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The Practice of Architecture

MANY things give indications of changes in the making. Through conversation, correspondence or reading these signs are constantly recurring testimonies, and a tabulation is unconsciously made of them until the ideas become insistent in their presence. To verify the general impression, a systematic collation of all the evidence is in order.

In arriving at a conclusion by this mental process, it will be found that among the diverse problems demanding attention at this time, one of manifest importance is that of the attitude of the public toward the architect and of the architect in his relations to himself and others.

The practice of architecture is probably today, more than ever before, a matter of barter and trade. The monies invested in building structures demand a return service which represents full value. This value is measured in the adaptability of the structure to its use, its durability and its appearance. These three factors are the fundamentals of correct planning and to render adequate service it appears to be essential that the architect should fully qualify himself to meet these basic requirements.

An analysis has been made of a great amount of data pertaining to this subject and the majority opinion has been condensed into the following five paragraphs which embrace the most common of the points developed. This brief consensus of opinion is not intended to cover the multitude of conditions that exist in such relations, but it is thought that possibly it comprises the basic factors.

1. The business of architecture is inseparable from the profession of architecture. Together they comprehend the originating, promoting, designing, planning, directing and controlling the construction of buildings and their appurtenances.

2. To develop a general demand for architectural service—without which only limited opportunities for practice will be presented—the architect must, as an individual and collectively, employ proper and effective means to create a universal appreciation of its intrinsic value.

3. To fully perform his function, the architect must organize, equip and operate his business so as to render complete service in the production of plans and specifications for everything embraced in the construction, equipment and furnishing of buildings.

4. He must furnish complete and detailed supervision of construction and be closely identified with it. He must be responsible financially, as well as morally, for all of his acts, including the correctness of design, the completeness and accuracy of plans, specifications and details, and the construction of the building in accordance therewith; his responsibility to be contingent only on his being accorded freedom in deciding all matters of structural design, mechanical equipment and the selection of materials and workmen.

5. He must control and regulate the business affairs of the building operation so as to safeguard all interests. He must be just and impartial in deciding all controversies within his jurisdiction, but where his own interests are involved he must submit the controversy to arbitration.

(Reprinted from issue of November 27, 1918)



ABRAHAMUS BLOEMAERT,
BATAV, PICT.

*Pictor natura est, usus vix ille magis tro:
Arte hic egregius, nec tamen inferior.
Pmxit Aves, Naves, Homines, Herbæque, Feræque,
Et letos Flores FLORIDUS inmaneras.*

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The Development of Craftsmanship

WHILE we are setting about the reformation of our methods of architectural education, it would be wise, when that arduous task is well under way, also to organize for the education of the craftsman.

One of the most admirable reports ever presented by a committee of the Institute, was that of the Committee on Education during the convention of 1912. In the course of that report it was stated:

"We may on paper create visions that rival those of Coleridge's *Kubla Khan*; we may on arising from a weary drawing board, our creative task accomplished, say with Justinian (and believe ourselves in the saying): 'Solomon, I have surpassed thee,' but when we see our drawings and our designs materialized in three dimensions we realize that, were we buried within their walls, the globetrotting New Zealander, a century hence, looking for our personal monument would hardly say with Sir Christopher's eulogist, 'Circumspice.' In the good old days, when architectural monument was a plexus of all the arts, the architect was pretty much at the mercy of the craftsman and he still is, with a difference, for then every bit of sculpture or carving or metal work and joinery, and glass and needle work, when these latter came into play, enhanced the architecture, glorified it, and sometimes redeemed it as well; now either our carving is butchered, our sculpture and painting conceived on lines that defy their architectural *ton*, our stained glass defiant of every law of God, man or architect, or it is all reduced to a dead level of technical plausibility, without an atom of feeling or artistry—and we are glad enough to take it this way for the sake of escaping worse."

After a lapse of now almost five years, the relationship of the architect to the craftsman has undergone little if any change. The fact that so little has been accomplished gives proof to the contention often made in these columns that the admirable reports of the Institute are too often purely academic, and chiefly, perhaps, through lack of proper execution, are nothing more than a waste of the best mental effort of their framers.

Despite the fact that we have not made progress in attaining a closer relationship between architecture and craftsmanship, there may, however, be pointed out men in the various crafts who by intelligent labor have by their own efforts elevated the dignity of their particular craft, but there the

matter rests. The schools of craftsmanship, like the schools of architecture, appear to be teaching but a small part of the essentially practical elements of their work. If it is asked just what co-operation architects might reasonably expect from the craftsmen, it might be said that they surely should not expect a slavish copying of a design originated in the architect's office. Why should not the design originate with the craftsman? Does not a mechanical copying of another man's artistic work dwarf originality and retard a free expression of ability? If the craftsman is trained, as he undoubtedly should be, in an exact knowledge of the material in which he works, is it not logical to assume that with an equal artistic training he should be better able to design and execute than some man whose ability lies in a clever faculty for design alone. It would seem therefore that the surest way for architects to promote a better craftsmanship would be to give the craftsman freer rein in these matters and let him produce the design, under the critical oversight of the architect. Perhaps it will be said that this cannot be done, that there are not enough men in this country sufficiently trained to undertake such work. If this is true, and perhaps it is, does it not at once point to the necessity for a finer development of the higher craftsmanship in this country? There does not appear to be a better opportunity for architects to lend assistance to work that will help them to attain the highest artistic ideals than in this direction.

Again quoting from the report already referred to:

"Every architect knows that the success or failure of his work depends largely on the craftsmen who carry it out and complete it with all its decorative features of form and color, and yet in a nation of 100,000,000 people, with a dozen schools of architecture, practically nothing is done toward educating these same craftsmen, and we either secure the services of foreign trained men, accept tenth rate native work, or go without. Take a case in point: It is decided to build a metropolitan cathedral with little regard to cost; plans are made; what then? If it is to be a great and comprehensive work of art, it needs—and exactly as much as it needs its archi-

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tect—sculptors, painters, carvers in wood and stone, glass makers, tapestry makers, embroiderers, leather workers. Are there enough schools in America to train all the craftsmen needed on this one monument—is there one school, and if so, where? One of the foolish arguments against Gothic, is that it is quite dependent on artist-craftsmen, and as we have none we must abandon the style; one of the foolish arguments in favor of classical design is that anybody can learn to carve an acanthus, therefore we had better stick to what we know we can do. Neither argument is sound. If we have no artist-craftsmen, then it would be better for us to close up half the schools that are training our architects and employ the funds so saved for the training of the only men who can give life to the architect's design."

Now this is the soundest of common sense. No good argument can be advanced in refutation.

It may seem presumptuous to insist that one of the lacking essentials in a profession that claims to be highly educated is the lack of education. This lack is, of course, not one of basic knowledge, but one in the exact direction that would accomplish the best and most lasting results. Undoubtedly we shall see a very decided change in the curriculum of architectural schools. Shall we have to wait until, by years of newer methods of education, we become sufficiently farsighted to sense the necessity for also educating the architect's *alter ego*, the craftsman? The advancement of one is in certain directions bound up in the progress of the other. We should, as architects, do all that we can to develop a class of men whose intelligent co-operation so largely contributes to the success of everything that we attempt in design.

As pointed out earlier in this article, there have developed in this country certain master craftsmen of the highest artistic ability. We have had here in New York an important demonstration as to just what can be and is done when architects and craftsmen co-operate in the broad spirit as brother artists.

The rapidity with which was executed the complicated detail of the architects who originated the Altar of Liberty, the Victory Arch and other decorative features along Fifth Avenue, most of which have appeared or will soon appear in *THE AMERICAN ARCHITECT*, offers an example and affords a basis of demonstration. In this particular instance, the master craftsman is Mr. Menconi, whose work as an expert modeler and ability as an artist is widely known among architects. Such educational work as is being done in this particular field of craftsmanship is being carried forward by Mr. Menconi. Under his highly skilled direction he has developed a group of master modelers whose work is to be seen in the Victory Arch in its highest development. Certainly this is worth while. Re-

sults so eminently satisfactory should be extended to other equally important fields.

When Mr. Egerton Swartwout had completed his very successful Eddy Memorial, he contributed an article to an architectural magazine in which he set forth the valuable co-operation he had received from this master craftsman. He interestingly described his relation as architect to the craftsman modelers. Throughout it was that of one artist in the most cordial co-operation with a brother artist in an allied field of art. When the plaster models had been finally approved and were to be cut in stone, Mr. Swartwout tells us that "each man was an artist in his way and that there developed the most intense rivalry in the execution in stone of the plaster models." Further, we learn that "in many cases the carving far exceeded the models in delicacy, and the most extraordinary results were obtained."

But the great object achieved was the manner in which the architect dignified to the craftsman the credit or honor of his work. We are told that "as an incentive, each man was allowed to put his name on the individual stone he carved, on the side bed to be sure, but still it was there, and at the conclusion of this work a full list of the individual carvers, arranged in order of merit, was sent to the Board of the Memorial and each man received a special letter of appreciation."

Can anything be finer than that? Can there be devised any more intimate and unselfish co-operation than existed under such admirable conditions? Can there be any surer way to develop craftsmanship and place it on the high plane where at one time it so securely rested?

The progress of the many decorative features that have been under Mr. Thomas Hastings' origination and direction since we went to war, have all been along exactly similar lines. The writer of this, by personal visit and actual investigation in Mr. Menconi's large studios, is able to bear witness to the absolute accord between the architect and the craftsman. The result stands forth, an artistic ensemble in which those who created it may take the fullest measure of pride. It is by these means we shall get set along satisfactorily on the road we shall travel in the elevation of the art of the craftsman.

It will be a slow work, but the end will crown it. There must be a long pull and a strong pull and a pull all together. But, if architects will take this matter as seriously as it deserves, we shall look forward to a renaissance of craftsmanship that will vie with all the glories of Italian art.

Notes from London

By SELWYN BRINTON, *Special Correspondent to THE AMERICAN ARCHITECT.*

A SUBJECT which has profoundly absorbed public attention in England during the last few weeks, quite as much as the proceedings of the Paris Conference, has been the inquiry and report of the Coal Commission.

That inquiry revealed conditions of life in certain colliery areas which were to most of us an appalling revelation.

Mr. John Robertson, chairman of the Scottish Union of Mine Workers, in his evidence before the commission stated that in Hamilton, Lanarkshire, out of 88,000 inhabitants 27,000 were living in one- and two-roomed houses, and that in Wishaw 28.5 per cent were in houses of one room. Numerous houses, he added, had one apartment for husband and wife and several children, while the statistics of tuberculosis showed 78 per cent of cases in one- and two-apartment houses.

"Private enterprise," he continued, "has failed. . . . It must be done by the State. There is a legacy of bad housing, the result of many years of greed, selfishness and ignorance." This witness went on to quote an eloquent appeal from Dr. Russell, a former medical officer of the Local Government Board: "You mothers, with your cooks and housemaids and nurses, how would you, in your own persons, act all those parts in one room where, too, you must eat and sleep, and find your lying-in room, and make your sickbed? . . . Last of all, when you die, you still have one room to yourself where in decency you may be washed and dressed and laid out for burial. If that one room were your house, what a ghastly intrusion you would be. The bed on which you lie is wanted for the accommodation of the living."

The above states very feelingly the darkest side of the picture, for in many cases the miners have been earning very good money, and I have heard of as much, probably in a better position, as £7 a week being earned, with half the rent free and coal supplied. But even so, what has come to light has profoundly roused public feeling, and the *Daily Telegraph* interprets this in saying: "What the Government must realize is that housing has now become a matter of national conscience. Public opinion has been horrified at recent revelations, has been roused to an indignation which is justified, to an impatience which will only be allayed by vigorous action."

That action, promised at the opening of Parliament weeks ago, seems now being taken, and the

Housing Bill, published in recent papers, gives very wide powers both to the Local Government Board and to the local authorities to meet the widespread shortage of houses.

Briefly stated, this measure places local bodies under a stringent obligation to carry out housing schemes, failing which the County Council or Local Government Board may act over their heads. Local liability is to be covered by a penny rate, any excess to be borne by the State. There are special provisions for dealing with what are known as "slum areas," and for the purchase of housing sites; and it is satisfactory to hear that the "need for the provision of houses for the middle classes has not been lost sight of." Possibly this last assurance is due to the fact that the middle class, that long-suffering and much-taxed portion of the community, is at last beginning to "kick." A Middle Class Union has been recently initiated and received with enthusiasm, with a strong and active support within the House of Commons, for the express purpose of securing some adequate protection for the interests of a part of the community on whom the bulk of this heavy national expenditure, when the bill comes to be presented, will inevitably recoil.

The report of the Coal Commission, under Mr. Justice Sankey, which takes a middle course between the claims for hours and wages of the mine-owners and the miners themselves, was issued on March 21, but lies a little outside of my subject here.

I wish, however, to draw attention to a matter of the greatest importance in connection with this housing question, in a protest which has been sent to the Local Government Board, the Treasury and War Cabinet by the Industrial Council of the Building Industry. The terms of this communication could scarcely be stronger. "This Building Trades Industrial Council expresses profound dissatisfaction at the avoidable delay in pressing forward the resumption of building operations, so urgently needed to prevent unemployment, owing to the lack of adequate arrangements to enable the brickyards, stone and slate quarries through the country to restart, and believing that the delay is due to gross incompetence in handling the supply of materials, and further being of opinion that we could expedite the manufacture of such materials, we hereby demand that the experience of the

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members of our Council be immediately used toward restoring the building trade to its proper normal position."

The following facts appear to have influenced this resolution. The Government order, as announced, for 800,000,000 bricks had been confined to certain large makers, while no effort had been made to set going the enormous number of small brickyards scattered over the country, who made quite half the bricks in past days, and who could reduce transport by supplying locally.

Nor had the stone quarries, which are largely used for houses in Scotland and some parts of England, been started going, nor yet the very necessary quarries of slate, and thus, while waiting for the peace to be discussed and signed, the output of the next season's production was being seriously affected.

The fact is that in this, as in most other trades, production is not merely needed, but it is vitally necessary, yet no forward move can be really taken to re-establish the normal conditions while we are waiting for peace to be definitely arranged.

Mr. Frank Vanderlip's telegram is quoted in recent London papers as coming from an American observer in Paris: "Production has ceased, and unless it is speedily resumed the imagination cannot visualize the ensuing chaos. . . . Unless immediate peace permits the resumption of production, Bolshevism may overspread Europe, causing the breakdown of the machinery of civilization. No international guarantees can sustain exchanges while printing presses continue making paper money. America cannot withdraw in the belief that this chaos is remote and does not involve her. She must think internationally."

Government organization has, without doubt, during the war achieved magnificent results, more especially in connection with aircraft and munitions, and at a recent meeting of the R. I. B. A., Sir Frank Baines, to whose initiative at the Office of Works so much has been due, gave a very informing address, illustrated with lantern slides, on the subject of "War Factories and Their Adaptation to Future Needs."

"Mammoth factories," said the lecturer in describing these conditions of improvised building for war, "had to arise apparently at a wave of a magician's wand—sites had to be selected, buildings to be erected upon land presenting exceptional natural difficulties; the whole complicated, elaborate, highly technical problem of factory process and factory allocation, plant disposition and power distribution, railway siding, water supply, sewage disposal, electric lighting, heating, ven-

tilation—all had to be grasped, studied and carried into execution at fever heat.

"It should be borne in mind," he added, "that the work was generally of a highly confidential character, the processes involved frequently secret, experimental and excessively dangerous. The organization and responsibility normally delegated to the contractor had to be shouldered—labor had to be allocated, recruited, conciliated, fed, housed—and withal the public purse had to be safeguarded."

This interesting address, which was arranged by special request, to be continued at a subsequent meeting, gave the report of a most capable and highly qualified official on work whose merits we have just acknowledged.

On the other hand, there is another side, and a far less attractive one, to the picture; and this has only too fully brought to public notice of late in such revelations as the Slough Motor Depot and, even more, the National Shipyards at Chepstow.

"The whole record," said the *Times* correspondent of this latter undertaking, "would read like a screaming farce if so much public money had not been thrown away. . . . It was the constant change of plan and apparent absence of technical knowledge of shipbuilding, coupled with a decided refusal to learn, which led to so much loss of time and money." In expert opinion, "had the Admiralty employed an architect in the usual way, he would simply have required two or three draftsmen, a good clerk of works, and a responsible contractor. The many highly paid officials, with all their big staffs and circuitous methods of doing business could have been swept away." The whole method in which this work progressed backward was described at the time in a humorous poem, under the title of "The Boat Builders—a Tragedy in 18 Spasms." The Navy, said the writer, had acquired the property of the Standard Shipbuilding Company, and had called in the Army to provide labor. Then was seen the result—

"The first hundred thousand laid down a drain,

The second draft took it all up again;

Then they held an inquiry, and tried to explain."

And thus in process of time the conclusion was reached, which as the *Times* suggests, might have been adopted as the motto at Chepstow:

"Nobody minded. . . . The public paid."

For it is the public which inevitably suffers and has to meet the bill; and the present state of things is one which, affecting every trade, hits most directly, as we have seen, the building trade and the architect.

"People are asking," says the *Daily Telegraph*,

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"why trade is so slow in recovering, why industry is not going full steam ahead. Dearer coal, dearer freights, higher wages, uncertainty as to costs and taxation . . . this is not the full catalog of their handicaps. One of the most serious of them all is the dead hand of Government control—a controller here, a licensing authority there, a department or a committee, an Order in Council or a schedule. The unseen presence is an official presence, and the dead hand is swathed in the red tape of Whitehall." Mr. Runciman lately put the case very truly and tersely: "The menace of a calamity is overhanging British commerce. Our instinct, as well as our reason, calls for fresh air and freedom."

A case of the greatest importance to both builders and architects has been recently decided in the House of Lords. Reported in detail in *The Building News*, it has been fully discussed in three successive numbers of *The Builder*, in connection with the admirable paper read by Mr. Valentine Ball before the Society of Architects, and the important discussion which followed.

"Nott v. Cardiff Corporation" dealt with a contract to build a reservoir, for over £200,000. During its progress the chief engineer required certain expensive work to be carried out, which, in his view came within the contract. The builder claimed this work as "extras," but did as he was instructed—the value of the work so done coming to £13,000. The engineer refused his written order, and the case came before the arbitrator, who ruled in the contractor's favor, and was supported in this view as to the work being "extras" by the High Court. The case went up for appeal.

"This case," said Mr. Valentine Ball, "merits the attention of all who are concerned with contracts for large works. It involved the consideration in a novel form of an old question, namely, in what circumstances can the employer be held liable for extras?"

