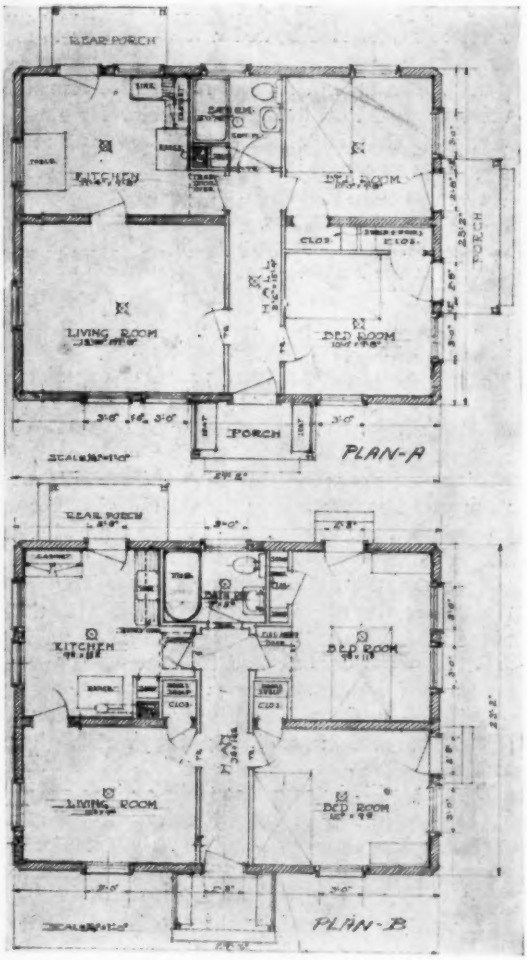


ELEVATIONS FOR GUN-CRETE HOUSES

GEORGE AWSUMB, *ARCHITECT*

attached to the vertical wood strips and the plastering applied in the usual manner.

The wood strip is an integral part of the stud and its principal function is to interpose a non-conducting barrier between the inner and outer walls that effectively prevents conduction of heat or cold and the transmission of moisture. As an additional



PLANS FOR GUN-CRETE HOUSES
GEORGE AWSUMB, *ARCHITECT*

protection a layer of tarred felt can be placed on the outer and inner walls in the air cell space.

The joists of reinforced concrete are pre-cast and member into the studs. They are set up on a centering before the wall and stud are shot, and in this way they are incorporated into the stud. The reinforcing rods of the joists extend through the ends so as to interlace with the wall reinforcement. A sheet of reinforcing fabric is also placed so as to bind together the wall and floor slabs. Belt courses are shot between the studs at each floor level, thus making each wall air-cell an entirely enclosed space one story or less in height. The floor slabs are naturally of light construction and a plaster ceiling is applied to the concrete joists in the usual way.

By this process of construction the alignment of the walls and supporting of the joists are provided for by means of an interior supporting frame so that the framing, forming and shooting can go on independently and simultaneously, resulting in speedy construction. The shooting forms can be removed twenty-four hours after the wall panels are shot.

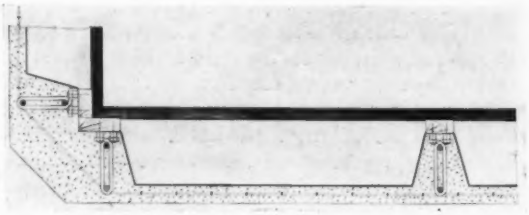


FIG. 2—TYPICAL DETAIL OF GUN-CRETE EXTERIOR WALL CONSTRUCTION

Fig. 1 illustrates the assembling of the parts and is intended to illustrate the construction details only. The ceiling construction can be slightly pitched and used as a flat roof, or over the fire-resisting ceiling construction there can be built a wood roof construction as indicated in the drawing.

Estimates of cost, made by reliable contractors in the Chicago district, show that this type of construction is, of course, higher than all wood construction and compares favorably with the cost of the cheaper type of brick houses with wood floors. It is much less costly than some types of construction giving equal immunity from fire hazard and equal sanitary features.

As an item of added interest are shown tentative designs for a four-room, one-story cottage. Two floor plans are shown with two different elevations for each.

