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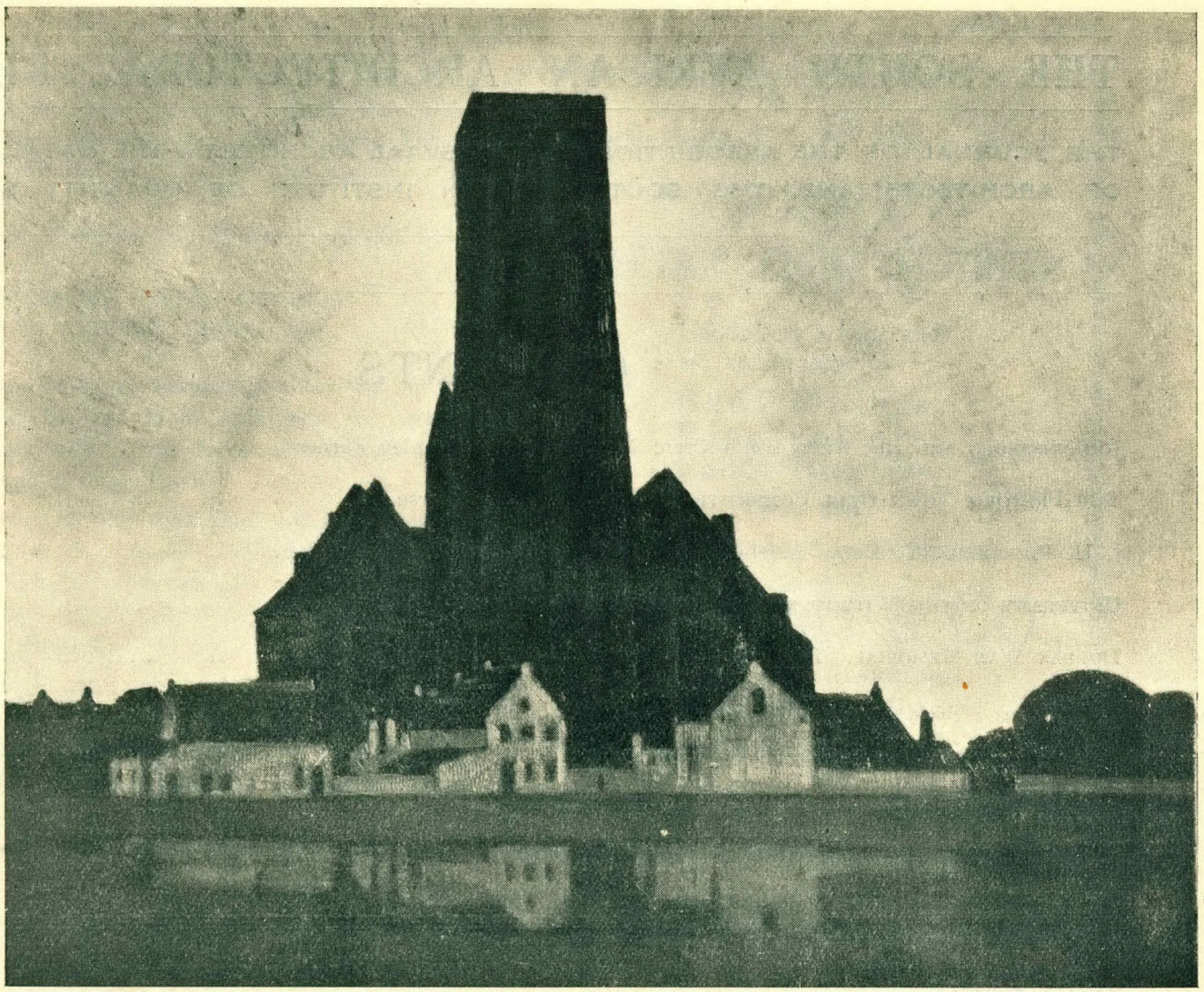
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OLD CHURCH, DAMME, BELGIUM.

J. H. Pierneef.

Two interesting exhibitions of the work of J. H. Pierneef have recently been held in Johannesburg and Pretoria The majority of the pictures are of architectural subjects in Belgium and Holland, whence Mr. Pierneef has recently returned. The water colours are of especial interest to architects for their delightful pencil work and clear fresh colours.

THE SOUTH AFRICAN ARCHITECTURAL RECORD

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JOHANNESBURG AND THE NEED FOR A CIVIC SURVEY.

A. STANLEY FURNER.

THE following paper was read on behalf of the Town Planning Association before the Federation of Ratepayer's Associations at their monthly meeting on Tuesday, 6th April.

A modern city is probably one of the most complex organisations of modern life and any attempt to control or regulate its development must be the result of very careful and complete study if it is to meet with success. The haphazard and patchwork system of town development typical of the nineteenth century was the cause of crowded slums, uneconomically planned factory areas and congestion of traffic. Canals and railroads were cut off from the factories they served by housing areas which would have been better placed elsewhere—good class residential districts were ruined by the building of works or working class dwellings in their neighbourhood—drab crowded and depressing housing schemes were carried out in which the only consideration was the maximum rent to be obtained and roads were constructed without careful thought being given as to the traffic they would have to carry.

Town planning Acts have been passed in various countries giving the necessary powers to local authorities to enable them to control the future development of their own cities, thus avoiding a repetition of such evils and in England an Act has been recently promulgated which compels all townships of over 20,000 population to complete and submit to the government a scheme for future development.

That some such plan is a necessity for any modern town cannot be denied for by no other means can a well considered continuity of policy be maintained. Each year may produce a new council and no council can possibly, in the time at its disposal, produce a new, complete and satisfactory scheme for town development. This naturally and inevitably leads to frequent changes of policy with consequent extravagance and confusion. And while no council will ever be tied by the work of its predecessor yet a definite plan produced after months of careful thought by experts, will always provide a clear line of action which can hardly be ignored.

A scheme for the future cannot be produced without a very full knowledge of the existing factors, in fact until a Civic Survey has been made.

Johannesburg started life as a mining camp and has developed into a great city almost entirely dependant for its existence on the mines. These mines are a wasting asset and the city is beginning to realize that it must take counsel for the morrow and is beginning to consider very seriously the question of its future.