"The broad, legal principle," he added, "which underlies every contract for erection of buildings is easy to understand and to enunciate. If a builder agrees to erect a certain house of certain materials

for £1,000, he can be compelled to carry it out to the letter. If he finds that he has to spend £1,500 to do the specified work, that is his misfortune. On the other hand, if there is a sudden fall in the prices which enables him to do it for £500, that is his gain and the employer's loss. . . . The forms of contract in common use have been so framed that the employer can only be liable to pay for extra work under special circumstances. Broadly speaking, he can only be charged (a) if the architect decides that the contractor is entitled to be paid for something which is an extra; and (b) if the architect has given a written order. In the case under notice the question arose as to the legal rights of the parties where the architect had refused a written order."

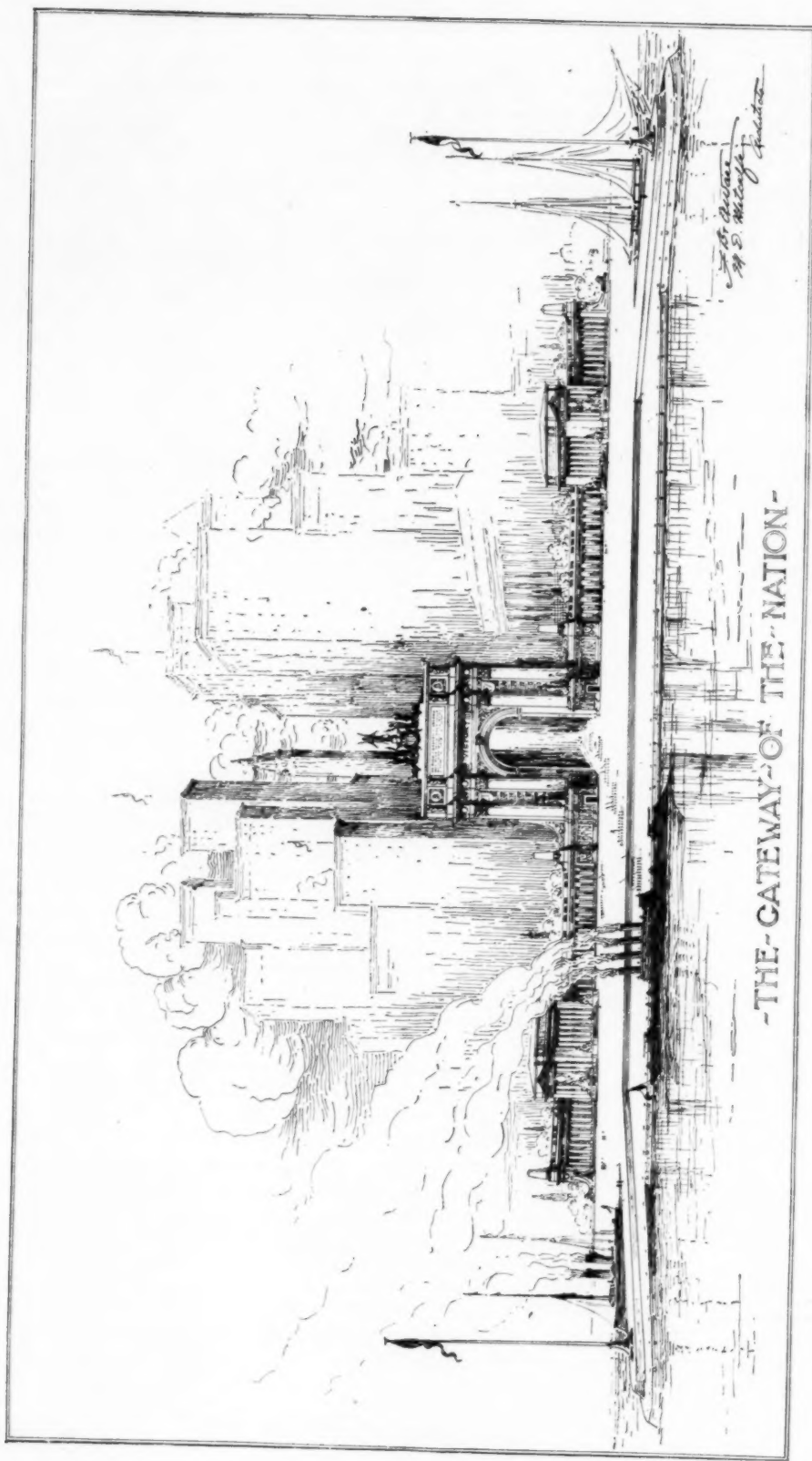
It will be seen at once what an important issue was here involved; for, as a matter of fact, a large number of the disputes which arise between builder and employer relate to "extras." In the Court of Appeals two out of three judges decided against the contractor on the technical ground that a written order was a "condition precedent," which arbitration could not override. Parker, L. J., dissented.

Carried to the Lords, by four judges to one this ruling was reversed, it being held that the arbitrator's award now took the place of the order in writing, which had been not given; so that the contractor had final judgment for his £13,000 and costs, and this case is now a leading authority.

The question of London Improvements is in the air, and is one of great interest. The reconstruction, now definitely sanctioned, in Piccadilly Circus and Lower Regent Street will be a great step forward, though it appears that the present unsightly buildings beside the Café Monico, whose removal is essential for a really effective treatment, are not yet to be disturbed.

But yet wider vistas are opened by the really magnificent scheme of a new bridge across the Thames at Charing Cross, and the redemption of the southern riverside, which has been called "the largest city area of wasted opportunity in Europe"; and this is a subject so suggestive that I prefer to reserve it for a fuller notice.

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-THE GATEWAY OF THE NATION-

F. B. AND A. WARE AND M. D. METCALFE, ARCHITECTS

The Gateway of the Nation

F. B. and A. WARE and M. D. METCALFE, *Architects*

THE subject of fitting memorials to commemorate the great victory of the Allies, is a matter of national discussion, and every city and town throughout the country will have its share of these creations, which will be erected during the months and years to come.

Recently the Mayor of New York formed a committee to take charge of all temporary decorations and other arrangements in connection with celebrations for our returning victorious soldiers, and this committee requested suggestions from the public as to the nature of these decorations, whether of a temporary or permanent character.

The Gateway of the Nation, which is illustrated in this issue of *THE AMERICAN ARCHITECT*, is a project which has been submitted to this Mayor's Committee and to a number of important downtown organizations for their consideration.

For a number of years the proposition for a monumental water gate and entrance to New York City has been discussed and studied, and several years ago an important competition was held for a water gate, the site chosen being in Riverside Park, between 114th and 116th Streets.

Since that competition was held, however, the great war in Europe has taken place, and as this country was fortunately associated with a number of Allies, the importance of a monumental water gate and entrance to New York City for the reception of distinguished guests, visitors, commissions, etc., from countries throughout the world becomes even more imperative.

We are of the opinion that the ideal and natural location for this monumental entrance to our city is Battery Park. Not only is this location a wonderfully beautiful one, commanding the most noble view of New York Harbor and the Statue of Liberty, but it is the natural entrance to Broadway, through Bowling Green, the most important artery of New York City, and, in fact, of the country.

This location also bears the proper relation to the City Hall. It is not expected that an anchorage for a fleet of warships is possible off Battery Park. An anchorage there is not practical. There is no reason, however, why the distinguished visitors cannot be brought to the Water Gate in tenders or destroyers and the larger ships continue on up the Hudson River to their permanent anchorage along Riverside Park.

The project submitted provides a large court of honor, approximately 600 ft. in width by 300 ft.

in depth. On this court there have been placed two buildings, one to be a reception and historical building for the Army, the other a similar building for the Navy. Surrounding the court, the design contemplates a monumental peristyle or Colonnade of Honor, forming an enclosure for the composition and at the same time a place to receive memorials and tablets.

This peristyle has been so treated that a vista through may be had of the court of honor from the park side. The central motive of the composition is a colossal arch of victory, placed on the axis of Broadway. The arch opening in the clear is approximately 80 feet wide, or the width of Broadway from building line to building line. This great width of arch opening allows a procession to pass through in platoon formation without any disorganization, and in the most dignified military manner.

The uncovered area of the Court of Honor is large enough to accommodate several regiments drawn up for review. The distinguished guests would be escorted through the great arch up Broadway, past what is probably New York's most important and interesting architecture (certainly to the foreigner), our great skyscraping office buildings. They would also pass several of our most important and best old examples of architecture, namely Trinity Church and St. Paul's. In a few minutes' time from the landing they would arrive with their escort at the City Hall, where they would be received by the Mayor and welcomed to the city in a dignified and natural manner. After the reception, the guests would proceed uptown through Lafayette Street or Broadway, to Washington Square, and then up Fifth Avenue, as the occasion may demand. We believe that this scheme provides a dignified entrance and reception to distinguished visitors.

The Statue of Liberty almost becomes a part of the composition, and the beautiful New York Harbor, with the two great rivers, the Hudson and the East, passing on either side, forms an ideal setting for the Gateway. As viewed from the bay, the composition should be most imposing. As viewed from the city, the Victory Arch would make a handsome vista and a noble termination to Broadway. It would also not interfere with traffic.

If this scheme should be adopted, as a permanent memorial to the Great War, we assume that the elevated railroad would be reorganized from



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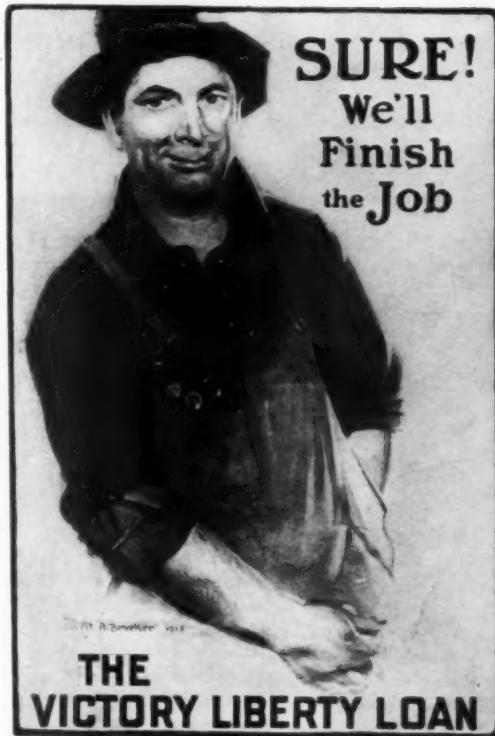
Bowling Green to South Ferry, so that it would be underground when it passed the axis to Broadway.

This plan has been studied so as not to interfere with any of the present buildings on Battery Park. Even the ugly Aquarium is not disturbed. Battery Park at present is an unsightly place of landscaping, consisting of worn out grass beds, a few straggly trees, and almost no shrubs. The scheme suggested does not cover the entire park, but leaves a large uncovered area, which can be replanned and planted and made a truly beautiful park, enhancing the water gate from the city side. Battery Park is truly the gateway of the nation. It

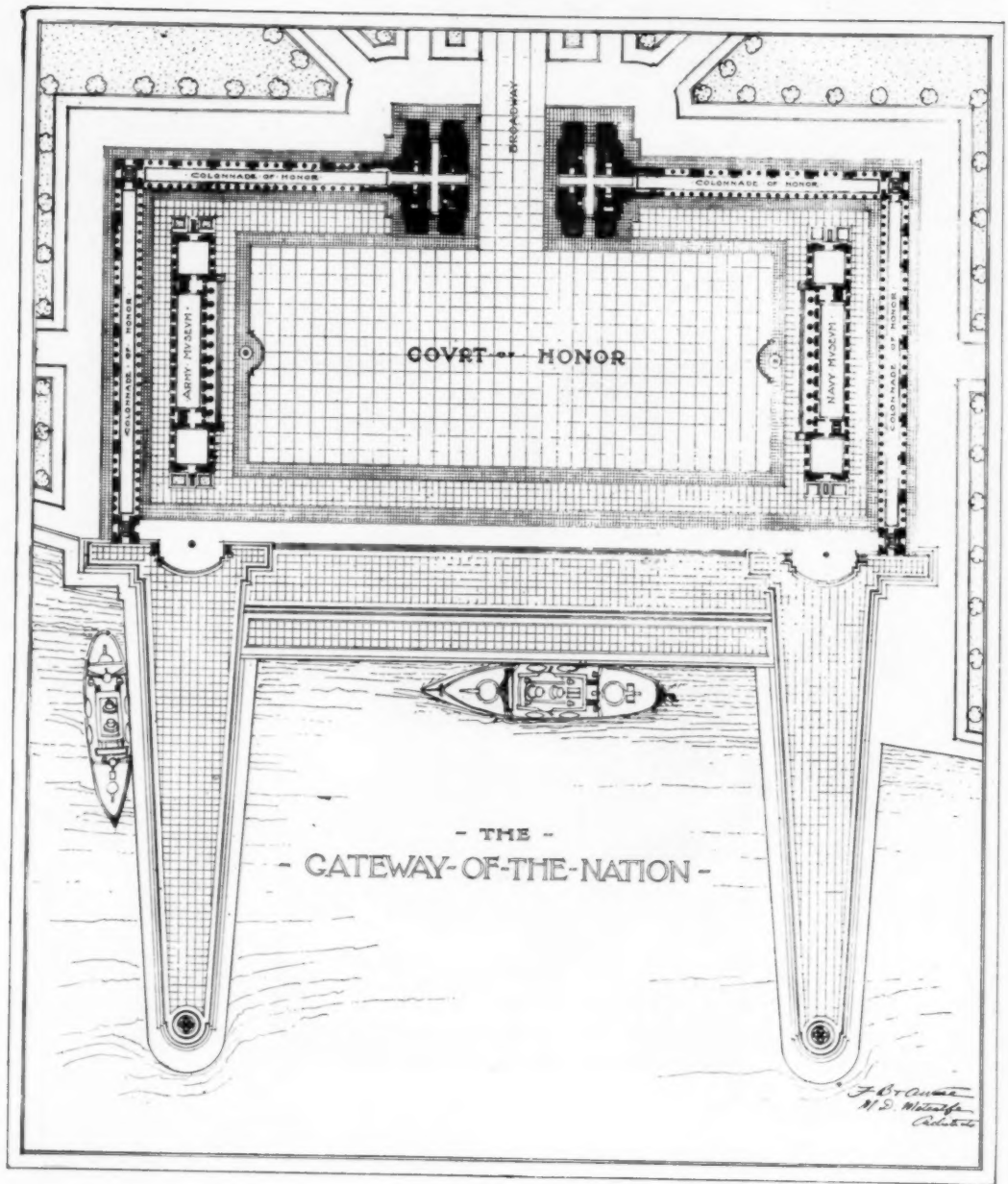
was here that the great mass of immigrants to America landed and entered this country. The immigrants in great numbers passed up Broadway and eventually took trains to all sections of the United States.

During the past months thousands of the sons of these same immigrants have fought in the American ranks in France and many have paid the supreme sacrifice.

Where could there be placed a finer memorial to these men of the Army and Navy than at Battery Park, and what other site on Manhattan Island is better for a noble entrance to the city?



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Town Halls as War Memorials

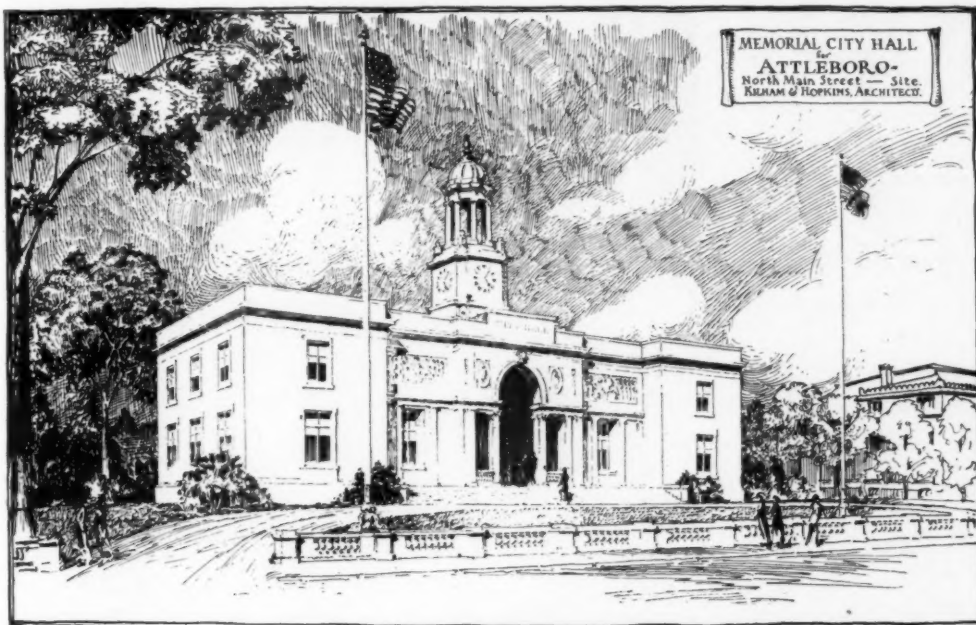
*Illustrated by preliminary sketches for a Memorial City Hall at Attleboro, Mass., by
KILHAM & HOPKINS, Architects*

THE city or town hall is running far ahead of its competitors as a popular choice for a "War Memorial." There may be many occult reasons for this fact, but the psychology of the citizen is usually simple enough. His town wants to do the handsomest thing possible for the lads returning from France. Public money is too scarce to squander in large amounts for questionable works

York City is a masterpiece easily interpreted to meet the needs of small cities and large towns to-day.

Of the same general character is the recently constructed Town Hall at Arlington, Mass., built of Indiana limestone, and with a type of auditorium worthy to stand as the memorial for any town's "Boys of 1917."

Similar in general style is the proposed City Hall



of art. An impressive sculpture of really distinguished merit is hard to guarantee beforehand, and, if a failure, is very extravagant. A painting is not visible to the passerby. The most tangible "big" thing is a building. Money can be raised for a handsome memorial of this kind if it also fills a practical need.