It is apparent that this type of construction presents no obstacles to the usual installation of heating, plumbing and lighting apparatus of whatever kind it may be desirable to use. It also affords a well-insulated construction which will permit of economical heating and still be more than ordinarily cool during the heated season. Another advantage is the dryness of the interior wall surface, owing to its having a non-conducting connection with the exterior construction. With ordinary care this type of construction can be adapted to as wide a range of design as may be necessary and can be applied to the construction of walls for shops and warehouses.

Relation of Hot Water Service Heating to Various Types of Buildings—Part II

By Harold L. Alt

According to Fig. 1,* the greatest storage capacity required for the sinks is at the end of the fourth hour and immediately prior to the beginning of their use. This is indicated by the height W or 360 gallons; at the same time, owing to the water used for the sinks being gradually drawn off from the end of the fourth to the end of the sixth hour, no 25 per cent additional to be retained in the tank is necessary owing to the "water used" never approaching the "water heated" within the 25 per cent limit of 360/4 or 90 gallons. Its closest approach is at the end of the sixth hour, when the water heated is 540 gallons and the water used is 360 gallons, showing a quantity of 150 gal. still stored.

With the laundry the same is not the case; it can easily be seen that the laundry requires the storage of 250 gal. for its use at the end of each half hour and that this will be entirely drawn out at such a period. Therefore, if the sink storage required is greatest at the end of the fourth hour, the laundry storage required at the same time is indicated by Y or 250 gal. and with a 25 per cent reserve (X) or 60 gal. more.

Over at the extreme right hand side of the diagram, is erected a short perpendicular representing the combined storage capacity required, this being, of course, the sum of $W + X + Y$ or 670 gal. On the left of this perpendicular and adjacent to it is erected a second perpendicular showing graphically the rate of heating required per hour for the water heated at the end of the first hour for the sinks (A) to which is added the water similarly heated for the laundry (B), making a total combined heating capacity of 590 gal. per hour, from which was plotted the diagonal for total heating capacity for all hours.

A comparison of the line of *total water used* and the line of *total combined heating capacity* shows that the nearest approach is at the end of the sixth hour when the water used is 3360 gal. and the water heated 3540 gal., leaving 180 gal. retained in the tank against an allowable minimum of 25 per cent, or 167 gal., which is just about correct.

As far as the heating capacity of a stock heater is concerned it is more than ample as shown, but since the minimum storage capacity is about 670, it is not practical to use a heater with a storage of only 250 gal.

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It is a peculiarity of hot water heating that when a steam heater is designed it is customary to make it most safely ample. One prominent engineer computes the amount of surface required to actually do the work and then doubles it to allow for air binding, poor circulation, scale, etc. This is undoubtedly a very generous treatment, but in these days of high prices on copper and brass the good engineer puts in enough, but the best engineer puts in *only* enough and does not supply a lot of surface to lie useless in the heater.

The heating surface should consist of copper tubing, or at least brass, and the number of square feet shown in the preceding schedule may safely be adopted as the results of practical experiments. The surface is not so high as to be extravagant yet it is high enough to accommodate a reasonable margin of safety. The ratio of heating surface per gallon is about 0.065 sq. ft. and while some authorities recommend as low as 0.04, it is doubtful if this will do the work for any length of time with bad water.

For instantaneous heaters the rapid movement of the water against the tubes as it flows along serves to increase the efficiency per square foot so that a reduction of the ratio per gallon to 0.044 sq. ft. is safe. It must be kept in mind, however, that the capacity of the instantaneous heater can never be exceeded even for a five-minute period, without resulting in cold water being drawn through the heater.

It can readily be seen that while a given group of fixtures might require hot water at a ratio of a certain number of gallons per hour, the rate for one period of ten minutes might exceed this average rate and in fact *would have* to exceed it if the next period of ten minutes fell below the hourly average. In the storage type of heater the stored hot water will carry over any peak load of this character, but in the instantaneous heater no such reserve is available.

Since the average use is about midway between the maximum and zero, to determine the maximum peak all that is necessary to be done is to double the average load. In other words the hourly heating rating of an instantaneous heater should be double that of a storage heater to serve the same fixtures or should be equal to the combined heating and storage capacity of a storage tank for the same service.

With gas heaters similar rules prevail except that most gas heaters are figured and rated on a temperature rise of only about one-half of the rise used as a basis in figuring steam heaters; therefore the rating of the gas heater should be doubled to obtain an equal transfer of B.t.u. to the water. Thus a steam heater with a capacity of heating 1000 gal. of water per hour (with a rise from 100 or 130 deg. Fahr.) should be compared to a gas heater rated at 2000 gal. per hour (with a temperature rise of 60 or 70 deg. Fahr. only).