As the mines close industries must arise if the city is to maintain its present position and provision must be made that the new factories are well placed and that the deproclaimed mine areas are suitably utilised. A change from a mining to an industrial community is a big step and one which is bound to cause serious alterations to the life and organisation of the town, and which must be very carefully considered in relation to the future development of its plan.

Johannesburg is a town of great possibilities and enormous assets and in order to realise the full benefit of them considerable care must be taken. One of the chief difficulties in the organisation of a large town is the efficient correlation of the various governing bodies, the sanitary engineer cannot design his sewers to the greatest advantage unless the future development of new housing areas is known to him, nor can an efficient system for light and power be evolved without a careful study of the probable development of those areas where factories will be built.

Two of the most important functions of a Civic Survey are **firstly** to correlate all such known facts and **secondly** to collect new data which have any bearing upon future city development.

A Civic Survey naturally falls into two parts, the first confining itself to existing conditions, the second to a scheme of development which would include not only the growth of new districts but the amendment of existing evils. But in the following notes Parts I and II have not been separated as they would be in practice, in order to explain the subject more clearly.

The natural features of the town would be examined with a view to maintaining all its existing amenities. The dust producing areas, as for example the Kazerne, would be studied in relation to the prevalent winds so as to avoid building houses

in districts where dust would prove a menace to the health of the inhabitants.

The whole problem of the mines would be considered, particularly in relation to the future growth of industries. This would be one of the most important sections of the work, but, at the same time, one of the most difficult. An area of land has been set aside by the city for industrial development, conveniently situated on the railway, but in addition many factories are springing up to the south of the town on the proclaimed mining areas under lease from the Government. This seems to suggest that two widely separated factory areas will be developed, a possibility which should be carefully studied in considering the future development of the town, as it may lead to certain difficulties.

Unless the future of the mining area is wisely controlled, new and even more terrible Prospect Townships will arise when the mines are deproclaimed. A definite policy, therefore, must be provided; is the area to be developed as an industrial district, are open spaces to be provided for the public, are parts of it suitable for developing for housing, and what is to be the position of trunk roads over the site, are questions which must be settled before many years are passed, and it is upon the future of this area that so much of the town's development depends.

If a survey were undertaken it would probably be possible to gain the co-operation of the Mines Department of the Government in considering the future of this tract of land, and it is possible that some method of treating the surface of the dust-producing dumps, so that vegetation could grow, might be insisted on before the various mines closed down.

Here are two alternative possibilities for this area of Johannesburg—one a bewildering jumble of tin townships, factories and old mining refuse, tumbled in between the dusty dumps left by the old mines, linked by winding and ill-considered tracks, along which the lorries from the factories travel all day long, churning up the dust, to be breathed by the children in surrounding houses and on windy days to be a curse to the whole city. On the other hand by foresight and careful planning and without any undue expenditure, a well-designed area would be made, in which the old dumps would be covered with vegetation, factories and housing areas placed conveniently in relation to one another, roads laid out upon a definite scheme, and large parks and playgrounds left for the public. And by avoiding the local use of coal in the factories a district would be provided in the centre of the town which would be an asset to the health, wealth and beauty of the community. Moreover, the approach to Johannesburg from the south would be more in keeping with the greatest city in South Africa.

This may be looked upon as the unattainable dream of an idealist, but these are the lines upon which the new coal fields in Kent are being laid out and which are perfectly reasonable and economical in the widest sense.

Closely related to this question of industrial areas is the question of housing for the employes. While there is no necessity or even desirability for the factory hands to live next door to the works, direct means of access are essential. Immediately to the north of the area set aside by the town for industrial development is a large area covered by small houses, which will in all probability be used by the factory workers. At present there is no adequate means of direct access from one to the other. This will sooner or later have to be provided by new roads, thus raising again the old question of the railway crossing, the curse of Johannesburg. Will there be another subway such as those of Jeppe or Braamfontein? The survey would include the future development of housing areas for the employes of the various factories, and would suggest the provision of ample transport between the home and the works.

The question of industries leads us naturally to the problem of the railway. This is a difficulty which cannot, in all probability, be satisfactorily solved. It would be very easy to say now where the railway and its stations ought to have been placed, but it appears to be too late for any drastic alterations—the opportunity has been lost.

The present position of the railway and stations in Johannesburg illustrates most clearly the confusion resulting from the absence of any considered plan of development. The factories dealing with the heavy trades are all to the south of the business centre of the town, the goods station lies to the north. This results in the ordinary business traffic being interrupted and congested by a constant stream of lorries, traction engines with several trailers and vans drawn by large teams of mules transporting goods between the railway and the factories. Very little forethought in the past would have avoided this difficulty, but to-day millions would have to be spent to rectify the trouble, although certain small improvements could be made without undue expense.

Further, the dust from the goods station frequently makes life in the business area of the town almost insufferable and the position of the railway itself prevents convenient and adequate access to the northern suburbs.

We have heard a great deal during the past few weeks about a new railway station for Johannesburg and the efforts of the town in this direction seem to have met with the success they deserve. Has any serious consideration been given by the Town authorities to the question of the approach to this new station or are we still to be satisfied with a means of access that a country town would regard inadequate and which is barely made practicable by artificial traffic regulations which tend to bewilder the stranger. Had a civic survey been prepared in the past this problem would have been dealt with beforehand in order to seize the opportunity for improving the town when the time was ripe.

Although sweeping alterations seem to-day to be impossible, certain smaller modifications are quite feasible, particularly when the line from Park Station

to George Goch is lowered and widened. A scheme to correct as far as possible the chaos at and around the Jeppe subway will have to be prepared, for no modern city should tolerate a death trap like that for a week once a reasonable solution has been found.