The most monumental type of public building, and at the same time the most needed building in hundreds of communities, is the town hall or city hall. It lends itself readily to a great variety of artistic treatments. If the community cherishes the Revolutionary tradition, the old City Hall of New

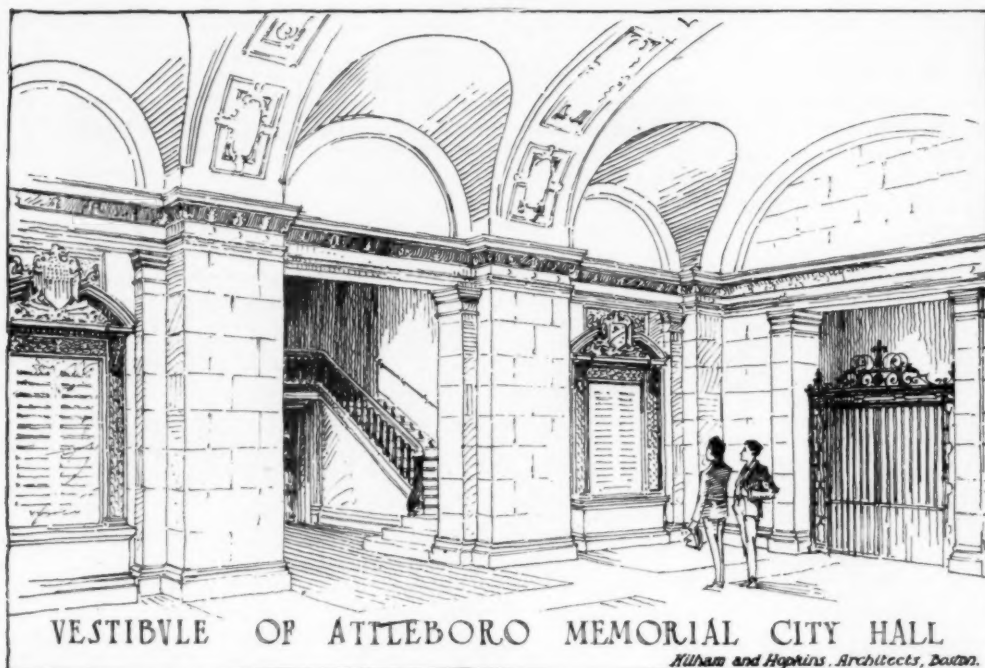
for Attleboro, Mass., drawings of which were presented to the city recently by a committee of the Chamber of Commerce.

There are many beautiful buildings scattered throughout the land serving as town and city halls, and there are myriads of buildings used for such purposes that are not beautiful. These latter are sometimes a source of shame or regret to the localities in which they stand. It is not easy, however, to destroy a useful building and at great cost to replace it by another in better style. Few towns could do this at the present time with any degree of justice to themselves. No town needs to do it.

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The art of architecture can be used to ameliorate the ugly lines of an old building as well as to create *de novo*. Many an eyesore has been converted into a thing of real beauty by a little skill and patient study. Never was there more need than at the

uninteresting and jaded structure of the early seventies a new memorial lobby, or to crown it with a memorial clock tower, meanwhile taking advantage of the opportunity for a general cleaning up, removal of jigsawed brackets and drab trimmings



VESTIBULE OF ATTLEBORO MEMORIAL CITY HALL

Altham and Hopkins, Architects, Boston.

present moment to conserve all existing values and avoid every form of waste or destruction. To beautify an old building is as honorable a task, therefore, as to design a new one. To introduce into an

to be replaced by white mouldings, that is a task full of interest and bearing fruit a hundredfold. It is the architect's way of causing the "wilderness to blossom as the rose."

French Plan Monument

A national committee has been formed in Paris for the erection in Strasbourg of a monument to commemorate the history of the "Marseillaise," the French national anthem. It is expected to cost one million francs.

The head of the committee is Baron de Deitrich, a descendant of Mayor de Deitrich of Strasbourg, in whose home, in 1792, Rouget de Lisle sang the anthem for the first time. President Poincaré, Premier Clemenceau, President Deschanel of the Chamber of Deputies, and President Dubost of the Senate have given their support.

Route of the Proposed Roosevelt Memorial Highway

The Theodore Roosevelt Memorial Highway, a transcontinental route from Portland, Me., to Portland, Ore., will enter the upper Michigan peninsula at St. Ignace, and will traverse the peninsula by way of Escanaba, Iron Mountain, to Hurley, Wis.; thence to Superior, Wis., to Duluth, Minn. It will there follow in a westerly direction by way of Grand Rapids, Cass Lake, Bemidji, Crookston, into North Dakota at Grand Forks, and thence by way of Devil's Lake and Minot to Buford.

THE AMERICAN ARCHITECT

THE AMERICAN ARCHITECT

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APRIL 30, 1919

No. 2262

The Convention at Nashville

IN the far famed "Blue Grass" region of the South, in the City of Nashville, the fifty-second annual convention of the American Institute of Architects, will, when this is read, be in session.

The place of meeting is in the beautifully designed State Capitol, the work of William Strickland, built from plans submitted in 1845. Amid such well recognized excellent architectural surroundings, and in the vicinage of the most correctly stated architecture to be found in our Southern States, there will be opportunities for calm, deliberate discussion of the many important things that will engage the attention of the delegates.

The four days to be spent in the South will not be all work and no play, for the Committee on Program has provided a most excellently arranged schedule that will afford the delegates opportunity to visit under favorable conditions the Hermitage, once the home of Andrew Jackson, Belle Meade, and other widely known points of interest. Such recreative moments, among interesting surroundings, should afford the proper relaxation from the meetings that will undoubtedly be filled with strenuous endeavor and much thoughtful work.

So much of importance hangs on this convention

that the attention of all those who are interested in the future development of the architectural profession in this country, irrespective of their membership in the Institute, is directly focussed. It may therefore be regarded as an epoch-marking gathering of architects. The outcome of their deliberation will be the crucial happening of a period that has been filled with much uncertainty.

Before the Convention

JUST what the profession of architecture is today or what it has been in the past, does not now so much concern us as what we shall hope to make it in the future. Every man in this country who either by actual affiliation with the American Institute of Architects, with some of the many state or purely local organizations, or practicing alone, unattached, unaffiliated, has been invited to earnest participation in the work of the Post-War Committee.

Now more than ever before, will it be necessary for every man to do his bit, and as any effort to be productive of the best result should be properly organized, skilfully directed, it is most fortunate that there is available the leadership of the Post-War Committee.

The elements that go to make this program are those that the best opinion has determined basically to represent new ideals of practice. It is with these things that we are just now most deeply interested, and it is their discussion, and proper co-ordination for a well directed policy that the American Institute of Architects, now assembled at Nashville, may very properly seriously consider.

It is probably as certain as anything may be, that the policy outlined by the Convention will not embrace many of those distracting elements which in the past have been so strenuously put forward and have been proven so disastrous in results. It is further probable that the Institute has become so broadened that no comparatively small group of men may control its policy or dominate its attitude toward the profession.

Probably, and perhaps undoubtedly, the Institute will discard any attitude toward practice that ignores the vital lessons of the past two years, and if in carrying forward a policy based on a virile conception of the architect's functions it runs counter to a group that clings to ideals and principles which are not thoroughly democratic, in every phase, that group will undoubtedly have to stand to one side. It is certain that there will no longer be a disposition to temporize or to cater to any element that will fail to recognize that architecture while first of all an art, is none the less a business, and an extremely practical one.

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EVERY detail of the Post-War Program fore-shadows just such a policy for the future. As the criticism of this program and the replies to its many queries will not be restricted to Institute members nor to any group of that membership that would make the profession of architecture a resting place for poseurs and dilettanti, they are sure to contain the essence of mature judgment from a large number of thoughtful men who are interested in the advancement of the profession and who have none but the most unselfish reasons for sitting in its councils as invited by this Committee.

It must be borne in mind that no policy, no matter how well considered or carefully framed, can go forward by its own inertia. It will be vital to future success that none but highly important reforms be outlined and that they be placed in the hands of men with time and inclination to bring these matters to conclusion. Matters of minor importance, or what might be at this time called non-essentials, may well be put aside. But with the renewal of building, a renewal that in the future will call for the greatest activity, there is doubt that the men who could most efficiently labor to bring these things to pass will be able to give the time that will be necessary. Just here, then, it becomes important that there shall be added to the executive office of the Institute a highly qualified salaried official who will assume charge of the many details, and who can carry forward his work under the counsel of well-chosen committees of members.

This seems to be the all-important thing if the best results are to be achieved.

JUST what will be foremost in this policy of reconstruction that will be outlined by the Institute it is not possible to forecast, but it is safe to venture the opinion that first or last the subject of education will be a prominent one. With better educational methods, all supervised by the profession

and absolutely controlled by its members, all of the other problems that now are in need of attention would in the future become automatically solved. The architect's status, his relation to his associates, (ethics of professional practice) his relation to his clients and through them to the general public, his status before the government and his just distinction as an artist and a business man all would become satisfactorily regulated. For with such training as would be outlined by his elder brethren, the student would emerge from his college days with a mental foundation that would start him right and keep him right.

It is education that has bred certain types of men that have brought discredit on the profession, but it has been a wrong, a misdirected education. We stand a better chance for the development of a type of American architecture when we have developed a cleaner cut type of American architect. There is no quarrel with the classic precedent, no wish to brush aside the value of historic associations, but we shall need to eradicate what may be termed the effeminacy of too much misdirected academic learning and to replace it by a curriculum that shall be suggested and directed by the practical and successful men in the profession.

Every propaganda that is taken up by governments is founded on education of the people toward correct ways of living, and the cultivation of a viewpoint approved by well sustained practice.

The practice of architecture can be no exception in its attitude toward its future problems. When it has eradicated the poseur and blunted his ability to work mischief, when it has taught those who shall follow in the development of our architecture the right thing in the right way, it will have started toward a future so sure of success, so great in its possibilities, that even the man on the street will not need to be told that architecture is the greatest of all the arts; he will know and feel it in the evidence everywhere about him.



Criticism and Comment

The Editors, THE AMERICAN ARCHITECT:

I have read with interest the article by Mr. George W. Maher dealing with the better architectural development of farm buildings. I wish to say that I am heartily in accord with the thought of Mr. Maher relative to the value of the State University as the medium through which to work to accomplish a new agricultural building reconstruction and also with the thought that this can best be accomplished by men thoroughly in sympathy with the average farmer and his problems.

No doubt the American Society of Agricultural Engineers would be able to help in a large measure in this field, as we number among our members men from nearly all the agricultural colleges and State Universities who are engaged in the work of furnishing improved plans for farm structures. We have one committee devoted to the task of standardizing barn design, another devoted to the standardization of barn equipment and still another dealing with ventilation. It occurs to me that we might arrange a joint committee to co-operate with a similar committee of the American Institute of Architects.

I see many obstacles to be surmounted; however they are not hopeless. The first is the feeling of the farmer, and I am speaking now of the actual land owner and man who gets his fingers in the dirt, that architectural service is for the wealthy only. This feeling has been brought about to some extent by the purchase of farm lands by men of wealth who are seeking diversion or cultivating a hobby.

This opportunity for picturesque development has been seized by certain architects who have little knowledge of or sympathy with such homely subjects as rural economics, soil improvement and the much used but effective term "overhead." This has resulted in a type of building altogether lovely to behold but discouraging to the man who actually must make his living from the soil of a small farm. He feels that architecture means great expenditure. Until he is convinced in terms of bushels of wheat or quarts of milk that attractiveness and utility may go hand in hand, the movement will never meet with success. Even with the free service now given in a modest way by our various Departments of Agricultural Engineering, the farmer hesitates, because to him the blue print symbolizes a lavish expenditure of money and we find that the well-to-do, who might well afford the services of a com-

petent rural architect, are the best patrons of this free service.

The next point to be considered is that of utility. There has been created among certain farmers the feeling, and rightly, that perhaps the old-time country carpenter with his matter-of-fact, rule-of-thumb methods, is good enough for them. He never fails to make a door large enough to admit a load of hay, although he may build "ventilators" that do not ventilate. In the mind of the bona fide farmer utility will always be the first measure of building design because he must get a return upon his investment. Convenience for himself and comfort for his animals, together with ample storage room for the products of the fields, will never be sacrificed for appearance sake.

The system of tenantry, however is the most discouraging of all. The absentee landlord is loath to make expenditures for adequate, let alone decent structures. There are instances in one of the most fertile counties of Ohio, not over forty minutes' ride from the capital, of tenant houses with earth floors upon which a few boards are placed in wet weather to keep the family out of the mire.

There is a brighter side however. Through the Extension Service of our agricultural colleges the farmer is learning of home conveniences and the demand for these things is so great that a number of large concerns are engaged in the manufacture of isolated lighting plants and water systems exclusively. Agricultural engineering specialists are overworked with the demands made upon their time by seekers of information on every conceivable means of making life on the farm easier and more attractive. Now, as never before is the opportunity open for the sympathetic and conscientious architect who has had personal contact with the soil.

It seems that whatever move is made for architectural betterment in farm structures might have to be carried out by sectional rather than as a national movement since the type of farming and climatic conditions vary so greatly. Would it not be well therefore to sub-divide the work of any committee or join committees into sections divided with respect to prominent agricultural characteristics? A non-competitive program of architectural projects might be arranged through the various chapters of the American Institute of Architects co-operating with the agricultural colleges in their respective zones. The American Society of Agricultural Engineers would, I am sure, welcome

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the opportunity of aiding in this movement. The only obstacle in the way of this co-operation is the lack of funds. This no doubt could be arranged. Personally I am vitally interested in this whole movement and will be glad to do what I may both individually and as secretary of the American Society of Agricultural Engineers.

Columbus, Ohio.

F. W. IVES.

The Editors, THE AMERICAN ARCHITECT:

There are a few underlying principles governing the much talked of subject of competitions which I believe may be set down for the advantage of your readers and the enlightenment of the architectural profession.

The programs of competitions superintended by the American Institute of Architects nearly always start with the assumption that competitions are held for the selection of an architect. Such assumption represents crude reasoning and results in unmanageable effects. It lets loose wholesale condemnation exalting one man to a position he would never wish could he foresee its results.

The finer things of life are not to be drawn out of pigeonholes in this fashion. I have overheard confessions from older men in the profession of architecture that they would like, as they expressed it, to put an axe through some of their structures. This sentiment is a telltale of the crude manner in which business in this country has been conducted.

Genuine worth never wishes to advertise itself, not from the desire of wishing to be unknown or unfamed in safe company, but from the inevitable misjudgment of the public directly concerned.

Genuine worth is not too interested in Mr. So-

and-So, no matter what his profession, but genuine worth is interested in ideas which make for genuine good.

So I am pleased to record and insist with my teachers that competitions should be held for the selection of ideas.

A competition worthy of the name should be judged, and won almost, before a T square or triangle has been evidenced. The large scale of the drawings required at the start in our American competitions precludes any but clumsy, crude ideas. Our competitions lose a very vital part in their makeup when we eliminate preliminary stages and judge them from "finished" drawings. Much more time should be spent in the judgment and boiling down, so to speak, of schemes. If a competitor wishes to put in his time at a larger scale and on details, that is his own affair, and represents his own manner of work and investigation; but the drawings presented to a jury should be at a small scale so that a plan may be judged as a plan or scheme of building and not as a diagram of however interesting a composition. Any draftsman who has been through a sufficient course of instruction, and who has been associated with older men, knows that a scheme once clearly worked out and solved may be represented by a few lines and at a convenient scale on a small sheet of paper.

Then why continue with technical encumbrances? If a city in France like Paris, with its muddy stream, can yet fill us with the true and noble, how much more should this recently discovered country with its clear waters awake in us visions of the real and the true and the beautiful!

HERBERT SCOTT OLIN.

Ogdensburg, N. Y.

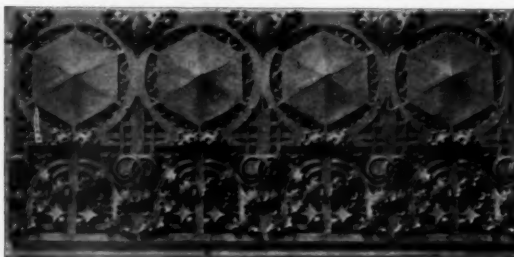




PLATE 140

VIEW LOOKING NORTH

THE ARCH OF VICTORY ON FIFTH AVENUE, OPPOSITE MADISON SQUARE
NEW YORK

THOMAS HASTINGS, ARCHITECT

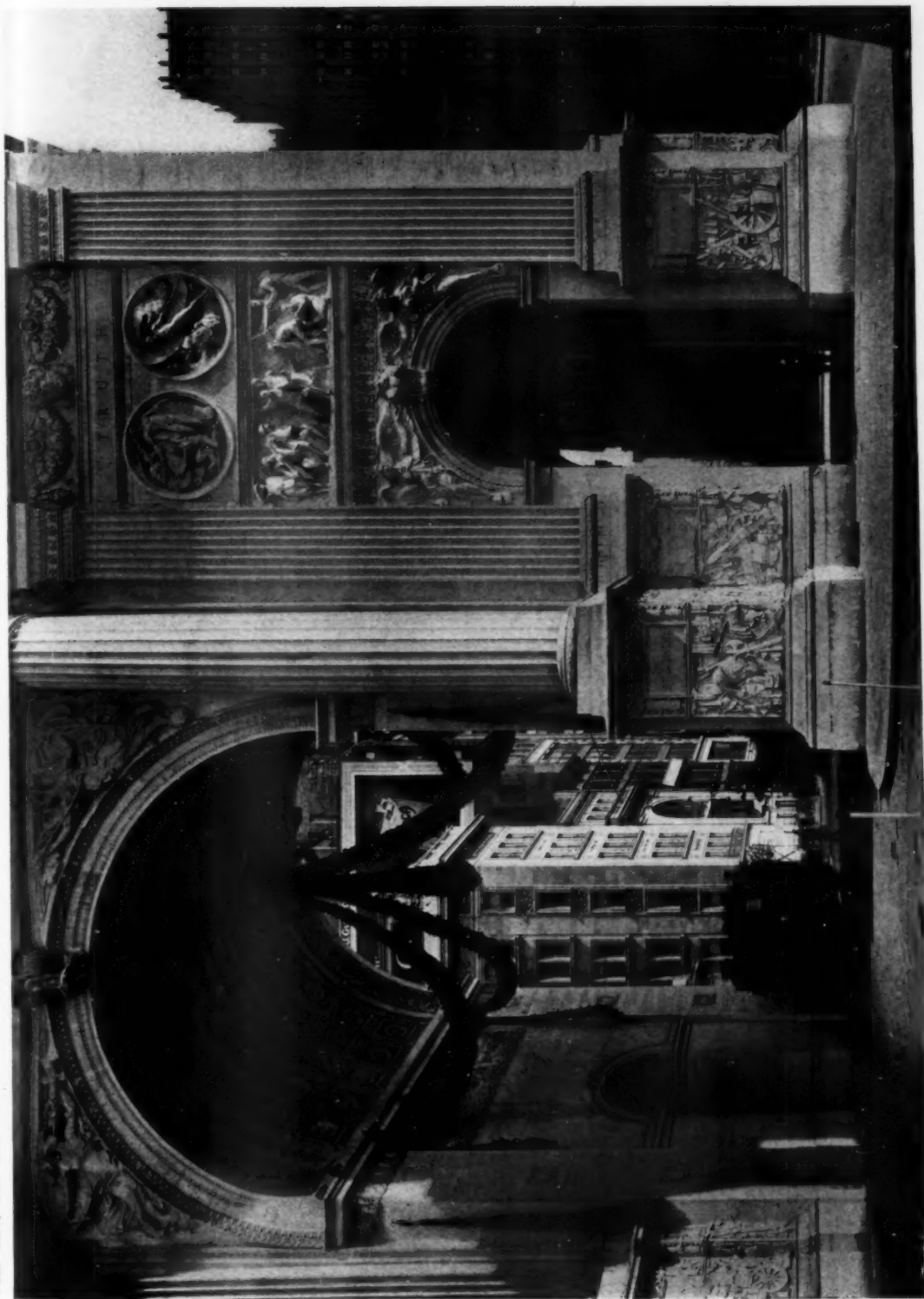


PLATE 141

DETAIL (LOOKING THROUGH CENTRAL ARCH)