When it is desired to install a coal-burning hot water heater, it is difficult to obtain a good combination of heater and tank without increasing the tank capacity so as to carry all heavy loads for two or three hour periods and putting in a heater just large enough to heat up the water during the hours when the requirements are small.

Under all ordinary conditions, 25 per cent of the maximum hourly demand is enough to use for determining the heater while the storage tank is made large enough to store all the water necessary to carry over between periods.

Assume a building occupied, say, 7 hours a day—such as a school or university. The maximum consumption figures out as 500 gal. per hour; average use will be about $500 \times 33\ 1/3$ per cent $= 167$ gal. per hour; coal heater rated at 25 per cent of 500 $= 125$ gal. per hour. Then every hour during the seven-hour period results in 167 gal. being drawn off and 125 gal. heated or a loss of 42 gal. per hour. For seven hours the loss will be $42 \times 7 = 294$ gal. and with 25 per cent still in the tank, the tank capacity would be $294 + 25$ per cent of 294, or $294 + 74$, or 368 gal.—say 400 gal. storage.

The coal heater may be figured as burning anywhere from 5 to 8 lb. of coal per sq. ft. according to size. If 7 lb. is assumed in this case and 8000 B.t.u. is transferred to the water from every pound consumed, then each square foot of grate surface will supply $8000 \times 7 = 56{,}000$ B.t.u.

Raising 125 gal. of water from 50 to 150 deg. requires $125 \times 8\ 1/3 \times 100 = 104{,}200$ B.t.u.

Therefore $104{,}200 \div 56{,}000 = 2$ sq. ft. of grate area.

Where high water pressures are encountered the ordinary hot water heating boiler will not stand the pressure and a steam boiler and steam hot water multi-tube heater should be used.

The Japanese Standard Cement Specification

INVESTIGATION of cement tests by Japanese authorities seems likely to result in the rejection of the neat cement tensile strength test. The Japanese official standard specification allows, in some special cases, the testing of tensile strength of neat cement briquets after 7 days, instead of testing it for mortar after 7 and 28 days from the time of gaging. According to the experiments of Mr. T. Hattori, the strength test for neat cement is valueless for practical purposes and he suggests, says the *Journal of Chemical Industry*, that such a test be removed from the specifications, and that hereafter all tests be made with a mixture of cement and sand.

Mr. Hattori further summarizes: (a) "The value of cement as an ingredient of mortar cannot be inferred by testing neat cement; (b) no proportional relation exists between the strength of pure cement and its mortar; (c) cement consists of 'flour' and 'grit' and its value depends upon the percentage of flour contained in it.

"The grit, the coarse particles, does not practically hydrate by gaging with H_2O. The flour, the fine particles, alone is hydraulically active. By increasing the percentage of flour, the tensile strength of neat cement briquets decreases, while that of the mortar briquets increases; the reverse is the case when the percentage of grit is increased."

Mr. Hattori farther reports that fineness tests showing residues on sieves of 900, 2,500, 5,000 and 10,000 meshes per square centimeter (corresponding to 5,800, 16,000, 32,000 and 64,000 meshes per square inch) and tensile strength tests (neat mortar 1:3) after 7 and 28 days on the original cements and portions passing through the sieves. "The microstructure of hardened cement is composed of a large amount of unhydrated grains (residual clinker) embedded in the hydrated mass. These grains are much harder than the ground mass. Therefore, the hardness of the section of neat cement after setting is proportional to the percentage of grit contained in it. This is one reason why the strength of neat briquets made from fine cement is generally low. But fine cement is great in sand-carrying capacity and its mortar becomes dense; hence the strength of mortar briquets is always high."

Legalizing the Plans of Engineers

THE Chicago City Council has passed an amendment to the ordinances of that city authorizing the issuance of building permits on plans and specifications prepared by structural engineers who are licensed to practise that profession in the state of Illinois. Heretofore building permits could be procured only on plans and specifications prepared by licensed architects. The passage of this amendment is due largely to the efforts of the Structural Engineers' Association of Illinois. This association is endeavoring also to procure consideration from the state officials in the matter of the selection of the members of the new examining board for the licensing of structural engineers and will attempt to obtain a reduction of the annual state tax from $10 to $5 for the renewal of the license.