This subway is certainly not the only danger spot in the town, many other examples exist and with a definite solution in its hands the Town Council should be able to rectify these death traps by purchasing small pieces of ground to improve vi ibility or control whenever the opportunity offers. Compulsory purchase by arbitration is always a slow and expensive method which should only be employed in case of emergency and a Civic Survey which shows the danger points and the method of eliminating them would enable the authorities to purchase whenever a suitable opportunity offers, thus avoiding the expense of arbitration. An excellent example of how this may be done can be seen in the method adopted by the Government in gradually buying up the land opposite Park Station whenever an occasion offered itself. Land can thus be purchased at its normal value. Further, whenever a new building is to be erected on such a spot the necessary action can be taken to prevent the old error being perpetuated.

The trunk roads of the town would be studied and a census taken of the traffic carried by them. A programme would be suggested for their gradual development, additional roads being constructed and existing roads being widened as required. The financial aspect of these changes would receive careful consideration. The widening of an existing road in the commercial part of a town is not necessarily a matter of great expense, certain plots of ground would have to be purchased to provide the necessary space, but the remainder of these plots could often be sold at a higher figure than that at which they were bought, for although they are reduced in size they are more valuable owing to the fact that they are situated on a wider and more important thoroughfare. This of course does not apply to such valuable property as that of Eloff or Pritchard Streets, but rather where a comparatively unimportant street is widened and converted into an important thoroughfare. The increase in the value of land bordering Kingsway, in London, must have paid for the cost of the road over and over again.

Further ring roads are required for lateral communication in the suburbs, as anyone who has tried to go direct from Rosebank to Auckland Park or to the Pretoria Road will realise. These roads should be planned immediately and the required areas secured before the land values have increased and before the intervening districts have been built up. even if the roads themselves are not constructed at once.

The parking of cars and the congestion of traffic in the centre of the town would receive attention and the future development or curtailment of the 'bus and tram services would be considered with the latter point in view. The whole question of decentralisation and the development of shopping and amusement centres in the newer suburbs, to reduce the congestion in the centre of the town, particularly at week-ends would be revived and the accessibility of the more distant suburbs, such as Linden would receive careful consideration.

A Civic Survey at the present time would probably open up the whole question of Town Planning Legislation and the power of the local authorities to enforce a suitable scheme of development. South Africa appears to be singularly backward in this respect and legislation is urgently required.

A compilation of all the existing powers in a comprehensive form would certainly be very valuable, even if nothing more drastic were achieved. A compilation of this nature has recently been made by the Government in England and will doubtless be of great value to all interested in Town Planning.

The question of legislation of this kind is almost certainly to be strenuously opposed by various elements of the community, the right of property being one of the most jealously guarded privileges of mankind. But a well designed Town Planning Act would have the effect of increasing and not decreasing the value of property. It is, of course, true that certain limitations would be enforced and occasionally a compulsory purchase would have to be effected, but the original owner of the land would be adequately compensated. It certainly seems strange that in a civilised community of to-day, one selfish owner is quite capable of ruining a scheme of improvement which would benefit hundreds of his brother citizens.

The advisability of zoning in Johannesburg would come under this heading as, if it were considered desirable, some form of legislation would probably be necessary to give the town authorities further powers.

Zoning has been widely adopted in America where it has been very successful. It aims at keeping buildings of similar nature in the same area or areas. The object in view is to prevent those remarkable slumps in the value of property which have ruined and changed so many districts in the larger cities of the world. Many a fine residential district has been spoiled by the growth of a working class area in its vicinity and business and shopping districts have suffered great loss in value by the building of a factory in their neighbourhood.

Another point closely connected with the legal aspect of the situation is that of the Municipal boundary. Assuming that the Town Council obtains the necessary powers to enforce future development within its own area care must be taken to prevent the growth of ill considered housing schemes just outside its jurisdiction, which will require remodelling at great expense in the future—such as for example, Alexandra Township on the Pretoria Road, and, of course, the position of Linden, half in Johannesburg and half outside, is almost ridiculous.

The whole question of insanitary areas would be included in the scope of the survey. A programme for the organised building of small houses would have

to be faced, with particular reference to finance and the difficulty of housing the population during the process of rebuilding. Segregation and the whole colour question would be reviewed and a definite policy recommended.

The position of sewage, heat, light, power and water mains would be included and their future development in relation to the growth of the city would be considered.

The provision and accessibility of open spaces and playgrounds for the public would require study. Certain very large areas in the town are quite unprovided for in this respect and by forethought land could be acquired quite cheaply in the undeveloped areas adjacent. The adequate provision of these open spaces and playgrounds in a town is of great importance to the health of the younger members of the community and well repays the expense.

Various other points would be included in the survey, such as the accessibility of schools, swimming baths and other public buildings, also the position for an aerodrome, but the suggestions already outlined will indicate sufficiently the general scope of the work.

Practically the whole of the above information can be clearly tabulated on a series of maps and can thus be easily and quickly understood and will be readily accessible to the various departments of the town administration. It should simplify the work of the officials in correlating their various activities and in preventing overlapping.

A Civic Survey can never be finished, new circumstances and conditions will constantly arise which will need further consideration, but once the main body of the work is accomplished, keeping it up to date should be a very simple matter.

A survey such as has been outlined is a paper scheme and considerable care would have to be taken to enforce and control the work of development. It is suggested that a Town Planning Committee might be constituted under the Town Engineer on which experts could serve. The work entailed would not be heavy and would be of an advisory nature, while the survey itself could be easily kept up to date by one of the Town Officials. It must be remembered that the central idea is to maintain a continuous, well considered and logical development, rather than a haphazard and patchwork system of growth.

The question of the cost of the survey is an important, but not a very serious one. A very large proportion of the work on Part I of the survey—the Part, that is, dealing with existing conditions—is already in the hands of the various departments of the town authorities and merely requires correlation. It could be probably carried out under supervision in less than twelve months by a little additional help in the drawing office.

Part II would, of course, require the assistance of various experts, whose advice would have to be collected, compared and included in a scheme for the future. There are various ways in which this can be done, but the final method adopted would, of course, rest with the Town Council.

It is extremely difficult to say at such an early date and without fuller information what the cost of the preparation of the survey would be, but there is no doubt that the rectification of one serious blunder in planning, would pay for it over and over again. The economic value of such a work is proved by the fact that so many cities have recently had or are having such surveys made and also by the promulgation of the Town Planning Act in England already quoted.