THE ARCH OF VICTORY ON FIFTH AVENUE, OPPOSITE MADISON SQUARE, NEW YORK

THOMAS HASTINGS, ARCHITECT



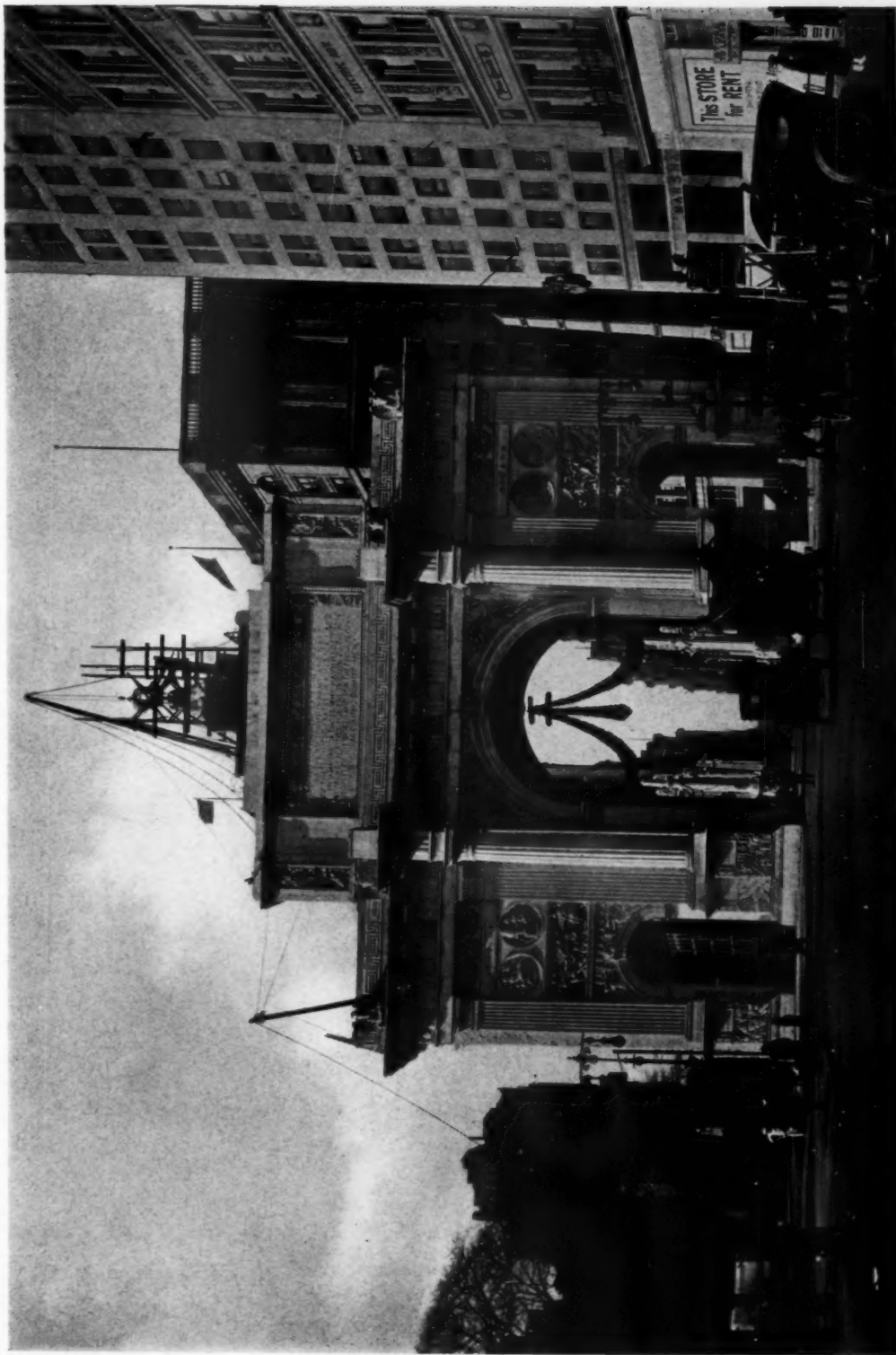


PLATE 142

VIEW LOOKING SOUTH

THE ARCH OF VICTORY ON FIFTH AVENUE, OPPOSITE MADISON SQUARE, NEW YORK

THOMAS HASTINGS, ARCHITECT



PLATE 143

THE TOWERS OF JEWELS

ELECTRICAL DECORATION ON FIFTH AVENUE AT THE PLAZA, NEW YORK



THE AMERICAN ARCHITECT

VOL. CXV, NO. 2262

APRIL 30, 1919



PLATE 144

DECORATION IN FRONT OF PUBLIC LIBRARY ON
FIFTH AVENUE, NEW YORK, ON THE OCCASION
OF THE PARADE TO WELCOME THE 27TH
(NATIONAL GUARD) DIVISION ON ITS
RETURN FROM SERVICE ABROAD





At Left:

CENTRAL MOTIVE
OF DECORATION IN
FRONT OF PUBLIC
LIBRARY, NEW
YORK

Below:

SUGGESTION FOR A
PERMANENT SOL-
DIERS' MEMORIAL
IN LINCOLN PARK,
CHICAGO



PLATE 145





PLATE 146

THE COURT OF NATIONS, SYRACUSE, NEW YORK

A. L. BROCKWAY, ARCHITECT

DAY AND NIGHT VIEWS FROM APPROXIMATELY SAME POINT OF VIEW

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Roosevelt Memorial to Teach Living Service

Following the announcement in the March 26th issue of *THE AMERICAN ARCHITECT* of the purchase of the birthplace of Theodore Roosevelt at 28 East Twentieth Street, New York City, the Woman's Roosevelt Memorial Association has issued a statement outlining the purpose for which the "Roosevelt House" will be used.

After the building is restored and the interior reproduced according to the description written by the late President in his autobiography, the house will be a "living thing, a place where the boys and girls of America, and the men and women as well, will come together in citizenship activities in order that their understanding of America may become deeper and keener and that the great ideal of practical service to our country, of indefatigable activity in its behalf, shall stir and move with vivid power all Americans that frequent or visit Roosevelt House.

"That Colonel Roosevelt's vigor of life, robustness of belief, and energy of will may be eternally recalled to the youth of America is the real spirit and background of this memorial," says the announcement issued by the association, of which Mrs. Leonard Wood is honorary president and Mrs. William Curtis Demorest is the president. Other officers are Mrs. Thomas Fox Preston, Jr., Mrs. Whitelaw Reid, Mrs. James Roosevelt, Mrs. Robert Bacon, Mrs. William Bayard Cutting, Mrs. Joseph H. Choate, Mrs. James T. Leavitt, Mrs. Elihu Root, Miss Louisa Lee Schuyler, Mrs. Robert Winthrop, Mrs. Henry A. Alexander, Mrs. John Henry Hammond, Mrs. Henry A. Wise Wood, Mrs. Charles A. Bryan, and Mrs. A. Barton Hepburn.

"We now urge every woman who believes that the spirit of Roosevelt is the spirit of a greater America and of a sounder American youth, to join us," said Mrs. Demorest, president of the association. "We want this to be raised not by a small group of women here and there, but by the women of America in a great body, following a nation-wide impulse thus to memorialize the great living spirit we want to see carried on by our own sons. We believe it is fitting that as the women, and the mothers, of America we should thus in this concrete, symbolic yet practical way, in the place and house of his birth, 'hand on the torch' of that vigorous flaming, never-dying spirit to the youth of America.

"A few years ago Colonel Roosevelt wrote to a friend protesting against 'meaningless mausoleums and monuments to the dead.' It seemed unthinkable to us to perpetuate his memory in that way. We

want a place set aside for the objects and ideas that characterized him, pervaded by the influences that developed him. In the letter we have just spoken of the Colonel wrote: 'As for the rest of us who with failures and shortcomings, but according to our lights, have striven to lead decent lives—if any friends of ours wish to commemorate us after death the way to do it is by some expression of good deeds to those who are still living.' "

The names of those who become members of the association will be inscribed in a book of donors to be placed in the memorial and the receipts for all donations will be a small bronze pin bearing the likeness of Mr. Roosevelt.

Community Buildings as Soldier Memorials

Soldier memorials in the form of community buildings, dedicated to civil and social uses, and wherever possible built with bonds of the fifth Liberty Loan, are urged by the Bureau of Education, Department of the Interior, in a circular sent to every school community in the United States. A number of communities have already concluded that a building, in constant use as a reminder of the sacrifice made by the soldiers and sailors of the war, is more appropriate and enduring than the conventional graveyard monument.

"There is a growing conviction," says Dr. Henry E. Jackson, author of the bureau's circular, "that the conventional stone shaft, placed in a graveyard among the dead, is not a fitting memorial to those who died for freedom. The suggestion, made both in France and America, that these memorials take the form of community buildings dedicated to civic and social uses, is obviously wise and ought to meet universal approval. On the walls of such a building should hang a bronze tablet containing the names of each community's martyrs to liberty.

"Wherever possible, this community memorial building ought to be the public schoolhouse, in order to prevent needless waste through duplication. It is the logical community center. It is non-partisan, non-sectarian and non-exclusive. It is owned and operated by all the people and therefore furnishes a platform on which all can meet on terms of self-respect. The schoolhouse could be remodeled or enlarged or replaced by a new one. It is the natural capitol and clubhouse of every community. In rural districts small schools should of course be consolidated in order to eliminate a waste and secure a community large enough to support the kind of building here proposed."

Roosevelt Memorial Bill

ALBANY MEASURE CREATES FORESTRY EXPERIMENT STATION IN HIS HONOR

A bill authorizing the State College of Forestry, at Syracuse University, has been introduced in Albany. The purpose is to establish an experimental station, to be known as The Roosevelt Wild Life Forest Experiment Station, in which there shall be maintained records to show the results of experiments and research work in relation to the habits, life histories, methods of propagation, and management of fish, birds, game, food and fur-bearing animals, and of forest wild life generally.

The measure is in accord with recommendations made by a special committee appointed by Chairman Will H. Hayes, of the Republican National Committee, to suggest some means of fittingly commemorating the life of Theodore Roosevelt.

Memorial at Rheims for American Dead

Overshadowed by its battered cathedral and overlooking the 15,000 roofless houses of Rheims, will stand the first great memorial to the American dead in France. This seems assured by official advices that have reached the headquarters of the American fund for French wounded to the effect that the French Government will deed to the fund the ground in the environs of Rheims where a great American hospital will be erected.

The American hospital at Rheims will constitute not only a monument to the thousands of American soldiers lying buried throughout the battle areas of France, but is intended also to be an enduring reminder that America had brought relief to France even before the American armies arrived.

Belleau Wood as Roosevelt Memorial

Widespread favor has met the suggestion made recently by the Roosevelt Permanent Memorial National Committee that Belleau Wood, France, since renamed by the French Government "The Wood of the Marines," be made a permanent Roosevelt memorial. Colonel William Boyce Thompson, chairman of the committee, states that approving comment had reached him from far and wide. The general tone of the letters was that it was by far the happiest suggestion made for a fitting and permanent memorial. Samuel Parsons, a well-known landscape architect, has designed a lofty watch tower, to stand at the entrance to the wood.

Mr. Parsons suggests that the tower be built of uncut stone. Surmounting it he has designed a huge eagle, representing America with wings outstretched over a French soldier.

The entire design he aims to have as American in character as possible.

Big Monument to Chicago Heroes

A museum for world war relics, motion picture halls, art galleries, a restaurant, and a score of ultra-modern comfort features are included in plans for a Chicago heroes' memorial monument submitted for the city's approval by the Victory Memorial Association, Irving B. Brower, president.

The monument will be more than five hundred feet in height and nearly two hundred feet on the base, the highest point anywhere in the territory from the Alleghanies to the Rocky Mountains, says the *Chicago Tribune*. It will have a rotunda as large as the largest monument of the world. Six elevators to the top of the rotunda and four to the top of the monument will be installed.

The plans include moving picture halls, a museum for war relics, safe deposit vaults for records of all the heroes from Chicago, and a place for the public to view all of the flags and guidons of the regiments. It will have art galleries containing paintings by the best artists, illustrating the celebrated battles in which our heroes fought. Under the rotunda there will be a fine restaurant and club rooms and all arrangements for the comfort of the public.

On the top will stand a mammoth globe of steel and glass, representing the world, surmounted by a graceful conception of statuary illustrating liberty and victory of democracy over the world. The inside of this globe, thirty feet in diameter, will be used for a wireless station and weather bureau.

The monument is unique in that its entire construction is triangular, to represent the triangle city of Chicago.

Plan Roosevelt Exhibit

Plans for the Roosevelt Memorial Exhibition to be held during May and June in Avery Hall, Columbia University, New York City, have been announced by Prof. W. A. Braun, who is directing the exhibition. The decorations for the exhibition rooms will be designed by William A. Boring, professor of architecture at Columbia.

Current News

Billions Tied Up In Foreign Loans

With nearly nine billion American dollars scattered throughout Europe in the form of loans, treasury officials in Washington are giving careful study to the possible outgrowths of the complicated situations developing across the water. It has been hinted that this Government may have to wait its turn in receiving payments of money advanced to European countries. England, France and Italy are understood to be claiming priority. Meantime the situation in Russia and the Balkan states affects nearly \$250,000,000 in American loans there.

In event of England, France and Italy being paid off first on interallied loans, a large amount of the "pay on demand" paper held in the United States Treasury may have to be changed into long-term obligations. Foremost mentioned among these is the \$350,000,000 loaned to Belgium by the United States. Larger sums were extended Belgium—and most of them long before America contributed—by the other Allies.

Over Their Heads

Just how to keep a roof over the heads of its people is a problem engrossing much British attention. It is now learned that the administration of what is called the State Housing Plan is to be entrusted to a Chief Commissioner in London and eight District Commissioners throughout England and Wales. The men chosen are to have wide experience in housing and will be given important discretionary powers. Technical staffs will be at their disposal.

The local government board, hoping to guide London building authorities, is issuing a manual containing plans of several types of houses of recent design. The general aim is to restrict the number of houses in city limits to twelve per acre and in rural areas to eight per acre. Practically all the essential features, it is learned, are being standardized, including doors, windows, kitchen ranges, baths, bolts and general fittings.

Where practicable, munition factories will be utilized to produce these articles at the same time providing employment for many munition workers.

In London, the local government board contemplates the erection in that city of a village of houses, each of which will be a complete model of architecture, style and interior arrangements, to serve as a guide for local builders in other sections.

Discussing the situation in London itself the *Pall Mall Gazette* suggests that if present facilities were ascertained, it would be found that many large derelict houses might properly be converted into the much needed dwellings with considerable economy. Overcrowding is so serious in London that it is a menace requiring immediate amelioration.

Justice, another London paper, believes that any local solution of the housing problem is sure to prove ultimately inadequate, and declares that it must be dealt with nationally. This, it states, would confer a benefit on future generations which could not be measured in money. In this day of new experiments, it is wondered, will this also be done?

Solving England's Housing Problem

One method devised for solving the housing problem in England is the organization of co-partnership housing societies, which attempt to combine the advantages of tenancy and home owning. There are sixty such societies in England, Scotland and Wales. In these co-partnership societies the tenant does not become the owner of the home he occupies. Instead of getting a deed to a house and lot he becomes the owner of stock in the company by investing a given amount of money.

The members of the society collectively own all the real property in the community. They form a corporation, buy suitable land and erect houses. These are let to members at the ordinary rental. Dividends are limited to five per cent. Any profits above current expenses, interest and amortization charges on mortgages and loans, and dividends on capital are divided among tenants in proportion to rents paid. Advantages claimed for co-operative home owning are as follows:

Lower rent for the same accommodations.

Freedom from loss if the tenant is compelled by loss of employment to leave.

Capital for investment is obtained cheaper than by any other plan.

Advantages of buying land in large tracts and erecting many houses at the same time are obtained by each individual.

If values go up the partners get the benefit either by dividends on rent or by rental at less than going price.

All surplus profits after paying fixed charges go to the partners.

Benefit of "unearned increment," if any, goes to tenants.

Outside investor gains, although his returns are limited to 5 per cent, by greater security, freedom from loss by poor tenants and no trouble to look after investment.

A portion of the capital needed for these projects is obtained from the national government in England, enabling the benefit of public credit in the form of lower rates of interest to be taken advantage of. Under the housing and town planning acts of 1909, up to two-thirds of the required capital could be advanced after the houses were built. Since the war this has been increased to 90 per cent.

If a tenant becomes objectionable to his neighbors the management can notify him to vacate, the amount of his investment is returned and his relation to the society ceases. Stock can be paid for on the installment plan. Communities built under this plan are carefully laid out, houses are designed by the best architects and the building is given careful supervision.

Seaweed Aids British Building

In London a novel use has been found for seaweed. Combined with crushed slag and other heretofore neglected waste mineral products, it is used to make a kind of concrete out of which are being fashioned building bricks

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and blocks. The seaweed acts as a binding and strengthening element.

Arrangements are being made to put up a large number of houses composed entirely of these blocks, and it is predicted that the material, owing to its cheapness, will aid in solving the housing problem.

Not only the foundations and walls, but the doors, window frames, and mantelpieces are to be constructed of the new concrete. The houses are to be made in sections and bolted together. The window frame is a new idea in itself. The glass, in one large pane, slips into a slot, and the edges of molding are then turned over, so as to grip it. To mend a broken window will be a simple matter, and will not require the services of a glazier.