The activities of this organization are directed along the lines that it is better to watch and guide restrictive regulations than to overcome adverse conditions. It may be advisable under the conditions, now that the engineer is on a parity with the architect, that the two laws governing the practice of the two professions be supplemented by one law for the control of these activities with one board of examiners. In this way there will be less opportunity for conflict and misunderstanding, for in the unity of the two professions there will be added strength to both.

New Building Code for Pittsburgh

A new building code is being constructed for Pittsburgh under the guidance of Mr. John A. Ferguson, Assoc. M. Am. Soc. C. E., as secretary-engineer of the Building Code Committee. The code will consist of separate ordinances, each prepared by a carefully selected sub-committee, the chairmen of which comprise an executive committee which reviews the sub-committee's findings and makes the final recommendations to the City Council for action. On the executive committee is represented the Chamber of Commerce, American Institute of Architects, Engineers Society of Western Pennsylvania, Builders' Exchange League, Civic Club of Allegheny County, Board of Fire Underwriters, Housing Conference and the Real Estate Board.

The segregation of the various elements into separate ordinances should result in a usable, logically arranged code, thus eliminating the contradictions and confusion common to building codes generally. The city of Cleveland has been revising its code for some years on lines similar to those now being used in Pittsburgh and the result is highly satisfactory in every way.

Book Review

A HANDBOOK ON PIPING. By Carl L. Svensen, B.S., Asst. Professor of Engineering Drawing in the Ohio State University. Full cloth, size 6 x 9 inches, 359 pages, illustrated. D. Van Ostrand Company, 25 Park Place, New York. Price, $4.00 net.

This book is devoted to pipe, its uses and arrangement for various purposes and the different accessories which enter into its use. Information of this kind can be found in the trade catalogs of manufacturers, but this source of information is apt to be difficult to classify and probably some detail will be missing when needed. The convenience and saving of time resulting from a ready source of information regarding the use of these things justifies the publication of a book of this kind.

This work supplies in convenient form information and data regarding piping, fittings, pipe joints, valves, piping drawings and pipe lines and their accessories. The variety and extent of the tables, illustrations and formulæ are sufficient to make the book usable for any purpose that involves the use of pipe. The illustrations have been made especially for this book. A list of books and references is given which extends the usefulness of this work.

No claim is made for originality in the substance of the information given, but its logical arrangement and explanation of the many applications is a meritorious presentation of the subject.

There are nineteen chapters and an appendix consisting of detail drawings of a power plant. Pipe, the dimensions and strength, threading, fittings and joints; standard and special valves, suitable for every purpose; power, steam, drip, blow-off and exhaust piping; condensers and feed water heaters and their connections; steam heating system, water and hydraulic, compressed air, gas and oil piping; erection, workmanship, insulation, drawings and specifications are the topics included in the work.

This book is of value to the architect who makes any pretense to having a general knowledge of mechanical equipment, to the engineer and especially to those who do not have access to a complete file of classified catalogs and those who desire all of the data concerning pipe and its uses within one volume.

Industrial Information

A New Book on Elevator Door Hardware

The Richards-Wilcox Manufacturing Company, Aurora, Ill., has just issued a book for the use of the architect and builder, entitled "Ideal Elevator Door Equipment and Checking Devices." The book is completely illustrated with half-tone cuts and line drawings, and corresponds with the recommendations of architectural associations for convenient filing.

Cross-sections of the various styles of "Ideal" Elevator Door Hardware, in actual size, enable the reader to grasp the detail in the construction and use of "Ideal" Hangers for one-speed, two-speed and three-speed doors; pairs of doors opening from either side, and combination swing-out doors; automatic door closer; interlocking devices; as well as swing-door checks and other appliances valuable for use in office buildings and other edifices where elevators are used.

"Ideal" Hangers are constructed of special analysis high-carbon steel, compounded and rolled to special specification. The grooves are milled and set to proper gage by hand, so that friction is eliminated. A ball retainer keeps the steel bearings properly spaced to distribute the load evenly. The doors hang from a slot in the bottom of the track. This slot being the only aperture in the track, and being on the underside, precludes dust and grit from entering the bearings.