The ground covered seems to be enormous and perhaps it may be thought that it suggests an immediate outlay of great sums of money in improvements. But this is quite definitely not the case. It is merely to provide a plan upon which to work and to avoid the spending of the wealth of the community upon wasteful and needless operations and to suggest the most economical methods of rectifying past errors.

For example, a certain street may require widening in the near future and may be lined with old and poor properties. If a large new building is once erected on the existing frontage all chance of widening the road at reasonable cost is lost for more than one or two generations. Surely it is merely common sense to suggest that if a new building be erected it should be compelled to build on the new frontage—as has been done in the Strand in London.

Good and logical planning is no luxury, but an economical necessity in the life of to-day and with the growing complication of modern industry and the increasing desire for a higher standard of living, a city which allows itself to grow deformed cannot reasonably hope for a healthy life or a prosperous future.

THE PRETORIA TOWN HALL COMPETITION.

G. E. PEARSE.

THIS, being one of the largest Architectural Competitions held in South Africa for some years, naturally created a good deal of interest in the profession and resulted in some twenty-seven designs being submitted. The assessor was Mr. E. Vincent Harris, O.B.E., F.R.I.B.A., well known as the architect of the Glamorgan County Hall, Cardiff, and other important buildings of this nature. The designs submitted are, as a whole, disappointing, but after reading the conditions one realises the difficulties facing the competitors and the assessor. The conditions ask for certain definite accommodation to cost not more than a certain definite amount. In a building of this nature, the most important monument in a city, one feels that a monumental scheme is what is required. It is quite evident, from the drawings, that competitors have tackled the problem from two points of view.

Some, bearing the cost in mind, have produced a scheme in which the monumental has been eliminated as far as possible. Others have gone for the monumental regardless of cost. Thus the assessor has been undoubtedly faced with a difficulty, but has evidently adhered to the conditions of cost, with the result that several highly monumental schemes have been thrown out.

This is a very important question in a competition of this nature and requires thoroughly discussing by the profession.

Where a specific sum has been willed or collected for a specific purpose the cost is an important matter, but in a public building some latitude should be given to the competitors or the promotors should be advised of the difficulties which are likely to arise. In examining and criticising a number of competitive drawings it is always interesting to study the arrangement of the main elements in plan and their grouping in elevation. In this competition there are five main elements: the Main Hall, the Smaller Hall, the Supper Room, the Council Chamber with its Committee Rooms and Library and the suites of reception rooms. The majority of competitors have placed their Main Hall on the main axis, the principal entrance, therefore, being from Market Street. Others have followed the somewhat traditional plan as seen in many recent South African Town Hall competitions and placed the Hall at right angles to the main axis with the entrance from the side street.

This is a questionable point and has always aroused a considerable divergence of opinion, but when one considers the purpose of the building and the grouping both in plan and elevation, the former arrangement appears to be the more logical.

Next comes the disposition of the remaining elements and here again the drawings show a difference of opinion.

Some show the small hall and supper room on one side of the main hall balanced by the reception rooms and council chamber on the other, forming three important axes.

Others again show varied arrangements at right angles to the main axis while others show these elements placed behind the main hall.

With regard to the architectural treatment of the elevations one had hoped to see designs more suitable to the climate of Pretoria, but, with the exception of two or three, the majority have followed the traditional English competition style of the past twenty years. In the semi-tropical climate of Pretoria, one would expect to find cool courts and loggias reminiscent of Southern Europe and the East.

Coming to the individual designs themselves there is no doubt that the scheme of Messrs. McIntosh and Lockwood Hall deserves a premium. Their plan is simple, straightforward and direct, but somewhat compact, quite suitable to northern European conditions, but questionable in a climate such as Pretoria The main criticism, to my mind, is the position of the Council Chamber access to which is through a crush hall constantly in use by the public. The architectural treatment of the elevations is disappointing especially in detail.

Messrs. Porter and Furner have submitted a very open scheme particularly suitable for the climate and which, in plan, should work well for public functions and entertainments without interfering with the work of the Council and Committees. The elevations, however, though quiet and dignified, lack the monumental character one seeks for in such a building, more particularly required owing to the somewhat monumental stone building opposite.

Undoubtedly cost has influenced the authors of the first and second premiated designs considerably.

In the third premiated design by Messrs. Pease and Deuchar, the plan of the hall is apparently influenced by the assessors' scheme for the Sheffield Town Hall. A hall of this shape is generally considered unsatisfactory from the acoustic point of view. The other elements are well arranged at the back of the main hall.

It would be quite impossible to refer at any length to all the designs submitted. I have therefore selected a few which, to my mind, are above the average and show some originality of treatment..

An outstanding set of drawings are those by Mr. Leith, the perspective being the finest drawing in the room. The plan has many good points, but the atrium is somewhat cramped and any connection between the present offices and the future extension is, in effect, completely cut off by the Main Hall. The side elevation, for the present scheme, lacks coherence but if the extensions were carried out would be delightful, better, in my opinion, than the

front. The architectural treatment as a whole, reminiscent in part of the Union Buildings, is a distinct break away from northern European traditions, a blending of southern Europe with the East. Presumably the question of cost has prevented this design being premiated.

Mr. Moerdijk's scheme is somewhat cramped in plan and lacks directness in the connection of the various elements. The planning of the halls is interesting, but the interior effect of the Main Hall, an octagon, with its circulation of small bays and somewhat flat ceiling, is doubtful. The elevations are well handled in a monumental manner but, here again, cost appears to have been a deciding factor against it.

colonnades connecting the main mass with the wings is confused and cramped as is also the arrangement of cloak rooms and lavatories flanking the corridors of the main hall. The architectural treatment of the whole, however, is scholarly.

Mr. Turner Newham's scheme is, at first sight, an original and interesting one, but on analysis the plan is disappointing, the main elements being placed one behind the other on the axial line. The elevations are full of suggestions of Dutch detail reminiscent of the old work at the Cape, but they are not very successfully blended and tend to make the scheme, as a whole, somewhat disconnected.