It is said that dwellings made of the concrete will be warm and thoroughly damp proof.

Tent City To Provide Housing?

Typical of the housing shortage throughout this country are those obtaining in Newark, N. J. Here, as a means of temporarily relieving housing congestion, investigations are being conducted with the idea of erecting tents to meet the present emergency. These are in charge of W. J. Morgan of the mayor's rent profiteering committee. About a month ago he made this suggestion to Mayor Gillen, and Capt. C. W. Beardsley, just out of service, and formerly a real estate man, was called into conference. No difficulty seems foreseen in camping out during the summer, provided proper sewerage and transportation facilities might be depended upon. The management might be on military lines, the sponsors believe.

That a tented city is not an innovation was a point made by Mr. Morgan in calling attention to such an institution which flourished in Flint, Mich., about fifteen years ago. In enlarging his plant, an automobile manufacturer found that the town was short in housing accommodations for about 3000 families. A plot of ground was procured, he said, and almost over night a city of tents sprang up, which endured until other and more permanent provisions could be made. It was the experience of this manufacturer, he added, that the health of the workmen and their families was never better than when they lived under canvas.

Until more dwellings and apartments can be provided by new construction, Mr. Morgan believes the tents would be a partial solution of the housing problem in Newark.

In other sections of Newark, tenants are moving into cottages before they are completed, giving further evidence of the urgent demand for housing accommodations. So strong is the need for immediate occupancy that it has been arranged to have the interiors finished first, in order that families might move in while the work on the exterior is being continued.

In connection with this demand, the following statement was given out from the offices of the Real Estate Board:

"The builder or contractor who still hesitates or is in doubt about the advisability of undertaking new building construction need only interview the various real estate offices of this city. The demand for small one and two-family houses is so great that the average real estate man will say that it is hardly possible to supply the wants of the many applicants.

"Builders will have to build whether they want to or not, price of labor and material notwithstanding. The people want the houses; they are willing to pay for the right thing. It only requires the enterprising and far-seeing builder to take advantage of the existing opportunities.

"There never existed a better opportunity to buy building sites and lots at prices that range nearly fifty per cent of their true value than now. The prevailing high tax rate

this year has been the incentive for the sale of many lots. "New York building contractors are already alert to these opportunities and are making overtures and bids for many of the large undeveloped tracts."

The Use and Development of Malleable Iron

While the advancement made in industries dependent upon the malleability of iron has in the last few years been very great, the literature dealing with the topic has for some time proved inadequate to keep the public alive to its importance.

The American Malleable Castings Association, particularly qualified to discuss this subject, has prepared what would seem to be an authentic treatise on "Malleable Iron," a copy of which will be gratuitously sent to anyone mentioning this paper, if he will address the Association at Cleveland, Ohio.

This booklet is divided into three parts, the first discussing the subject broadly; the second, showing the relation of the Association to the present status of the subject, and the third, dealing with specific problems.

While this booklet is but the forerunner of a comprehensive volume to be issued later by the Association, it contains data of considerable interest to the architect.

To Eliminate Bolshevism

While the General Assembly of New York was debating the other day on the best way to rid the Empire State of Bolsheviki, one of the members, it is learned, got right up and announced that he was one.

Pursuing the opportunity to continue, he said further: "If you want to stop the spread of what you have been pleased to call bolshevism, don't continue to waste your time as you have been doing here. Simply study the causes of social discontent and you will find them in the high cost of living, unemployment, inadequate housing conditions and in the intensity of the struggle for existence generally. While I have no desire to chide you, I ask, what have you done to meet these conditions?"

Referring to this tirade, the *Cleveland News* writes as follows:

"And is it not the truth that our municipal, state and national governments, while throwing rhetorical fits over the possibility of an American brand of bolshevism, are accomplishing little whatever toward removing its predisposing causes—that American law makers of all calibers can always find time to pass appropriations and increase taxes, but somehow never see their way clear to doing anything about lower prices and rents, more jobs, better houses, or any other material assistance in the struggle for existence, now become so hard for most of us?"

Building Starts In Detroit

Anticipating a great revival in building the balance of the year and declaring that hesitancy on the part of many to build on account of material prices will be overcome, George H. Barbour, president of the Michigan Stove Company of Detroit, Mich., in a letter to THE AMERICAN ARCHITECT, writes in most optimistic vein regarding the early resumption of construction activity in that section of the country. Mr. Barbour's view of the situation follows:

"How will the expected boom in spring building be

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financed? In this section it is not a matter of financing, but a matter of the excess cost in building that stands in the way of accomplishing what we would like to see take place in Detroit, because there is a large demand for houses from the large number of people who have come into Detroit in the past five years. You can realize the conditions when I tell you that our population today is very close to a million. This means that there are a large number of families that have been cared for by houses, apartment houses, bungalows and the general variety of houses that were built in large numbers up to the time that this country went into the war. Soon after we went into the war building seemed to cease and there was very little going on. I am pleased to say that there is a revival at the present time in the building line.

"Lately a large company has been formed to take this matter into consideration, and it is expected that a large number of houses will be built in a central location. It may be possible that they will distribute the building to different points in the city.

"I do not think that the financial part of it would in any way delay the matter of building, but there is a hesitancy upon the part of many that would like to build on account of the increased price, not only in building material, but in labor. I believe this is going to be more or less overcome. I have noticed already that cellars are being dug and houses are being built, and I anticipate that this particular interest will show a great revival the balance of this year over what it was the past year and the latter part of 1917. It has been estimated that Detroit could use at the present time 600 or more houses."

Child Aged Two Exhibits Drawings

At the Royal Drawing Society's annual exhibition at Guild Hall a sensation was provided by a couple of sketches—a cat and a game cock—by a baby under 2. They are accompanied by a testimonial to the effect that they are really the precocious babe's own work.

Discuss a National Building Bank

With the belief that a national building bank to be operated under the existing laws and as a part of the Federal Reserve system would establish a functionary in the building industry that would eliminate the principal factor of delay in construction, a conference has been held between United States Senator Calder, Justus Slater, building economist, Major Frederick Hyde of the American Bankers' Association, M. W. Harrison of the Savings Bank Association of the same association and officials of the Federal Reserve Bank. Present war emergency measures give ample powers for the establishment of such an institution without awaiting the enactment of special laws.

British Lumber Control Ended

The British Board of Trade has canceled all orders relating to the purchase of imported timber and has also withdrawn the maximum prices for both imported and homegrown supplies other than pit wood. As regards importation, no licenses will now be required for the importation of hewn, sawn, planed, or dressed timber of all kinds, including hardwoods and sleepers. This does not include pit wood and manufactured and semi-manufactured

goods, such as box boards, for which licenses will still be required unless produced in parts of the British Empire. Stocks of imported timber belonging to the Government will be disposed of at the prevailing market prices through the Government Timber Buying, Salisbury House. These stocks, including goods yet to arrive, amount to about 550,000 standards.

Planting Trees In Farm Gullies

Planting trees in farm gullies is a reclamatory measure advocated by the Forest Service of the United States Department of Agriculture. The results are of twofold advantage, as not only are the trees valuable in themselves but their presence stops the gully erosion. In the north Atlantic and mountain states and in the Mississippi Valley the locust is well adapted for this use as it has a large root system, grows rapidly and makes one of the most lasting woods for fence posts. The little trees may be dug up in locust thickets or obtained from commercial nurseries.

In other sections the native shortleaf pine is one of the best varieties for reclaiming gullies as it exerts, even when young, a marked influence in holding the soil. When set out in gullies, its growth is fairly rapid and in a few years it forms a complete protective cover.

Columbia University Installs New Materials Testing Research Library

A research library in connection with the materials testing laboratory will be installed soon in the Engineering building at Columbia University, New York City. The library, which will be situated in a room adjacent to the laboratory, will be one of the most nearly complete in the country. It will contain all of the official publications having to do with tests, testing, and with specifications that can be collected. An additional feature of the library will be a collection of trade and industrial catalogs and pamphlets containing information relating to the properties of proprietary and patented industrial appliances. The purpose of collecting the catalogs is to provide information for those enrolled in the testing laboratory that will make them familiar with the numerous trade specialties and appliances upon the use of which all structural work depends.

Red Tape In City Management

While New York is in many ways a law unto itself, there are some instances in which its shortcomings are shared in lesser degree throughout all municipal enterprises. A point at hand in connection with the New York-New Jersey Port Commission will doubtless be sympathetically understood through similar experiences in every town where officialdom is in the ascendancy.

Dock Commissioner Hulbert, appointed a member of this commission by Gov. Smith, reports that as a result of municipal delays, one big concern which made application for a lease of a large section of waterfront property in New York, had now entered into a contract for about fifty acres of New Jersey waterfront property upon which it will expend \$25,000,000 in the construction of new piers and warehouses.

"If we keep going along as we have," said he, "we will

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need another Abraham Lincoln to free us from the chains of an intolerable slavery."

The usual process of getting things done, or rather neglecting them, will be clear from the further statement of Commissioner Hulbert:

"When an application is made for a piece of waterfront in this city I refer it to my chief engineer. After he makes his report I go over it and make such suggestions as I think proper. Then it goes before the Sinking Fund Commission. It is referred by it to the Committee of the Whole. If it ever gets out of that body it goes to the Board of Estimate and then to the Board of Aldermen. It is often postponed in one or all of those bodies possibly for a year or more. By that time everybody is exasperated and the applicant goes elsewhere, where new enterprises are more hospitably received."

In one form or another, on a small scale or a large, such a procedure is common to every effort toward accomplishment. Decisions are made, agreements drawn, plans arranged, and the whole thing, often as not, stagnates for want of action.

The question might be asked if this is another "Circumlocution Office."

New British Pottery

One of the most interesting features of the exhibition of pottery recently held at Stoke-on-Trent, England, is said by the *London Times* to have been a collection of samples of the new hard porcelain which grew out of research work conducted at that place.

The new china, which is intended to compete with German and other Continental hard or felspathic porcelains, is an all-British product, according to the supplement, and in several respects is superior to the Continental wares.

"Its appearance and texture approximate more nearly to the old Chinese than to the German porcelain," the supplement continues. "It is particularly adapted to the use of under-glaze colors, some of the blue printed ware being particularly charming, and it is capable of taking a wide range of enamel or on-glaze colors. This is in contradistinction to the Continental hard porcelain, from which enamel colors are apt to chip off.

"The new porcelain, though not rivaling in texture and delicacy the Staffordshire bone china, is more highly vitrified, wears better, and remains clean even if chipped. It can be made much more cheaply than bone china, and in some classes of goods can be made practically as cheaply as earthenware."

A Foreign Market At Home

As an instance of an organization which is actively pursuing the ends to secure which it was inaugurated, the Inter-Racial Council, first discussed in our issue of March 5, may be cited.

The question is asked by this energetic group of men and women, that if it is profitable to spend hundreds of thousands of dollars to send skilled "trade missionaries" to the Old World in order to educate the natives in American methods and American products, why would it not be equally profitable to teach the foreigners already in this country to demand standard American goods and live in American style? These people, many of them, prefer the familiar wares from their own countries, and further than this they send their savings abroad, denying them-

selves present comforts here in the belief that they may live in finer style later on in the Old World.

Since foreigners are making good wages, but seem to have little inclination to spend them, the time would seem at hand for an educational campaign to encourage them to live in American style, teach them about American goods, and make them good customers for our products.

The Inter-Racial Council, believing that one very effective medium is the foreign language press, has recently acquired control of the largest advertising agency dealing with the racial papers, and henceforth the American Association of Foreign Language Newspapers proposes to conduct an extensive campaign of publicity and advertising to acquaint readers with the merits of our products, many of which the foreigners do not at present even know by name.

This should provoke an indefinite expansion of a most profitable market.

City Plan for Janesville, Wis.

The Chamber of Commerce of Janesville, Wis., is having a comprehensive city plan made under the auspices of John Nolen of Cambridge.

A considerable increase in population is anticipated by Janesville through the expanding work of the General Motors Company, which will require from five to ten thousand additional employees for the manufacture of the Samson tractor.

The city plan will include recommendations for the location of thoroughfares, a study of railroad problems, zoning, location of proposed public buildings and a system of parks and playgrounds.

Ascertaining Architectural Assets

Despite the fact that visitors to a city generally desire to see the sights, the whole sights and nothing but the sights, few cities, either through their Chambers of Commerce or other agencies, have tabulated their architectural assets in available form with that end in view.

The Oregon Chapter of the American Institute has recently attempted to determine impartially the examples in Portland in which civic pride might most properly be vested. Its method of procedure was to invite a jury composed of three outside architects, the Professor of Art at the University of Oregon, and the Curator of the Portland Art Museum, to go carefully over and discuss the buildings, landscape architecture and sculpture of the city, and name what they considered the most notable examples of each. In addition, the Chapter addressed a letter to each member, asking him to prepare a list of what he considered best. These lists were combined into one preliminary list of nominations so that the jury would not ignore any structure deemed worthy by the Chapter members. The jury met for four days during which they were taken by automobile to inspect, in a body, existing structures and gardens in all parts of Portland.

The report of the jury setting forth reasons for its conclusions has been published, together with photographs of the selections, in the March issue of *The Architect and Engineer of California*, and has considerable interest. The idea of tabulating this sort of information contains nothing of the dogmatic, and as a means of knowing what you have and making the most of it, may with profit be emulated by other municipalities.

Would Build Memorial Theaters

In an address before the Society of Art and Sciences at a dinner at the Hotel Biltmore, New York, recently, Major-General John F. O'Ryan suggested that the proposed memorial in honor of America's soldiers in the great war should take the form of a municipal playhouse. The General, after telling of the part played by entertainment for our men in the war, said that the American fighters abroad had been particularly struck by the number of municipal playhouses in the small villages in France.

"I believe that the soldiers themselves," he said, "would prefer, as a memorial, something living, possessing a soul, rather than something stony and dead. They would prefer something that would play a part in the life of the city, and this the municipal playhouse would do."

Paint Manufacturers' Association of the United States

There has been received from the Educational Bureau, Scientific Section, Paint Manufacturers' Association of the U. S., a series of circulars issued during March and April. These are No. 59, Paints for Cement Vessels; No. 60, Changes in Oils Upon Storage; No. 61, Metal Powders as Pigments, and No. 62, Rare Elements as Paint Pigments.

These valuable bulletins contain a large amount of accurate information on their various topics, and will be found of considerable interest to architects in keeping abreast with the latest research as to paints, their application and specific use.

They may be obtained by addressing the Institute of Industrial Research, Washington, D. C.

Returning Soldiers Increase Home Shortage

Just what will be done to meet the demand for living accommodations in every corner of New York State, and especially in the larger cities, a demand accentuated every day by the return of soldiers from abroad and from cantonments in this country, is a question giving architects, real estate men, builders, and housing experts considerable to think about these days. In the large majority of cases when men were called from their homes, and there were 251,993 from New York State in the army under the selective service act, there ensued a general retrenchment of living costs by the families left at home.

This retrenching generally took the form of reduced living accommodations. Families which occupied dwellings of many rooms subleased, and took up smaller abodes. This placed considerable living space on the market.

Now, with the men returning, there is a general expansion in every direction and families that "doubled up" during the war now want their own places. It has developed that there is little room for the returned soldiers or for newcomers.

Builders see the only solution of the tangle in the stabilization of material prices by the Government, and then an intensive building program can be set on foot. So, while, the housing situation is becoming more acute with the arrival of every transport from France, construction is being held up for fear of a shrinkage in prices and lack of proper financial support.

Launch Campaign to Stimulate Building Activity

As an effort to stabilize prices, lower the cost of living and stimulate business reconstruction, a "National Prosperity Campaign" under the direction of Philip H. Gadsden, of the National Public Utilities Committee, has been launched. The object will be to bring business men to the belief that it is within the power of industry to resuscitate itself. A statement issued from the headquarters of the campaign is partly as follows:

"Regardless of Government attitudes toward the present price situation, there is a realization of the necessity for the upkeep of production and the absorption of the unemployed, and the distribution of such propaganda as will stimulate confidence as well as activity in business projects. Several hundred firms throughout the country have wired their approval and co-operation.

"Granting that general retail buying by the ultimate consumer is still enjoying its usual boom even at present prices, the fact remains that industry has been waiting, and is waiting for basic prices to strike a permanent level that would justify going ahead and still be protected against loss by a drop in prices. Present prices are here to stay, so far as price levels are concerned; we cannot await the industrial adjustment of the entire world. Factory fires must be kept burning and wheels turning, and labor must be employed at a scale of wages commensurate with the prices of commodities."

March Contracts Show Improvement

Contracts let in March for building and construction projects will be in excess of the normal average for March in money value. The total number of contracts let for the third week in March was 1,945, representing a money value of \$39,017,308. The New York district reported 186 projects involving \$8,372,682; Pittsburgh 163 projects involving \$5,063,614; Boston 443 projects involving \$2,602,000. The Chicago district reported 741 contracts let involving \$19,212,298. The record for the first three weeks of March was \$96,619,791.

From these figures has been omitted the Minneapolis district from which the total would be less than one million dollars. It appears likely that the entire month's figures will be between \$125,000,000 and \$150,000,000. The amount involved in contracts awarded in January of this year was about \$51,000,000 and in February about \$95,000,000; from which it appears the construction business certainly is picking up.

High Rents Speed Building

Dwellers in the town of Corning, N. Y., have become convinced that it is cheaper to own a home than meet the excessive demands of landlords. The need for houses is so extensive and so inadequately supplied that there are frequently several prospective tenants bidding for the same quarters. Proprietors naturally rent the place to the highest bidder, and advances are from twenty-five per cent. to double the rental of a few years ago. This makes it cheaper to own a house than to rent one, and where none are available for outright purchase building will be speeded.

Will Form New Society to Democratize Profession in New York State

A new organization, having for its purpose the democratization of the profession of architecture in New York State, is expected to be formed shortly to take the place of the old New York State Association of Architects. This comprised the New York City, Brooklyn, Central and Western Chapters, which, except for occasional social gatherings, has been inactive for the past few years.

Detailed plans for the formation of the proposed society will be decided upon at a meeting to be held in Utica, N. Y., on June 7. John B. Slee, for many years treasurer of the Brooklyn Chapter of the State Association, has been appointed secretary by that Chapter to take charge of the work, and will next week send a circular letter to the fourteen hundred registered architects in New York State informing them of the plan to form a new organization and urging their active support and attendance at the Utica meeting.