"Trussit"

"Trussit" is the expanded metal lath manufactured by the General Fire Proofing Company of Youngstown, Ohio. This material is uniformly expanded in both directions, and when installed is interwoven back and forth through the cement or plaster. A great simplicity in installation is claimed for this product in the company's booklet on the subject. This booklet also contains detailed drawings showing the method of installing the material to suit different needs. There are also presented a number of construction photographs, and complete specifications for the use of "Trussit."

Flexible Armored Conductor

"Realflex" is the trade name of a flexible armored conductor manufactured by the Western Conduit Company, Youngstown, Ohio, subsidiary to the Youngstown Sheet and Tube Company. This conductor is made of new code rubber-covered wire, completely protected by a hot galvanized, flexible steel wire armor. The core of one copper wire is different in color from the other, thereby saving time in testing. In the company's booklet it is stated that the steel wire used for this product is made entirely by the Western Conduit Company.

When a moisture-proof conductor is desired, lead-covered "Realflex" can be used. This material is regularly inspected and labeled by the Underwriters Laboratories.

"Word Indicators"

In the March issue of *Knickerbocker Komments,* issued by the Knickerbocker Portland Cement Company, 30 East 42d Street, New York City, an unusual side light on the activities of engineers and architects appears under the above title.

"Just what distinguishes professional minds from those of other mortals is indicated by a few words taken from their day's work. For instance:

"Survey! Can any one determine the right thing to do, the right direction to pursue, without an adequate survey, be it of land or of tasks?

"Plans! Can conclusions be reached and carried out without them? Hardly. Is it possible to compare the merits of alternate solutions without plans? Hardly.

"Strains and stresses! Isn't it the height of good generalship to take account, well in advance, of the resistance to be encountered, of the ability of each material, article or method employed, to properly carry the task assigned to it?

"Estimates! In every practical solution of a problem it is necessary to 'count the cost' in advance.

"Blue prints! Their purpose is to accurately place before each fellow worker concerned a visualization of the task to be accomplished.

"Factor of safety! Disappointment will be

avoided if no link in the chain is taxed with an unusual strain.

"Appropriation! Isn't it the height of wisdom to know in advance just what means are available for the purpose in hand?

"Elevations! Detail drawings! Ground plans! Floor plans! They illustrate the advantages of looking at the problem from every angle.

"Finish! 'Workmanlike' manner! A strong declaration in favor of thoroughness of performance.

"Design! Decoration! Æsthetics! Every task, no matter how humble, can be carried out in a beautiful manner."

Denison Load-Bearing Tile

The Denison Fireproofing Company, Mason City, Iowa, has issued a series of plates which should be of real interest to architects. They consist of detail drawings showing this versatile product in a wide variety of uses. There are two plates of tables, making possible easy and rapid calculations of the quantities of tile needed, somewhat after the method of the sliding scale.

The details given cover such points as methods of anchoring plates to tile walls; proper method of bonding an interior load-bearing wall; wall sections of stucco residences, schoolhouses, etc.; header details for different courses; details of garage construction; and isometric perspectives showing methods of insulating a cold storage plant.

Interesting statements are made in an accompanying folder, in connection with this product with regard to its relative cost and availability. This company's daily capacity is given at 1000 tons, while the product covers a wide variety of types and shapes of tile.

Specifications for Denison load-bearing tile construction are also given in this folder; and it is stated that the company will furnish to architects plans, specifications and complete working drawings for any of their systems of floor construction.

The company has selling agents in all the principal cities of the United States and Canada, but all correspondence should be addressed to the Mason City office.

Wasco Garage Heaters

A garage heater which it is claimed burns only 5 cents' worth of coal a day is advertised by the W. A. Schleit Mfg. Company, Inc., Syracuse, New York.

This system consists of one all cast-iron heater; one radiator, and one automatic temperature regulator. All standard connections and pipes are threaded and cut to fit at the factory. One radiator 1 ft.-1 in. x 7 ft.-3 in. is said to be necessary for each motor. The size of the heaters varies with the number of radiators installed, and standard systems are available up to ten-car capacity.

In the booklet issued by this company all this is pointed out, and there are also line drawings and photographs which portray the actual mechanisms and details of installation.