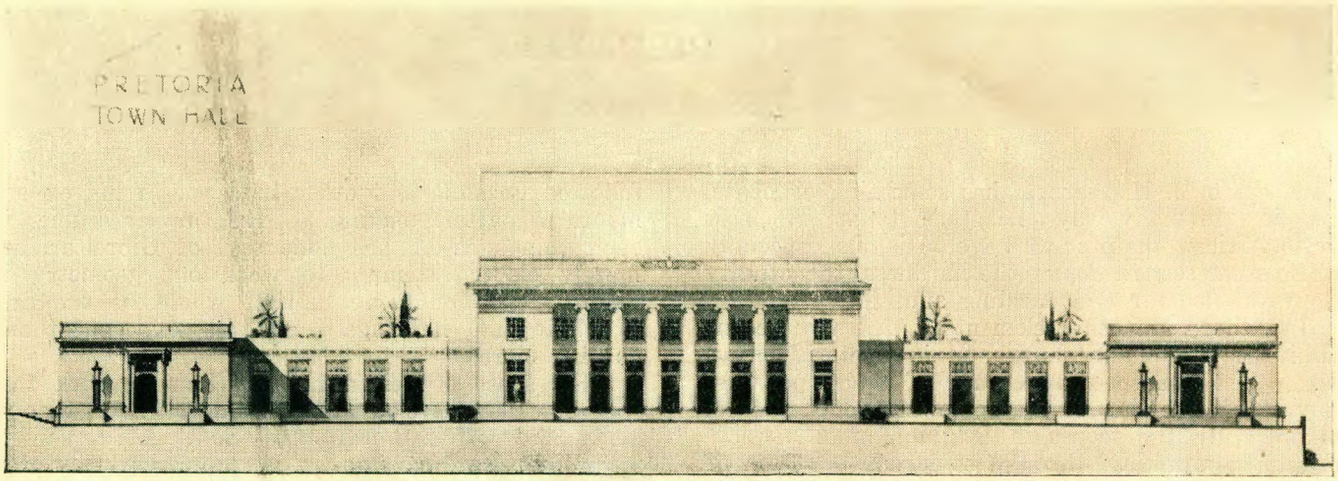
In the scheme submitted by Messrs. Cowin Powers and Ellis, the elevations do not truthfully

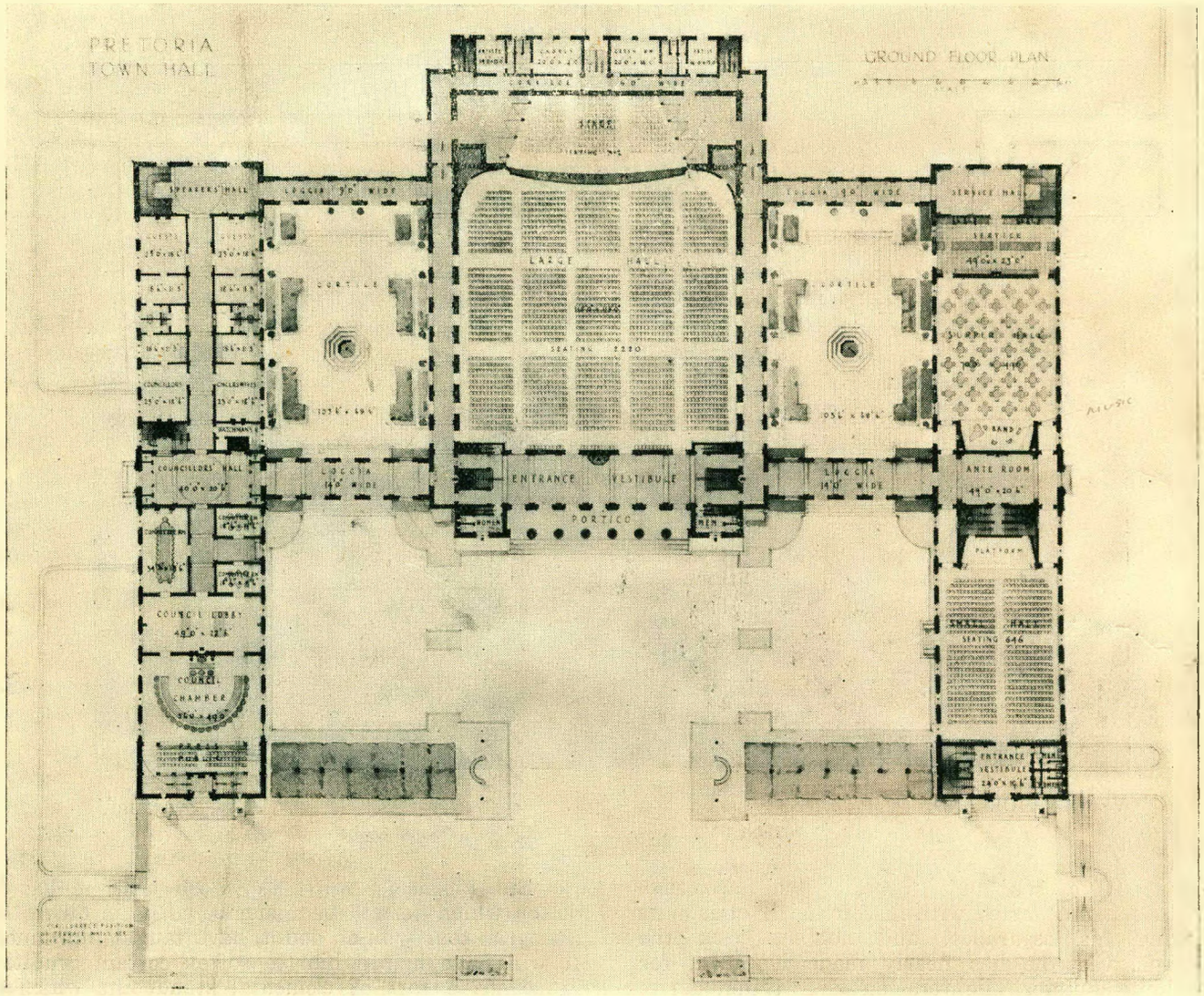


SECOND PREMIATED DESIGN *H. Porter and A. Stanley Furner.*

The monumental scheme submitted by Mr. F. Williamson at first glance takes one's breath away, but the relationship between plan and elevations is disappointing. Except for the arrangement of the main element, the Hall with its monumental entrance vestiblue crowned by a dome, everything appears to have been sacrificed to obtain an imposing exterior. The arrangement of the plan behind the express the plan which is asymmetrical. An interesting feature of the plan is the treatment of the Hall with its stage on one side and concert platform flanking it on the other, an unusual but questionable arrangement.