All qualified architects in New York State will be eligible for membership in the new society, the name of which has yet to be determined. One of its aims will be to take an active and decided stand on all pertinent questions of the day affecting the practice of architecture. The decision to form a new architectural society resulted from the recent application of the New York City Chapter for withdrawal from the State Association, which was refused by the board of directors. It was then decided that the New York State profession could accomplish better results by the formation of a new and more active organization.

Portland Building Exhibit

Mayor Baker of Portland, Ore., is active in keeping alive the great interest in the "Own Your Home" campaign sponsored by Mr. Paul C. Murphy of that city, and now going on throughout the United States.

It is now proposed to arrange for a mammoth exhibit of building materials, furniture, fixtures, and house equipment of every variety, as well as a large number of building plans and sketches, at the Auditorium during the Rose Festival. The Mayor has arranged for a further meeting this week at his office, with representatives of leading material interests of the city to outline additional steps to be taken in connection with the present construction movement and its co-ordination with the national campaign.

A notable increase in building activities is now manifested throughout the city, hundreds of new projects being under way.

Another Need Emphasized by Prohibition

Just how far the general public has depended upon the toilet facilities provided by liquor saloons and hotels cannot be easily determined, but the lack of comfort stations in our larger cities is one witness to the fact that semi-public places like saloons have filled this need quite considerably. With the passing of these places, the need for better toilet facilities where they may be properly accessible to the public in the streets becomes imperative.

In New York, for instance, there is hardly one comfort station to a mile, with the exception of what might

more properly be called the "discomfort rooms" off the subway platforms. If the public pays for anything, it expects service. But in a large city like New York, when all efforts are made in our schools and public buildings, to instill ideas of cleanliness and wholesomeness, there are some things for which the individual man should not be asked to pay; should, in fact have thrust upon him, and comfort stations might well be included in the list.

London has ample provision for public convenience. These places are mostly underground at the intersections of the principal streets, clean and well cared for, in marked contrast to many similar buildings in America where common decency seems scarcely to have been studied, and where sanitary conditions are often abominable.

In an analysis of this matter, Mr. Austen Bolam states, and very rightly, that this question is by no means an academic one, as anybody whose business calls him outdoors can testify. The provision of such comfort stations has long been neglected by our municipalities, but it must be faced. Soon the saloon will no longer be available. Architects should begin to think about this problem and bring it prominently forward.

These conveniences need not be an eyesore. They may be designed to conform to local architectural schemes and to include many other elements besides the obvious ones. In many European resorts, such places are planned to occupy the back part of a building, the front of which is devoted to shops. In these instances, the buildings are actually a profit to the municipality.

In one form or another this problem will have to be met, and soon. It reflects discredit upon American enterprise that a matter of this importance should have so long been allowed to exist in the present state of neglect, and that foreign cities should be so far ahead of us in this respect.

Brooklyn Chapter Meetings

At the last meeting of the Brooklyn Chapter, A. I. A., held on March 31st, reconstruction matters were considered and discussed. It was decided that the industrial and architectural Brooklyn exhibition would be given April 20th to May 4th in conjunction with the Brooklyn Engineers Club.

National Academy Officials

The annual meeting of the National Academy of Design, just held, resulted in the following elections for the coming year: President, Herbert Adams; vice-president, Howard Russell Butler; corresponding secretary, Harry W. Watrous; recording secretary, Charles C. Curran; treasurer, Francis C. Jones; members of council, Louis Betts, William S. Robinson and Arnold W. Brunner.

Rhode Island Chapter Meeting

PROVIDENCE, R. I., April 28.—The Rhode Island Chapter, A. I. A., held a meeting with the Providence Chamber of Commerce late last week to discuss the "Own a Home" Campaign in that state. It has been arranged to study the needs of the different groups of businesses and professions to evolve a method which will assist in carrying the plans to successful fruition. Officials of the Chamber of Commerce were active in promoting the work in hand.

Late News from Architectural Fields

Special Correspondence to THE AMERICAN ARCHITECT

Building Increases in March

A gain in building of eighty per cent more than the actual average for the month of March for the preceding eight years is shown by a study of conditions made by the Department of Labor. It represents an increase of more than thirty per cent, estimating projects represented at the present cost of building.

During the first week of March, from the 22d to the 28th inclusive, building and engineering contracts were awarded in districts adjacent to five principal cities of the United States, as follows:

District	Number	Amount
Boston	376	\$2,880,000
New York	159	8,206,524
Philadelphia	381	5,641,008
Pittsburgh	274	7,177,630
Chicago	1,077	19,685,163
Total	2,267	\$43,590,325

The large cities have not yet resumed building in the same fashion as the smaller places. When they do, it is believed that the industry will enjoy a prosperity greater than at any previous time.

The following shows the classification of the contracts let, both as to number and amount, and the percentage of the whole comprised in each class, for the week ending March 28.

Class	Number	Per cent of Whole	Amount	Per cent of Whole
Bridges, culverts	153	6.8	\$522,104	1.2
Clubs, hotels, inst.	26	1.2	1,093,675	2.5
Federal, state, municipal..	33	1.5	2,917,153	6.7
Garages, stables	209	9.2	1,235,700	2.8
Industrial	180	7.9	10,193,600	23.4
Public work	130	5.7	7,622,662	17.5
Residential	1,287	56.8	8,066,101	18.5
Schools, churches, theaters	64	2.7	6,611,930	15.15
Stores, offices, banks....	167	7.4	3,340,800	7.7
Street railroads	1	.04	29,800	.05
Terminals, railroad stations	...	...	...	...
Miscellaneous	17	.76	1,956,800	4.5
Total	2,267	100.00	\$43,590,325	100.00

New York Society of Architects

The regular monthly meeting of the above-named society took place at its headquarters, the United Engineering Societies Building, New York, on Tuesday, April 15th.

Several applications for membership were announced, and among the communications read was one from the Engineers' Council convening at Chicago, inviting the Society to join a movement to create a Federal Department of Public Works. This led to an interesting discussion as to the relation existing between the architectural and engineering professions. It was maintained by some members that the present depressed condition of the former was largely due to lack of appreciation of the superior order of service rendered by the architect in his own special domain, embracing as this does, at one time or another, every form of engineering knowledge and skill, these being part and parcel of modern architectural practice. Reference was made to the scant and defective accommodation provided for the public in the metropolitan

subways, outside of the engineers' task of boring the tubes and laying the tracks.

The importance of co-operation between the architect and engineer was emphasized as essential to the success of large structural undertakings. Mr. Leo took occasion to refer in eulogistic terms to the late George B. Post, who, from being an able engineer, finally graduated into practice as an architect, thus combining in his own person the qualifications of both. Few men are capable of doing this in these days of highly specialized knowledge. Hence the necessity of co-operation if the best results are to be achieved. It was resolved to send a delegate of the Society to the Chicago Convention, with instructions to urge co-operation between the architect and engineer.

The Committee on Registration of Architects, reported that several cases of illegal practice of architecture had been presented to the Department of Education, but that the department, as well as the Board of Regents and the Board of Examiners, claim that the law cannot be enforced unless certain amendments are made.

Mr. C. Whitley Mullin read a letter addressed by him to the Post-War Committee on Architectural Practice, in which he analyzed a circular communication sent out by the Committee, answering questions and making suggestions.

The Committee on Nomination of Officers for the ensuing year reported as follows: For President, James Riely Gordon, re-elected; 1st Vice-president, Louis E. Jallade; 2nd Vice-president, Edward W. Loth; Treasurer, Henry Holder; Secretary, Frederick C. Zobel; Financial Secretary, Walter H. Volckening.

Pennsylvania Architects Meet

The Pittsburgh Chapter of the American Institute of Architects held a meeting on April 11 to appoint delegates to the annual convention of the Pennsylvania Association of Architects which took place in Harrisburg on April 22. At this Harrisburg convention, the chief topics of discussion were the matter of licensing all architects, and the framing of a bill to that effect to be introduced into the State legislature. Delegates were also elected for the national convention of the Institute in Nashville.

Conference on City Planning

The eleventh annual conference on City Planning is to be held on May 26-28 at Niagara Falls and Buffalo, under the auspices of the American and Canadian cities and towns of the Niagara frontier.

There is much of particular interest in regional planning on both sides of the Niagara River and the conference will have an international importance in view of the many interests in the Niagara section shared by both Canada and the United States.

The conference will meet for two days in Niagara Falls and emphasize there the city planning problems of the growing industrial city. The second day will be taken

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up with the problem of regional planning, except for the morning session which will discuss a topic very vital to Niagara Falls and to other cities where the regulation of railroads has so affected the development of the city. On the third day, at Buffalo, residential zoning and civic centers will be discussed. Prominent architects, engineers and town planners have been invited to address the conference on this occasion.

To Formulate Stabilization Plan

WASHINGTON, D. C., April 28.—A unique stabilization plan for building construction will be put into effect in the District of Columbia shortly as a result of the program adopted by representatives of various building interests. The Commissioners of the District have appointed a committee representing investors, material men, labor, Chamber of Commerce, local government and building tradesmen.

This committee has been instructed to draw up a wage scale to be submitted to the labor organizations for approval. This scale, if adopted, may continue for at least a year. It is proposed that the price of building material shall not be advanced during the period of construction; that labor shall not demand increased pay after entering upon a specific piece of work; and the banks shall supply building loans at the lowest possible interest rate. Under the tentative plan now being considered by the commission, the profits of the builder will be limited.

The famine in houses has become so acute that these extreme measures were advanced as the only adequate solution for the problem. Government estimates show that 90 per cent of the war-workers will remain in Washington. Federal officials have pointed out that the government will be forced to supply quarters unless the real estate men furnish dwellings. The building development in the District is revealed in the building permits. In January, permits for \$200,000 worth of improvements were issued; \$500,000 in February and \$800,000 in March.

Late Quotations in Building Material Markets

WHILE the past week's activity in the steel industry reflected a disposition to abandon the entire plan of price stabilization, trading in other building materials, particularly in brick, cement, lime, sand, gravel and crushed stone, showed continued evidence of co-operation toward the guaranteeing of prices to the consumer at a fixed level, for the 1919 season at least.

At the annual meeting of the United States Steel Corporation held last week Judge Elbert H. Gary, chairman, said that he had gained the impression from reading newspaper accounts of the "so-called" controversy in Washington between the Railroad Administration and the Industrial Board that the whole price stabilization plan in the steel industry has been abandoned.

Judge Gary emphasized that the Steel Corporation had no controversy with any Government department, but his auditors understood that if the steel manufacturers had realized that the Railroad Administration would endeavor to obtain low prices for the particular products which it needed, without considering whether they were fair to the producer as well as the consumer, the steel men would have refused to enter into negotiations in the matter of stabilization.

After reviewing the history of the attempted stabilization of the steel industry, Judge Gary said:

"Evidently there existed a misunderstanding all of the time between the iron and steel industry, the Railroad Administration, and the Industrial Board. I am giving due credit to every one for entertaining frank and sincere opinions and having made candid statements. It is plain that if the Railroad Administration had accepted the judgment of the Industrial Board as to what prices were fair, the Railroad Administration would have reaped a large benefit, because business would have been stimulated and a large volume of business would have accrued to the carriers."

Judge Gary's statement that the stabilization plan of the Industrial Board had been abandoned came as a surprise to most of the steel manufacturers, who were of

the opinion that nothing definite had been decided. It is generally understood, however, that the larger steel companies will continue business on the basis of the prices agreed upon between the Industrial Board and manufacturers some time ago, no matter what may be the outcome of the controversy with the Railroad administration with regards to minimum quotations. Some time ago there were rumors that price cutting and the establishment of an open market was a matter of only a few days.

Special dispatches from THE AMERICAN ARCHITECT'S Washington correspondent state that President Wilson's instructions to the Industrial Board and the Railroad Administration to resume negotiations in an effort to arrive at a fair price for the basic commodities may possibly bring relief to the material market, which has been erratic since the Director General of Railroads refused to pay prices for steel as fixed by agreement. The price controversy had a far-reaching effect on construction, for the Railroad Administration is recognized as the largest purchasing agency of the Government, regulating to a certain extent the price of basic commodities.

Mr. Hines based his objection to steel prices upon the contention that it was not justified by production costs. The action of the railroad chief threw the plans of the Industrial Board into temporary discard for the peace-time board for the adjustment of prices lacked the power to fix the price of materials. The plans for the unification of terminals, permanent improvements to the railroad systems and the construction of new buildings, as proposed by the Railroad Administration, were set aside when the dispute over steel prices became acute. In many instances building projects were suspended pending settlement of the price question.

It has been charged that the Director General has sought to underbuy prices accepted by industry in general as reasonable. Business men generally have expressed the opinion that it is an injustice to domestic buyers of all commodities to give the railroads exceptionally favored prices. Mr. Hines has answered these contentions by

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the assertion that he would be forcing inflated prices on the public by acceptance of the agreed price for steel and other products. He has expressed his dissatisfaction at being held up as an exponent of preferred buying.

The President's cablegram urging a quick solution of the price problem has brought the attention of the industrial world to the pending negotiations between the two Government bodies. It is expected that the lumber men will be prepared to submit their figures to the Industrial Board as requested several weeks ago. It has not been determined when the representatives of brick and cement will be called to the conferences. The general view is that the President's intervention will bring about a stabilization of prices at an early date and an immediate resumption of the great building program of the Government and private interests.

In the New York market in basic materials, outside of steel, definite progress was made toward price stabilization. The sand, gravel and grit companies that have been waging a bitter war for some time past have ceased hostilities without Government aid and new prices are quoted in the accompanying table for Manhattan delivery. In this connection Washington has announced that after May 1 a rebate of ten cents a ton will be allowed on sand, stone and gravel freight rates, where the rate is over forty cents a ton.

Brick prices still hold at \$15 per thousand, or \$1.50 below the Government fixed yard price basis, despite a demand that is as great as has been known in years. Common brick manufacturers up the Hudson are now figuring on a maximum return of 2 per cent and in some cases have put their product on the New York market at a loss in order to make it possible for the small operator to proceed with his building program. New plaster prices are expected shortly, gypsum interests being the latest to follow the lead of cement and lime in the movement for stabilization of prices.

In line with this effort to aid the solution of the rent problem one of the largest Portland cement companies this week issued a statement to the effect that if the cement manufacturers of the country could be assured of a profit of a dollar a ton on their commodity they would be elated, calling attention to the difference between the profits on this basic material and that of steel, which is nearer \$10 a ton. Cost of cement at his mills in 1913 averaged 62 cents a barrel and sold at 82 cents net. In 1918 the cost per barrel was \$1.44 and the net selling price was \$1.62, and with five barrels to a ton the net profit per ton was only 90 cents. The capitalization of his thirteen plants is \$24,488,000, putting the net earnings under 6 per cent and permitting dividends of only 4 per cent.

"Price stabilization is one thing, but ability to produce materials in quantity is another matter entirely, and we have been reading about the exodus of common labor from America, in the daily papers ever since the gateway to Europe has been unlatched. You cannot produce basic building material without 'wheelbarrow' labor in quantity. Skilled labor, that which assembles building materials into finished structures, is plentiful. Wheelbarrow labor, enriched by war-time wage scales, is going back to Europe. Who will take their places in the building material manufacturing plants?"

The general situation with reference to lumber stocks at American mills is reflected by conditions prevailing in the Southern pine producing territory, which normally supplies 40 per cent of all the lumber of all kinds consumed in the United States. Two hundred and thirty-five mills reported to the Southern Pine Association the first of March, total stocks on hand of 1,265,900,115 feet. This compared with 1,601,416,665 feet a year previous and 1,986,087,460 on March 1, 1917, when conditions were approximately normal. Present output of American mills, which in ordinary times aggregates about 48,000,000,000 feet a year, is slightly under 70 per cent of normal, due principally to labor shortage.

There is talk of another increase in freight rates, which, it is needless to say, is heard without pleasure by a great many shippers. An increase of railroad income would neutralize the over balancing expenses, but if freight rates go up the price of commodities in distributing lines will also increase, and it is a serious question whether business will not suffer immediately. An increase of freight rates will bring greater revenue to the railroads only in case the movement of freight continues without a decline. If rates are raised and buyers of building commodities as well as other goods refuse to pay the portion of the increase passed on to them, less building material will be purchased and the railroad income might actually decline.

(Special Market Report To The American Architect)

CHICAGO, ILL., April 28.—The biggest business in this market the last week was the launching of the final Liberty loan campaign, with leaders in all industries working night and day to assure success.

Demand for practically all the raw metals is slow at this time, but the manufactured products are moving in better volume in consequence of increased activities in small building and repair work. This demand, however, is not being felt to any great extent by manufacturers and the jobbing trade. The shops all bought heavily for war contract requirements, and many still are using stocks on hand at the beginning of the cancellation period. Some employees have been laid off at the steel mills in this district, and the deadlock over the price of rails is causing continued hesitation in practically all buying. The large mills are now operating at about sixty per cent of capacity.

The clay products, and other building materials, including lumber, lime, brick, hollow tile and gypsum, are moving into trade channels in much better volume as the warm weather season advances. Building permits issued continue to increase and contractors are going ahead with the building of bungalows and small apartment buildings. All items in lumber are holding firm in price, with a firming up in yellow pine wholesale values. No changes have been made as yet in the dealers' lists.

It is now the general belief in this market that complete restoration of basic materials on their eventual normal level cannot be expected until the banks relieve themselves of the bulk of their war loan advances. The estimate of the Federal Reserve Board is that several months will be required to bring about this situation.

(Price quotations now current on building materials and supplies as quoted by dealers and jobbers for delivery in New York and Chicago, follow. The quotations set forth are placed before readers of THE AMERICAN ARCHITECT to afford an accurate review of market conditions, rather than for use as a basis for actual purchase. They will not only provide knowledge of the exact state of the market as to items quoted, but will also present a basis to judge conditions as affecting correlating materials. Items marked (+) indicate an advance over last week, while those marked (—) record a decline. Other prices did not fluctuate during the week.)