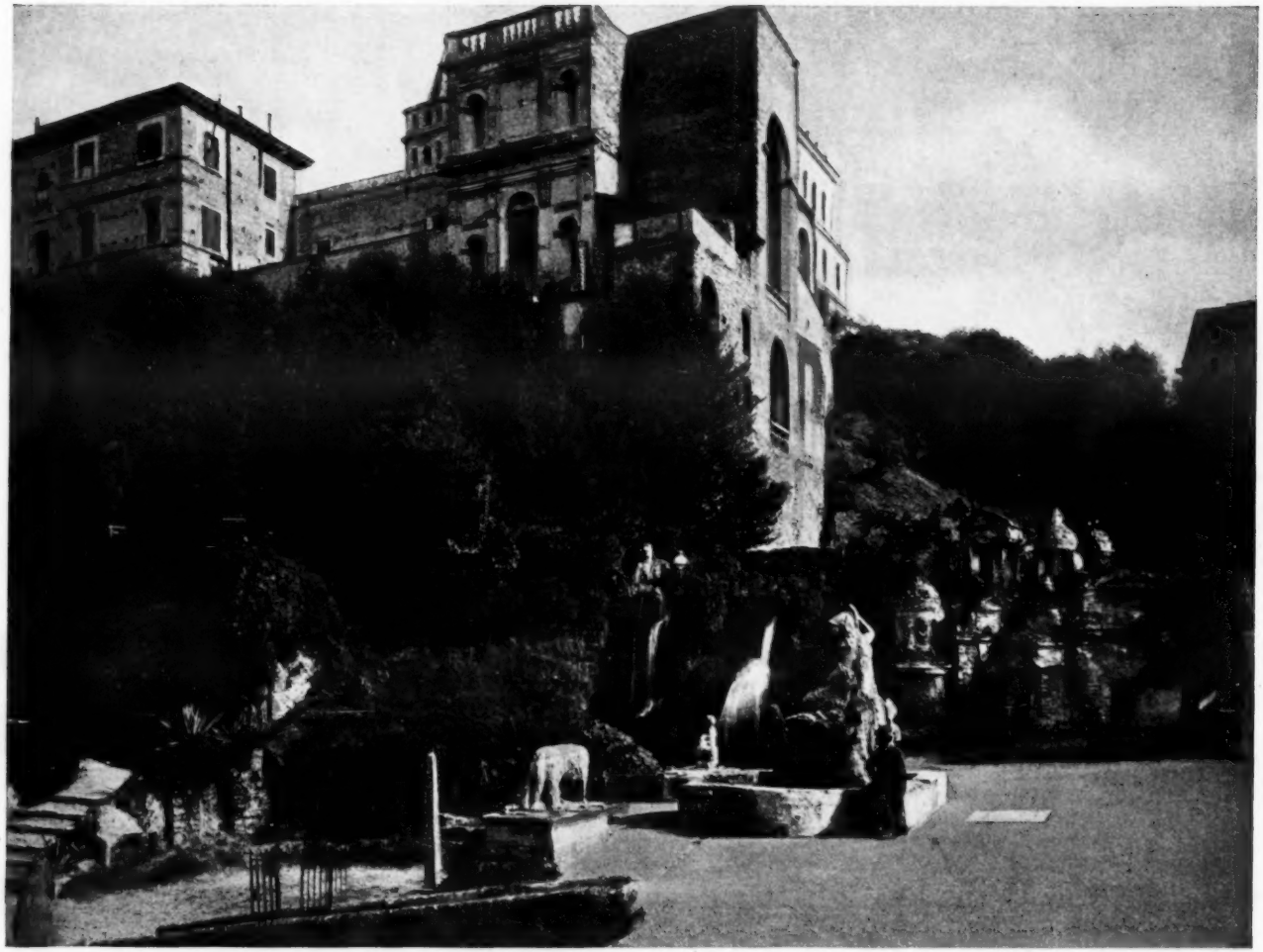
New Waterloo Register Catalog

The Waterloo Register Company of Waterloo, Iowa, in presenting its annual register and heating accessory catalog, calls particular attention to recent additions to their line in the form of the "Perfection" steel register, and the "Everlasting" cast iron smoke pipe and fittings. Their coal chutes, cistern covers and flue doors are also described in an accompanying folder.

Price lists are given for all of these products.

Panic Exit Latches

The Frank F. Smith Metal Window Hardware Company, 81-85 Clay Street, Newark, N. J., has issued a catalog illustrative of panic exit locks. The mortise type and the gravity type of latch, with variations, are shown here, and there are also panic exit locks in different finishes and sizes.



A VIEW IN THE GARDEN OF THE VILLA D'ESTE, ROME (TIVOLI), ITALY