Other interesting schemes are those of Mr. Douglas Hoets and Mr. Ralston, with its plan reminiscent of Vanbrugh's work.





SECOND PREMIATED DESIGN *H. Porter and A. Stanley Furner.*

The first premiated design was illustrated in the last issue.

J. H. PIERNEEF.

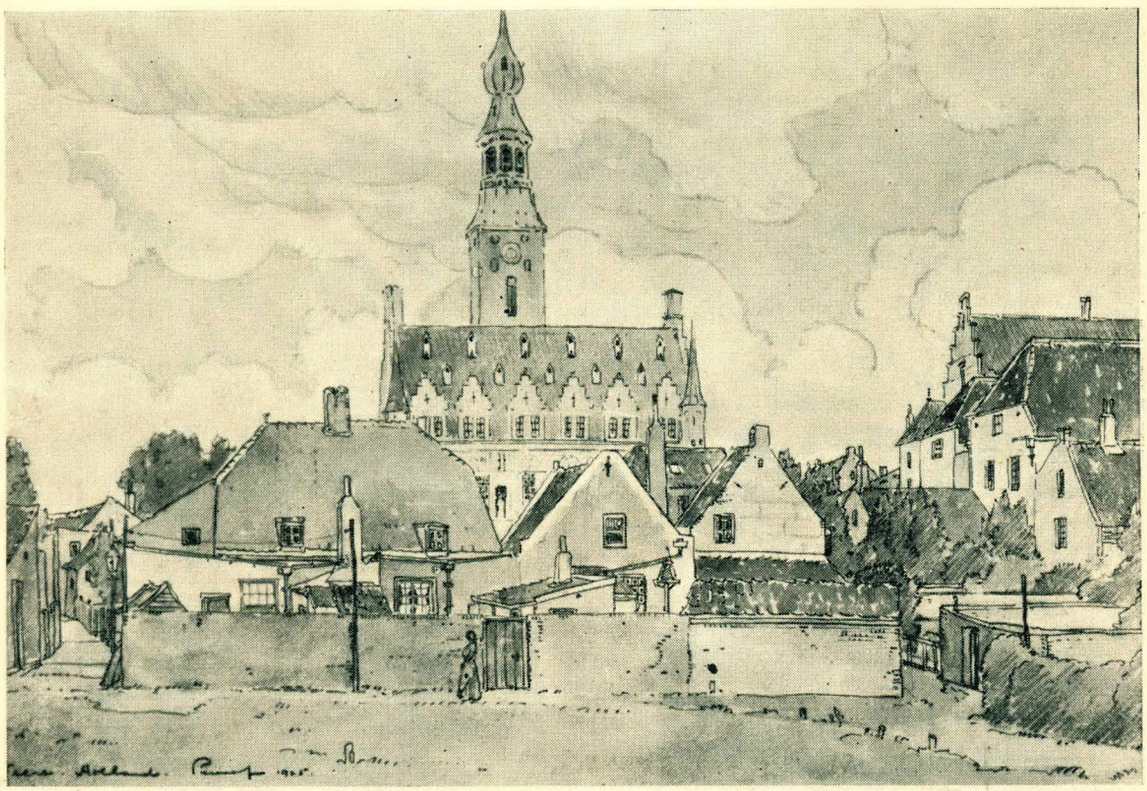
DENYS LEFEBVRE.

THE art of J. H. Pierneef has something elemental about it. In many ways, he seems to me the most "South African" painter we have. His oils, especially of Transvaal scenes, depict the hardness, the crudity of our rarefied air and dazzling sunlight.

But there are other elements. His two recent exhibitions at Johannesburg and in Pretoria, prove this. An unsuspected delicacy of touch pervades many of his sketches of his homeward journey from Holland. In the scenes in Belgium, more particularly, he is thinking, through some subtle strain of heredity, of the old Dutch Masters. His touch is gentle, his drawing careful, and the whole effective, charming if you will, but, to me, a little unconvincing. He has not parted with his birthright, but he is bartering his assurance, and holding back the technique that he has nearly made his own, for something quieter, lighter, and, I think, more ephemeral.

His essays in design are only a continuation of some of his earlier work. He has toyed with van Gogh in painting a Transvaal veld-scene, he has followed Cezanne and other moderns in his experiments at pattern-making. His further studies in such things as he has done say, of Gibraltar, are merely clever attempts to work out geometry in paint. No doubt, he himself would be the first to admit that, here again, is an experiment and nothing more.

His sense of design had led him to work that will some day develop into a foundation for that of many South African craftsmen—South African in its motif and workmanship. A promising field that started from the Bushman, but is destined to leave the Bushman far behind.



VEERE, HOLLAND, *J. H. Pierneef.*

But Pierneef's work, the work that he has to do, by which he will be remembered, is in oils. His European tour will, no doubt, have taught him much. It will have helped him to soften certain crudities in colour, a sort of elemental standpoint which is his strength and his weakness. It will save him from the rose-pink skies and cold blue mountains of some of our local painters, but it might lead him, as a reaction from the "pretty-pretty," to an artificial and unconvincing realism.

Fortunately, he is still young. In age, and, to some extent, in temperament. He has enthusiasm and, I think, a keen desire to paint South Africa truthfully, and, quite naturally, to gather up one or two stray laurels in so doing.

He has worked with his hands and with his head. He has toiled hard, and thought and read a good deal. I should imagine he has not too many illusions, though his European phase suggests that he still keeps a few, and that is well, because, unless he does keep them, he will never attain to the artistic standard he otherwise would. He must harness his technique to his imagination, and allow his growing maturity of touch to guide the underlying strength which is, at once, his greatest asset and, possibly, a danger.