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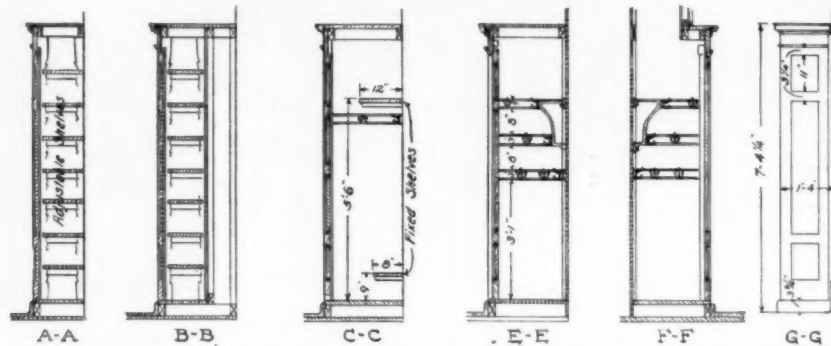
	New York	Chicago
BRICK—		
Common (for Borough of Manhattan only), per thousand	\$15.00	\$12.00
CEMENT—		
Per bbl. in 15 cent bags (Rebate 60c. per bbl. for bags)	3.25	2.80
COOPER SHEETS—		
At the mill, hot rolled, 16 oz. base-price, per lb.	22½c.	22½c.
(From jobber's warehouse add 2 to 3 cents.)		
EAVES TROUGH—		
Galvanized steel	60&10%	70%
Galvanized charcoal iron	50%	60%
Copper	40%	40%
EAVES TROUGH MITERS—		
Lap or Slip Point, list	10%	10%
ELBOWS AND SHOES—		
Galvanized Steel:		
Plain, round and corrugated—all sizes up to 6 in.	70%	70%
Square:		
Square	60%	60%
Copper:		
All sizes	20%	25%
GALVANIZED SHEETS—		
Nos. 18 and 20 gauge, per lb.	\$6.12	\$6.12
No. 26	6.42	6.42
No. 27	6.57	6.85
GLASS— (Discounts from manufacturer's price lists)		
Single strength, A quality, first three brackets	80%	77%
Single strength, B quality	79%	77%
Double strength, A quality	80%	79%
Double strength, B quality	82%	81%
Plate—up to 5 sq. ft.	82%	81%
Plate—over 5 sq. ft.	84%	81%
Plate—up to 10 sq. ft.	83%	81%
Plate—over 10 sq. ft.	82%	81%
GRAVEL—		
¼ in. (Borough of Manhattan only) per cu. yd.	\$2.75	\$2.50
¾ in. (Borough of Manhattan only) per cu. yd.	2.75	2.50
GYPSUM—		
Plaster Board:		
(Delivered in Boroughs of Manhattan or Bronx)		
27 x 28 x 1	35c.	35c.
27 x 48 x ½	30c.	30c.
32 x 36 x ¼	21c.	25c.
32 x 36 x ¾	21c.	26c.
32 x 36 x ½	23½c.	23½c.
Plaster Blocks:		
(Delivered in Boroughs of Manhattan or Bronx)		
2 in. solid per sq. ft.	7½c.	7½c.
3 in. solid 12 x 30 per sq. ft.	10½c.	10c.
3 in. hollow	10½c.	10c.
4 in. hollow	12½c.	11c.
6 in. hollow	17½c.	17½c.
HOLLOW TILE—		
(The New York Harbor strike makes a slight additional charge for cartage necessary.)		
Interior, 2 x 8 x 12 split furring per 1,000 sq. ft.	\$70.00	
and 15 cents thousand pieces.		
Interior, 3 x 12 x 12 split furring per 1,000 sq. ft.	102.00	\$67.90
Interior, 4 x 12 x 12 split furring per 1,000 sq. ft.	114.75	72.50
Interior, 6 x 12 x 12 split furring per 1,000 sq. ft.	153.00	99.60
Interior, 8 x 12 x 12 floor and partition per 1,000 sq. ft.	135.80	135.80
Interior, 10 x 12 x 12 floor and partition per 1,000 sq. ft.	167.50	167.50
Interior, 12 x 12 x 12 floor and partition per 1,000 sq. ft.	194.60	194.60
LATH—		
Eastern spruce, per thousand	\$6.50	
No. 1 White pine, per thousand	\$6.50	
No. 1 Hemlock, per thousand	6.00	
No. 1 Yellow pine, per thousand	5.75	5.25
LIME—		
Common, 300 lb. bbls., per bbl.	\$3.50	\$2.00
Finishing, 300 lb. bbls., per bbl.	3.70	
Hydrated, in paper bags, per ton	17.25	17.50
Common (Chicago), 200 lb. bbls., per bbl.	1.00	1.00
Common (Wisconsin), 200 lb. bbls., per bbl.	1.10	1.10
LUMBER (All prices wholesale f.o.b. New York)—		
Yellow pine, 3 x 4 to 14 x 14, 10 to 20 ft.	\$42.00	\$44.00
Yellow pine, fencing and boards	43.00	44.00
Yellow pine, dimensions and timbers	45.00	45.00
Norway pine, scantling and joists (rough)	50.00	50.00
Norway pine, heavy joists and timbers (rough)	54.00	54.00
N. C. pine flooring, Norfolk, Va., 13/16 x 2½	43.00	43.00
Hemlock, base price	36.00	36.00
Spruce, random 2 in. cargoes	38.00	38.00
Spruce, wide cargoes	52.00	52.00
Cypress, by car, factory selects 5/4	59.00	59.00
Cypress shingles, 6 x 18 (heart)	10.00	10.00
Oak, quartered	110.00	110.00
Oak, plain	80.00	80.00
Oak, flooring, clear, quarter sawed	100.00	82-100
Oak, flooring, clear plain sawed	72.00	66-80
Oak, flooring, select	63.00	51-70
Maple, flooring, clear, 13/16 x 2 in.	61.50	56-86
Maple, flooring, No. 1, 13/16 x 2 in.	57.50	45-73
Maple, flooring, factory, 13/16 x 2 in.	49.50	54-58
Mahogany, selects, 1 in.	190.00	190.00
Red gum	53.00	53.00
Chestnut, F. A. S., 4/4	58.00	58.00

	New York	Chicago
Poplar, F. A. S., 4/4	53.50	63.00
Douglas fir, timbers (rough)	53.50	63.00
Douglas fir, porch and stair lumber	51.00	51.00
LEAD—		
American pig, per lb.	5½ to 6	5½ to 6
Bar, per lb.	7½ to 8	6 to 6½
METAL LATH—		
Under 100 sq. yd., per sq. yd.	40c.	40c.
PAINTS, OILS, ETC.—		
Leads:		
American white, in oil, kegs; lots over 100 lbs.	14c.	14c.
White, in oil, 25-lb. tin pails; add to keg price ..	¼c.	¼c.
Red, bbl., ½ bbl. and kegs; lots over 100 lbs.	14½c.	14½c.
Dry Colors—		
Red Venetian, American, per 100 lbs.	\$2.75 to \$5.00	\$2.00 to \$5.00
Metallic Paints—		
Brown, per ton	24.00 to 32.00	24.00 to 32.00
Red, per ton	24.00 to 30.00	24.00 to 32.00
PIPE—		
Cast iron:		
6 in. and heavier	\$57.70	\$56.80
4 in.	60.70	59.80
3 in.	67.70	66.80
(and \$1 additional for Class A and gas pipe.)		
Wrought:		
(Discounts to jobbers for carload lots on the Pittsburgh basing card; freight rates from Pittsburgh to New York, and also from Pittsburgh to Chicago, in carloads, per 100 lbs., are 27c.)		
Steel:		
Butt Weld		
Black, ½ to 3 in.	47	54
Galv., ½ to 3 in.	20½ to 40½	41
Iron:		
Black, ½ to 1½	26	36
Galv., ½ to 1½	List to 20	23½
Lap Weld		
Steel:		
Black, 2½ to 6	37½	53½
Galv., ½ to 3	50	41
Iron:		
Black, 2½ to 6	31	34½
Galv., 2½ to 6	18	21
PLASTER—		
Neat wall cement in 15 cent bags, per ton	\$20.30	\$18.50
Finishing plaster	24.00	21.00
RADIATION—		
(A further reduction, effective April 4, of 15% on direct radiators, 12½% on wall radiators, and 10% on steam and hot water boilers is announced. This approximates a drop of 36% on radiators and 33% on boilers from prices in effect before the 1st of January, 1919.)		
Chicago reports a 57% reduction on all standard sizes.		
REGISTERS—		
Cast iron semi-steel or steel, in black or white japan	40%	40%
or electroplate and small faces and borders	40%	40%
Wall frames	40%	40%
Large faced, 14 x 14 in. and larger	60%	60%
Base board registers	40%	40%
Base board intakes	40%	40%
White enameled goods	15%	15%
Solid brass or bronze goods, except grilles	net	net
Grilles in black and white japan or electroplate in cast iron, plain lattice design, smaller than 14 x 14 in.	40%	40%
Over 14 x 14 in.	60%	60%
SLATE ROOFING—		
F. O. B. cars,		
Pennsylvania:		
Best Bangor	\$7.75 to \$9.00	\$10.20 to \$11.45
No. 1 Bangor Ribbon	6.75 to 7.25	9.20 to 9.70
Pen Argyl	7.25 to 8.00	9.70 to 10.45
Peach Bottom	10.00 to 12.50	12.45 to 14.45
No. 1 Chapman	7.25 to 8.25	8.70 to 9.95
Vermont:		
No. 1 Sea Green	3.50 to 6.75	5.95 to 9.20
Unfading Green	5.50 to 9.25	8.30 to 11.05
Red	12.00 to 20.00	14.80 to 22.80
Maine:		
Brownsville, U't'g Black, No. 1.	11.00 to 12.00	14.10 to 15.10
Slates felt, 30 lb. roll	1.75	1.75
Slates felt, 40 lb. roll	2.25	2.25
ROOFING MATERIAL—		
1-Ply Tarred Paper, per ton, per roll,		
108 sq. ft.	\$63.00 to \$65.00	\$65.00
2-Ply Tarred Paper	95c.	95c.
3-Ply Tarred Paper	1.23 to 1.30	1.30
Rosin Sized Sheathing	60.00	60.00
Corrugated Roofing, galvanized, 2½ in. corrugation, over flat sheets, 30c. per 100 lbs.		
SHINGLES—		
Red cedar, 5 to 2, clear	\$6.50	5.50
White cedar, extra star, A star	5.50	5.50
STRUCTURAL STEEL		
Beams and channel, 3 to 15 in., per lb.	2.80c.	3.47c.
Beams and channel, over 15 in., per lb.	2.80c.	3.57c.
Angles, 3 to 6 in.	2.80c.	3.47c.
Zees and tees	2.80c.	3.47c.
Steel bars, half extras, from mill	2.70c.	3.47c.
REINFORCING BARS—		
High carbon steel from mill	\$48.50	\$49.50
Medium steel from mill	48.50	49.50
SAND (Borough of Manhattan only)—		
Mason, per cu. yd.	\$1.80	\$2.25
Torpedo, per cu. yd.	1.80	2.50

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plates screwed to the top; the doors close the openings between the sections and are hung with overhead hangers operating in a trolley track, one in

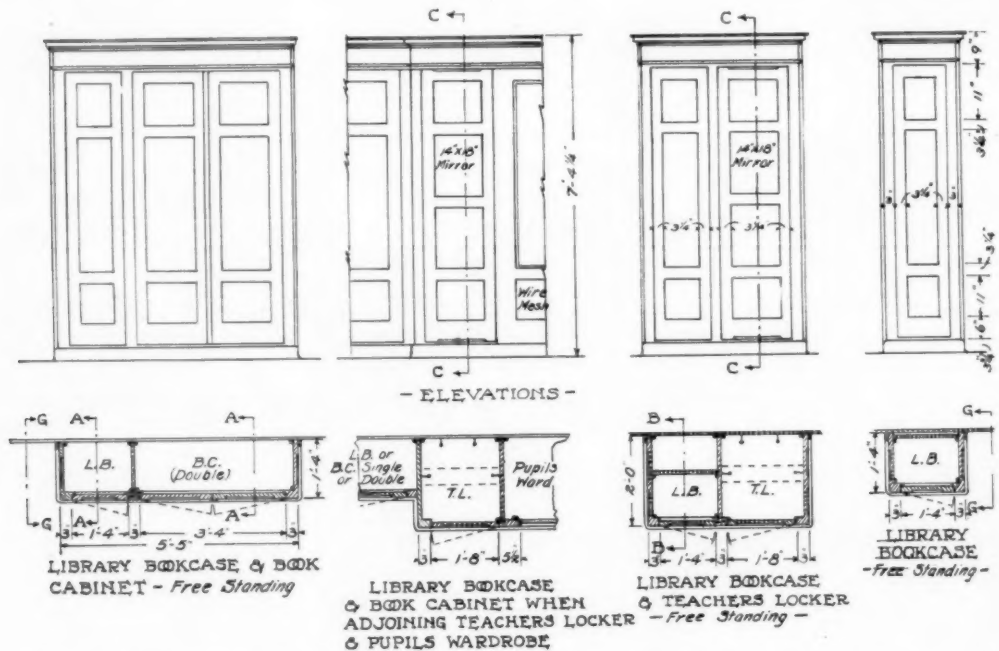
register in the lower panel and cork linoleum in the upper or center panels. The wire mesh registers in the lower panels are for the purpose of ad-



Sections EE and FF of pupils' standard wardrobes, the latter showing ventilation duct outlet. Sections AA and BB of standard book cabinet and library bookcase. Section CC of standard teacher's locker. Elevation GG of exposed ends of fixtures.

the center of each door. The hangers are carefully adjusted and rubber bumpers secured in place on each edge of the doors.

mitting the air from the room to pass through the wardrobe to the vent duct shown in Section FF and in THE AMERICAN ARCHITECT of Nov. 20,



Plan and elevation of standard free standing library bookcase, library bookcase and teacher's locker, library bookcase and book cabinet, and engaged teacher's locker. See Sections AA, BB, CC and end elevation GG.

The doors and fixed sections are paneled and molded; stiles and rails are veneered; the ends are paneled. The fixed sections have a wire mesh

1918, Fig. 16, page 625. This vent connects with the large vent duct which is suspended from the ceiling of the corridor, which in turn leads to the

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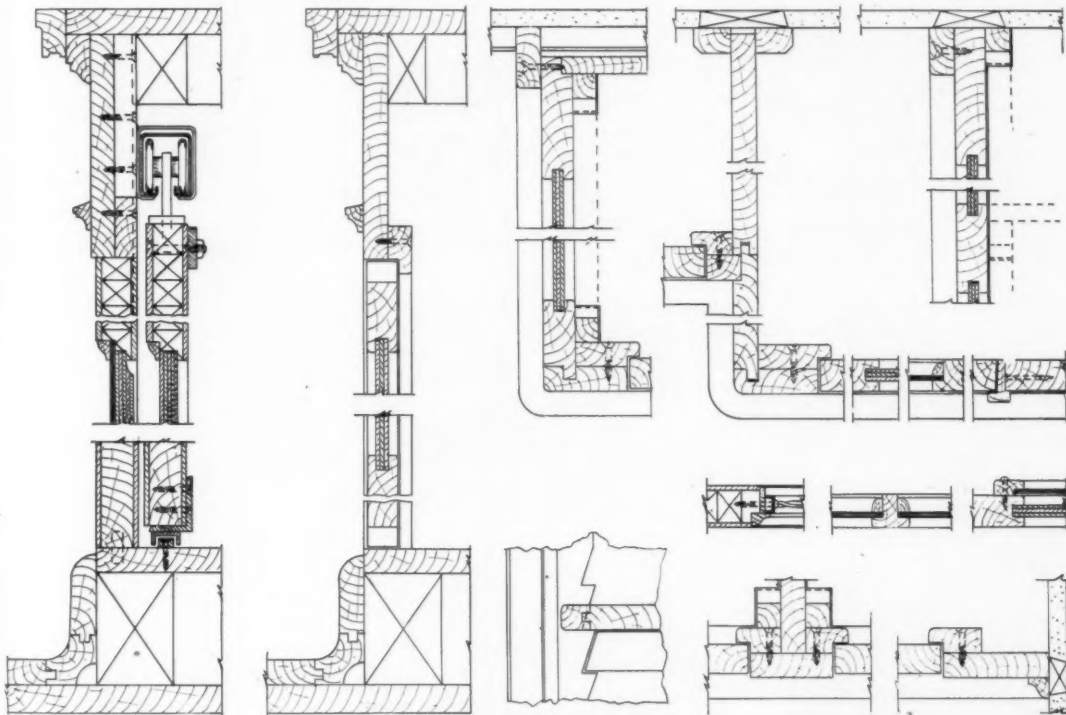
main vertical duct located near the center of the building. It will be observed that this method of ventilation draws the warm air of the room through the wardrobe and thus dries the clothing placed therein.

At the top of the doors there is bolted a continuous connecting bar for each set; at the bottom of the doors there is a channel for each set, secured to the doors with angles and screws. The channel engages with steel guide bars secured to the floor.

The registers in panels are made of No. 12 wire, $1\frac{1}{4}$ in. diagonal mesh in $\frac{7}{8}$ in. channel frames, secured with $1\frac{1}{4}$ in. flat head wood screws.

The flooring is made of clear maple, $2\frac{1}{4}$ in. face, matched and blind nailed to 2×4 in. sleepers placed 16 in. on centers. The plastered walls form the backs of wardrobes.

The teachers' lockers, book cabinets and library bookcases, when grouped together with the pupils' wardrobe, are built as one continuous unit as shown in the wardrobe plan. When built free standing



Details of pupil's standard wardrobe and connected fixtures.

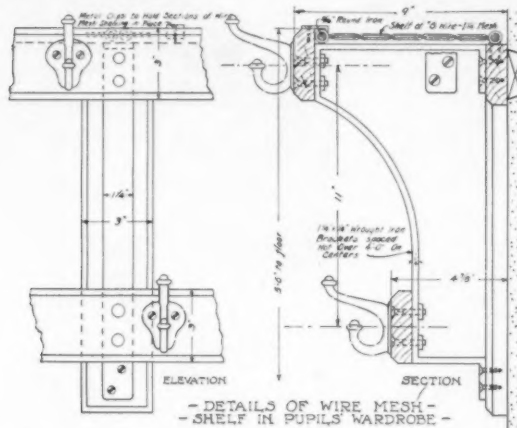
Hook strips and shelves are supported by wrought iron brackets made as per the detail shown. Two $3 \times \frac{7}{8}$ in. beveled hat hook strips are bolted to the brackets, and similar strips are secured to the wall where indicated to receive the iron brackets. The hat hooks are placed about 12 in. apart and staggered, as indicated on the plan. After the strips have been secured to the brackets, the ends of the bolts are upset with a chisel to lock them. The strips are made of wood to match the finish woodwork. The shelves are made of No. 8 wire, $1\frac{1}{4}$ in. diagonal mesh in $\frac{5}{16}$ round iron frames, secured with bolts and staples, made in sections to fit the conditions found in each wardrobe.

they are constructed as shown in the free standing plans. Where the distance between the end of the case and the wall is less than 16 in., the front is extended to the wall.