I write thus freely, because I have a regard for his art which attracts me more than that of many older and possibly, more accomplished artists. It may be because the word "accomplished" is quite alien to his talent that I hope for much, and, yet, a leaven of it might make him great.

UNIVERSITY OF THE WITWATERSRAND SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE.

ANNUAL EXHIBITION AND PRIZE GIVING.

THE Annual Exhibition of students work and prize giving took place on Wednesday, June 2nd, in the new premises at Milner Park.

Among those present were: The President of the A.T.A., Mr. N. T. Cowin, Messrs. D. M. Burton, W. H. Stucke, J. E. Harrison, S. V. Mann, R. Howden, H. Porter, J. Waterson, J. P. Nelson, A. S. Furner, Professors Watermeyer, Sutton, Pearse and the Principal, Sir Wm. Thomson.

Professor Pearse after welcoming those present gave the following report:

"Since we met last year many changes have taken place in the teaching arrangements.

Mr. Furner, who is well known to all of you by this time, arrived from London University in July last and took over the work which had been so ably carried out previously by Mr. Gordon Leith, with our day students, and Mr. F. Williamson with the evening students.

I should like to take this opportunity of thanking these two gentlemen for the splendid service they rendered to the school at considerable inconvenience to themselves.

Our thanks are also due to Mr. Heir who continued with certain evening classes until the end of last year.

Mr. J. P. Nelson is still assisting us with the first year evening design classes.

This year we arranged to hold many of the lectures during the day, either first thing in the morning, at midday or soon after five in the evening. This has been done to avoid, as far as possible, late evening lectures thus enabling students to have their evenings free for drawing.

I wish to thank practitioners for their kind help in permitting their assistants to come up here at those times.

It must mean a certain amount of inconvenience to some of them, but I trust they will continue to help in this respect.

Our design classes have now been reorganised and it may interest you if I outline the scheme of work.

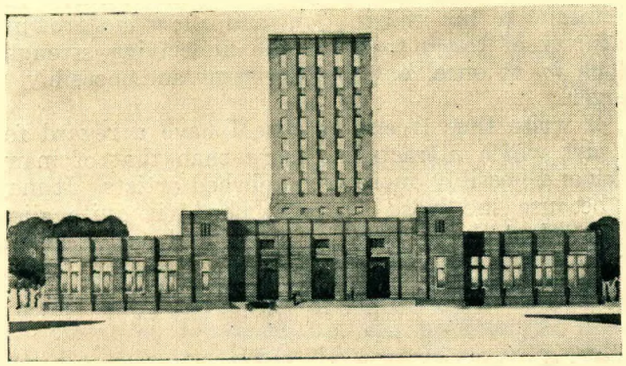
In commencing their course students are required to complete six sheets of drawings two of the Greek Orders (the Doric and Ionic), one of the Roman Corinthian, two sheets of Freehand drawing and one sheet of lettering. The programme for the day students includes two sheets of colour decoration. They then proceed to Class A, where they are given weekly tests in elementary design, at the same time working on four small set subjects in design. On satisfactory completion of these latter and provided they have obtained at least six mentions in the weekly tests they proceed to Class B where a similar scheme has to be followed.

They then proceed to the advanced Class C. Thus a student who wishes to apply himself can get well ahead of the work required for the yearly examinations.

In the other subjects of the course lectures are given and home work set so that the student can do his own research as far as possible and not be entirely dependent on notes taken down at the lectures.

The scheme, on the whole, is working well and I think I can safely say that the majority of the students are showing keenness and enthusiasm. The drawings are arranged on the wall to show the scheme of work in each year.

The thanks of the Department are due to the Association of Transvaal Architects, Messrs. D. M. Burton, F. Williamson and N. T. Cowin for donations to the prize fund also to the Hon. Henry Littleton and Mr. Herbert Baker for two valuable books on Early Christian Art and Architecture in Rome and Pisa.



Another addition to our Library is a copy of Durand's great work from Mr. F. Williamson. The library is now splendidly equipped and contains some of the best reference books obtainable. It is available for reference to practitioners and each year we are adding to the number of periodicals. I have an annual grant from the University, but, like Oliver Twist, we are always asking for more and we are anxious to build up a fund for the purchase of some of the larger and rarer reference works.

Another interesting event in the history of our school is the establishment of an Architectural Students' Society. The office bearers are:

Chairman, D. L. Nurcombe; Secretary, W. G. McIntosh; Committee, G. D. Maxwell, D. H. Epstein, H. G. Porter, P. D. Hill.

I should like to congratulate the students on this movement and hope they will keep it alive and never allow interest in it to flag.

Prizes were awarded to the following students: 3rd year, W. G. McIntosh, L. R. Bustin, R. A. Bruce; 2nd year, R. D. Martienssen, G. D. Maxwell; 1st year, E. C. Gilham, C. J. Slade.

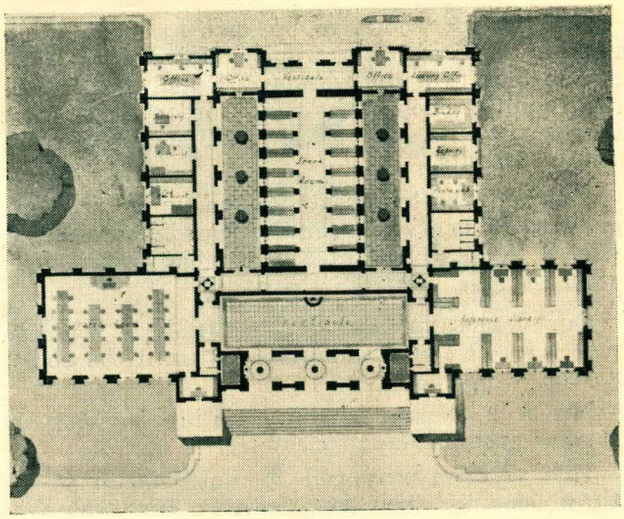
After presenting the prizes Mr. Cowin addressed the students as follows: The ceremony we are taking part in to-day marks a distinct step forward in the life of our School of Architecture. It is now housed in new and suitable quarters. This Chair of Architecture was founded about five years ago and there were some then who were of the opinion that it was premature. Well! thanks to the energy and perseverance of Professor Pearse and his able helpers at the outset Messrs. Williamson, Leith and Spicer and latterly, with the addition of Mr. Furner to the staff, we now have a School well housed, equipped and staffed which any town may well be proud of. That is an essential and another is an adequate supply of students. Supply follows demand and fortunately the demand is here and I cannot understand why more of our youths on leaving school do not elect to enter this profession.