All doors have wood panels and are hinged. Where these units have dividing partitions or backing, these parts are made of matched whitewood or North Carolina pine. Each teacher's locker has two fixed shelves and four clothing hooks, as shown in the plan and section CC; also a mirror of the size shown, built in the door and resting on heavy felt strips secured to the door. The book cabinets and library bookcases are fitted with adjustable shelves.

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The janitor's wardrobe, visiting teachers' lockers and the bookcase and locker in the principal's office are similar in construction to the fixtures al-



Detail of wrought iron brackets, wood strips for coat hooks, and wire mesh shelf in pupil's wardrobe.

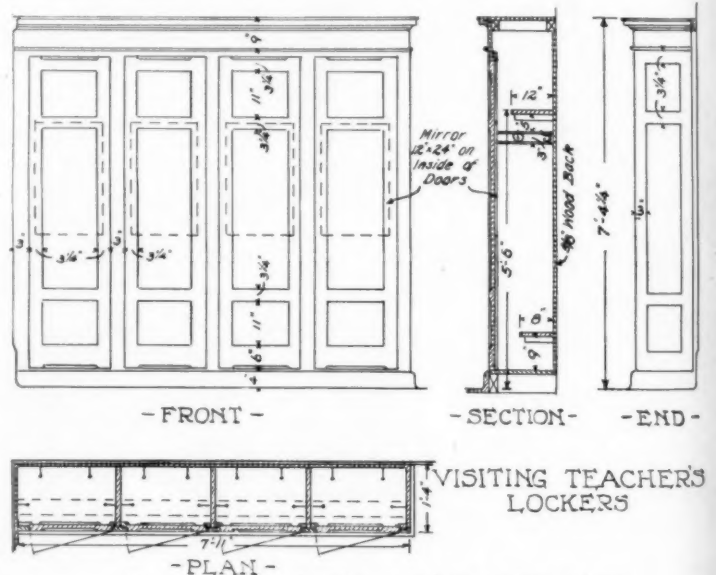
ready described. The lockers have hinged wood-paneled doors with mirror on the inside as shown, similar to those in the teachers' lockers. The lockers are also provided with shelves, hook strips and hooks as shown. The bookcase has glazed paneled doors and adjustable shelves.

The book stacks are built in sections 3 ft. wide with shelves 8 in. deep. The material for all parts, except the shelving, matches the trim of the rooms in which the stacks are located. The shelving is made of white wood faced with a strip of the finishing material. The component parts of the stacks are paneled end uprights, plain intermediate uprights, round base, molded cornice and adjustable shelves for each section. The uprights are bored on 1 1/2 in. centers to receive the supporting screw shelf pins, four to each shelf. The uprights are secured to the base and cornice by means of lag screws. The face strips of the shelves are channeled to receive labels. The construction of these stacks is indicated in the details here shown.

The Elementary Drawing Room is shown in plan, and its description given in *THE AMERICAN ARCHITECT* of Nov. 6, 1918, page 562. The details

of the cabinets placed at one end of the room are here given. A cabinet of drawers is placed at each side of the central raised platform. Each cabinet contains 44 small and 2 larger drawers. Above each of these cases of drawers is placed two display boards about 6 in. from the wall. The platform is 7 ft. wide and 3 ft. 6 in. deep and 18 in. above the floor. In the front face of the platform are six drawers 2 ft. 4 in. deep. Steps on each side lead to the platform. The back of the platform recess, between the side cases of drawers, is paneled with wood to a height of 2 ft. 8 in. Above this panel work is a fixed slate blackboard 6 ft. long and 3 ft. high. In front of this fixed blackboard are two movable blackboards which slide behind the display boards which are above the cases of drawers on each side of the platform. In this way three blackboards are available for use. These sliding blackboards are hung at the top in a track similar to those used on the pupils' wardrobe doors. A groove in the bottom of the blackboard frame engages with a 3/4 x 3/4 in. angle guide.

The specification for wardrobes, cupboards, cases, etc., contains the following general items: All exposed wood panels, unless otherwise shown, shall be built with 5-ply veneer, grooved into stiles and rails. All exposed ends shall be paneled.



Plan, elevations and section of visiting teachers' lockers.

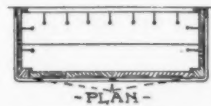
All exposed woodwork, except as otherwise specified, shall be of selected, thoroughly seasoned, straight-grained, kiln-dried material to match the trim of the respective rooms in which they stand.

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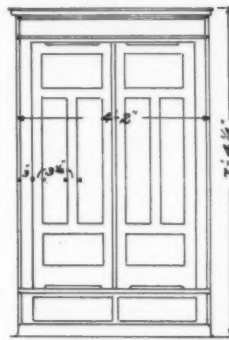
It shall be free from defects and planing machine marks, shall be put together in the best manner, and sand-papered smooth for varnishing. All parts shall be properly glued and nailed together, and nails set for puttying. Carefully fit and finish around all pipes.

All roofs, backs, and partitions, if not exposed to view, shall be of sound whitewood or southern pine. Drawer linings, etc., shall be of whitewood, poplar or birch. When fittings are shown to have backs they shall be constructed of beaded, matched sheathing, running vertically, and screwed to cleats running the full width of cases, unless exposed to view. Exposed backs shall be $2\frac{1}{2}$ in. face by $\frac{5}{8}$ in. thick, matched and V-cut. All shelving in cupboards, cabinets, cases, etc., shall be of white wood, faced with 1 in. strip of finishing material, tongued and grooved or doweled together and glued on. Where so shown the shelving shall be adjustable, resting on cleats supported as shown. The tops of cases and counters, when built up, shall be perfectly clear, selected finishing lumber, of narrow strips, grooved and splined, cleated on underside where so shown, secured in place with concealed screws and washers, hand scraped and left perfectly true and smooth.

All drawers shall have sides carefully dovetailed full thickness into fronts and bottoms and sides housed together. Runs and sides of drawers, where same are ploughed to receive runs, shall be of



- PLAN -



- ELEVATION -

WARDROBE IN
JANITOR'S ROOM



- SECTION -

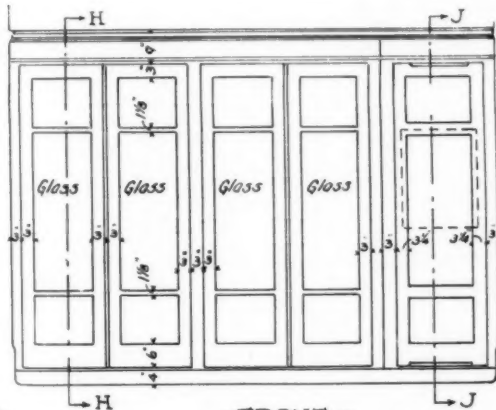


- ENDS -

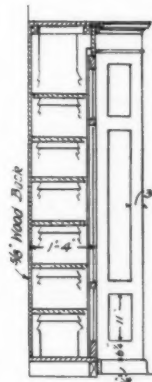
Plan, elevations and section of wardrobe in janitor's room.

maple. Stops shall be carefully adjusted and screwed as shown. Unless otherwise shown, the bottoms of drawers 12 in. wide or less shall be $\frac{1}{4}$ in. thick, those of drawers over 12 in. wide and not more than 30 in. wide, $\frac{3}{8}$ in. thick, and drawers over 30 in. wide $\frac{5}{8}$ in. thick.

Where so shown the cove of room shall be carried around the cases, etc., and the base members shall be tongued into same except where floor is not of wood.



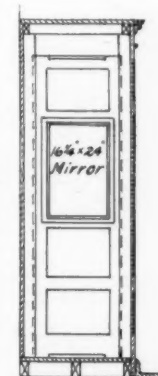
- FRONT -



H-H

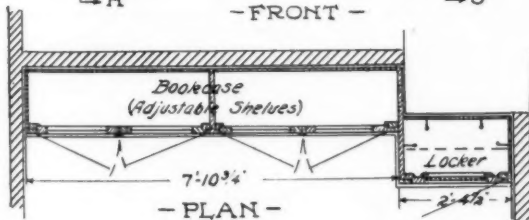


J-J



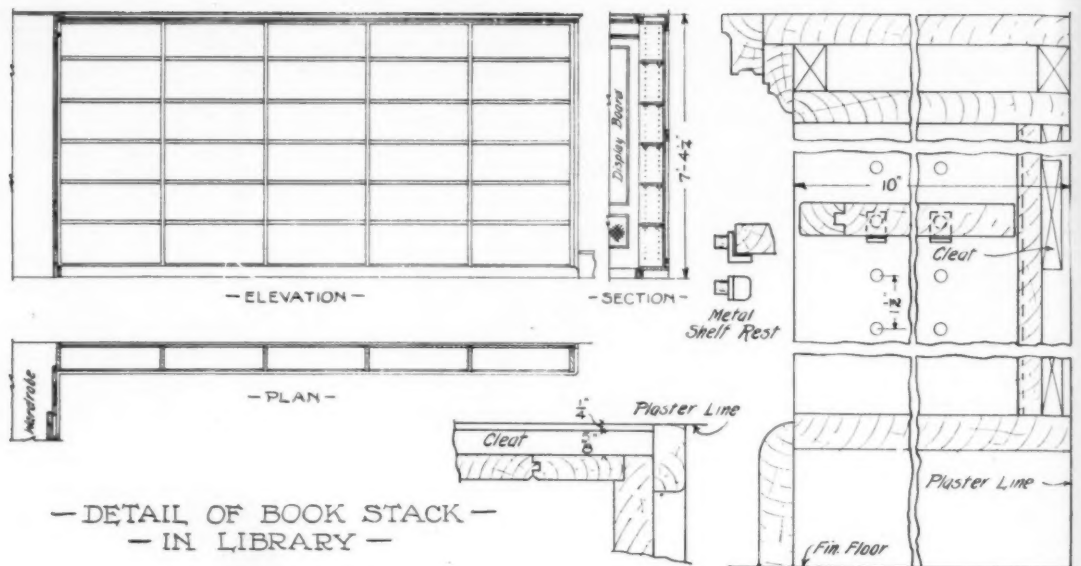
INSIDE ELEVATION
DOOR IN LOCKER

- BOOKCASE & LOCKER -
- IN PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE -

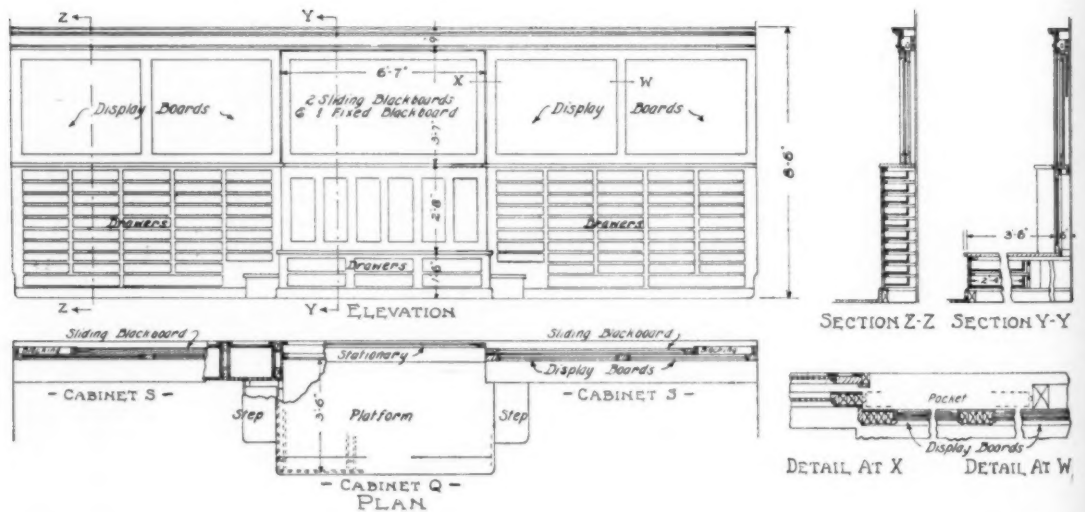


- PLAN -

Plan, elevation and sections of standard bookcase and locker in principal's office.



Plan, elevation and details of standard book stacks.



Plan, elevation, sections and details of drawer cases, display boards, blackboards and platform in standard drawing room.

The Architect, Specialist and General Practitioner

BUILDINGS naturally divide themselves into classes according to the occupancy for which they are intended. Each class of buildings comprehends some special or intimate detail of plan which *completes* the structure and yet may not be clearly apparent on ordinary observation. The art of planning is not featured in the training offered by architectural schools in a manner commensurate with its importance. Books treating of the design of classes of buildings often fail to give adequate explanations of the plan. Architectural journals fail to explain the particular points of the plan that may have cost the architect many hours of earnest effort to solve.

A complete plan speaks for itself and every item is delineated, but every mind does not comprehend it in its entirety. To make the plan universally understood in all its details, the written word must be employed to supplement the drawing by explaining the reasons that dictated the final decisions. These reasons are based on experience, including its measure of failures, which yields definite and specific knowledge.

There are many thoroughly competent architects who do not have the special knowledge required to best plan every class of buildings and yet for many reasons they are entitled to be employed in planning them. They are safe and economical designers of the structural parts; produce a good plan and give a satisfactory architectural expression to the elevations, interiors and details. But they fail to give that intimate perfection to the plan in many of its details which makes the use of the building completely satisfying.

The planning of public buildings is often justly claimed by architects resident in the community and who are responsible citizens and tax payers. To award the work to these men, although it is conceded that they lack special knowledge, is often an embarrassing problem to those in authority. Their duty to the public is to secure the best results at the least cost and also to recognize the just claims of the local architect.

The solution of this problem is found in the employment of a consulting architect who has special knowledge concerning the particular class of building to be designed. The local architect should not resent an arrangement of this kind but should rather welcome it. It is no indication of his lack of professional qualifications and he will really strengthen his position if he asks for or proposes such an arrangement.

A general practitioner of medicine loses none of

his prestige by seeking the assistance of the specialist. The same condition applies to the lawyer. Why should it not apply to the architect?

A notable example of such an arrangement is that recently made by the public school authorities in Buffalo. It was decided to employ several local architects to design the buildings included in their eight-million-dollar building program. To insure a certain measure of uniformity or standardization in all of the plans, they have employed a consulting architect, well known as a specialist in school house design and construction, to co-operate with the local architects employed to do the work. This was the logical and sensible thing to do and met with the hearty approval of all those interested in the project.

It is only in some of the larger communities that the school boards employ an architect who devotes his entire time to this work. In most communities such work is infrequent and naturally special architectural knowledge is not developed among the local architects. Under such conditions the local architect should seek the work in co-operation with the specialist and the specialist should endeavor to render service in this way. By such arrangements there will be produced better planned and more economically built school houses.

Compared with other kinds of public buildings, school houses outnumber all others and, owing to the influence of the building on the young, their proper design and construction is of the utmost importance. This class of buildings is in great demand at this time and now is the time to see that they are properly planned and constructed in accordance with the most advanced standards. An improperly planned building is a burden to the community—too valuable to destroy and often incapable of satisfactory reconstruction.

The planning of other classes of structures such as institutional and penal buildings, hospitals and other public buildings should be considered in the way here suggested. The owners of private structures such as hotels, office buildings and factories may well work along these lines when the circumstances justify such methods. It is to secure the best possible results in the architecture of to-day that this suggestion is made in order that our buildings may become permanent monuments to the best architecture that can be produced.

Architectural Practice

By JULIAN MILLARD

In the recent discussions on the present conditions of the practice of architecture, my reading

THE AMERICAN ARCHITECT

of architectural publications has failed to disclose any convincing analysis of our discontent. There is not even entire unanimity as to what is our trouble. I should say that our sore spot is this: that when the subject of building is under discussion, the presence of the architect is not considered essential. He seems to have every reason for being in the front of things pertaining to building, but nobody else sees it that way. Very disconcerting! All dressed up for the party and the invitation fails to arrive!

The architect has no leadership in the building world, and exercises far less influence on building policies than he should. He is not and cannot be, a member of the building fraternity. Under our present system of procedure, the elements of the building guild whose co-operation is necessary, are placed in such relation to one another that the real co-operation is the exception rather than the rule. Each building operation begins in an unethical and unbusinesslike gamble, and continues in a constant clash of interests and crossing of purposes. The time has come for the architect to kick over the table and start a new game.

Whatever modicum of truth there may be in the old phrase, "Competition is the life of trade," it has been entirely overshadowed by the new lesson learned during the last five years—Co-operation is the secret of production. This lesson has been burned into the consciousness of the world through bitter suffering, and it is to be hoped that it will reach the architectural profession of America. This principle will inevitably be applied to the building industry, and it is fitting that the architect should lead the way. If he fails to take the initiative, it will be taken by others. In that case, architecture will become a mere office function.

Here is a situation involving the very life of the profession! It requires vision and initiative to deal with it. Our leadership is in the American Institute of Architects, and while listening and waiting for a real message we have heard nothing but rumblings about non-essentials. Either the architect must content himself with the mere office work or he must consider himself responsible for the entire production of a building. If he fails to command in his own right the instrumentalities of production, he must go back and sit down.

Under the present system his vanity is satisfied

by large expressions of authority as set forth by wordy lawyers in contracts and echoed in specifications, but all this authority is merely judicial, post facto, exercised after the fact. This is the lawyer's view of authority, but the architect, in the rôle of production manager, must have a very different kind of authority. It is written in the skies that the architect must either command the production, or he must give up all hope of occupying the center of the stage. All the tendencies of recent years favor this view, and these tendencies will be accelerated in the period we are now entering. Is there vision and courage in the profession to deal with these things before it is too late?

There is frequent mention of the necessity that architects give a more complete service. With this sentiment, we agree heartily, but let us question what is the fundamental service called for. The client needs a building. His primary requirement is not plans, advice nor specifications—it is a building he needs. Obviously, the largest service the architect can render his client is to produce a building, and his profession requires him to produce a building that is suitably and skillfully planned, becomingly clothed, properly finished, economically and quickly built. Essentially this is a production problem, and what is commonly the architect's function is merely incidental, although indispensable.

The failure of the architect begins at the point where he loses direct control of the production. This occurs the moment he ties up the owner in a lump-sum contract on competitive bids. I know that many architects dispute this, but I am sure the majority would accept the thesis without further argument. Competitive bidding is extremely uneconomic, unethical and unbusinesslike. It costs the building public at least 5 per cent of its building bill—pure waste. The lump-sum contractor serves his own profit, while the architect serves the owner's profit, and the purposes of these two continually cross. There is no unity of service to the owner. If co-operation is the secret of production, the system is certainly poorly adapted for economic service to the owner.

As long as competitive bidding for contracts is the regular procedure, there is scant hope for the betterment of the conditions of the profession.