It offers great opportunities for usefulness to one's fellow-beings, endless scope for the worker, a constant source of delight to the enthusiast and, on the material side, it compares favourably with the other professions. To-day Architects are busy and doing well and it is safe to say that the profession in this country holds out great prospects for the future.

You students are saved the drudgery and routine inseparable from a training as a pupil in an office as in the old days, which I experienced, and in consequence we expect more from you after your course of training. You do not encounter the fierce competition prevailing in every walk of life in Europe and you obtain your successes easily and are apt to get an exaggerated view of your abilities. There is no lack of talent here and this is shown in some excellent work we have seen in the Exhibition of drawings, but most of you have to learn that success can only be obtained by close application to study and down-right hard work.

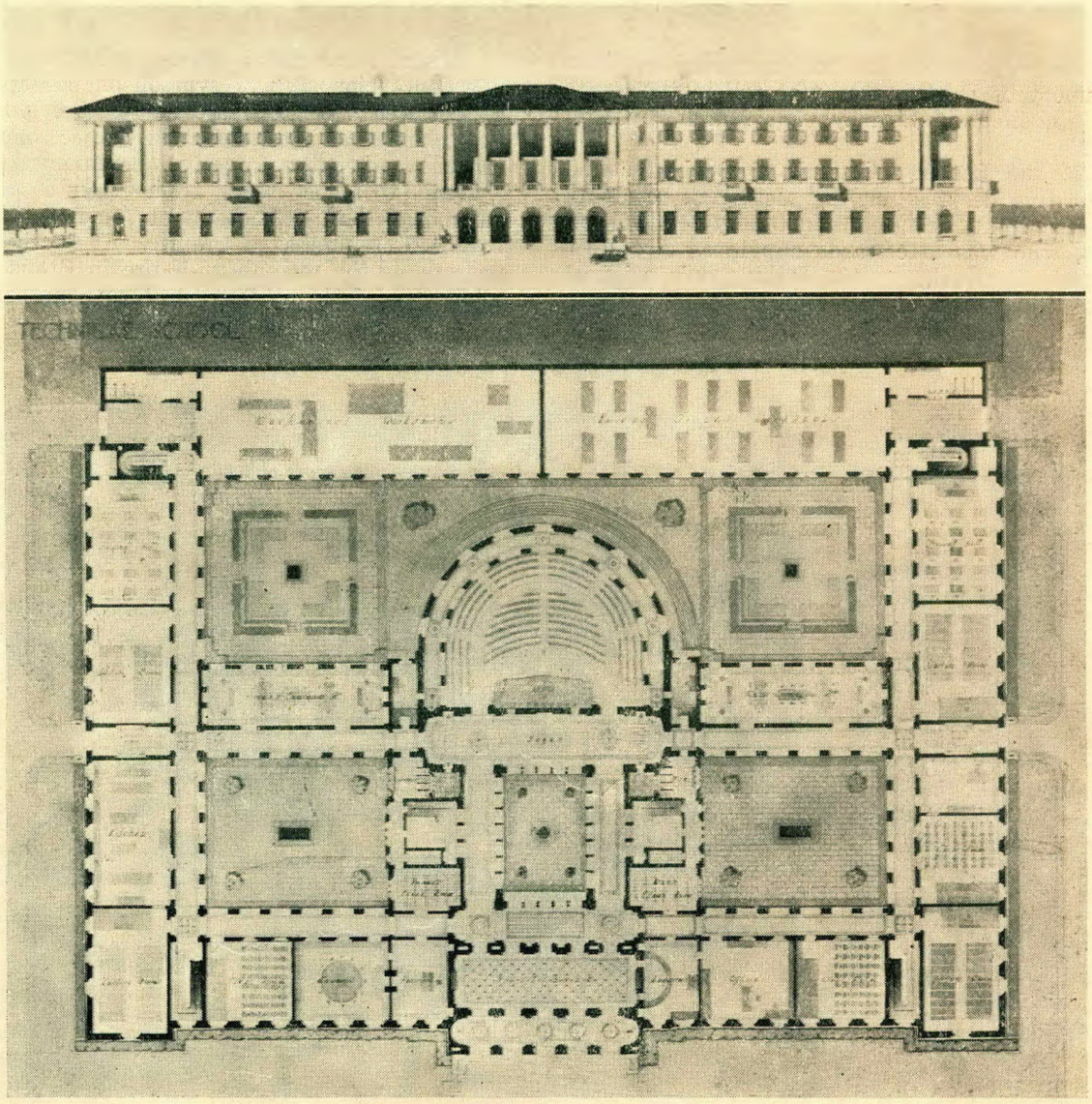
It is a fact that among the Architects in practice in South Africa, and Contractors too for that matter, there are very few who were born in this country. The reason for this is said to be that until recently there were no facilities for training here. This position is quite altered now and it is up to our young men to prove themselves fitted for any responsibility and to take every advantage of the courses of instruction which are spread before them lavishly.

The Association of Transvaal Architects is pleased to have the co-operaton of Professor Pearse on its Council and appreciates very much the good work that Mr. Furner is carrying out as Editor of the Architectural Journal. I can assure them that we take a keen interest in the School and wish it every success.



AN ARCHIVES BUILDING.

Third Year. *R. D. Martienssen.*



A TECHNICAL SCHOOL.

Fourth Year. *W. G. McIntosh.*

DURBAN WAR MEMORIAL.

ERNEST M. POWERS.

THIS Memorial erected in the Town Hall Gardens to the memory of Durban men who fell in the Great War was unveiled on Sunday, 7th March, by Col. Molyneux.

In 1921 the Borough Council of Durban called for Competitive designs for the Memorial, resulting in the selection of a design submitted by Mr. Gordon Pilkington, who was afterwards appointed Architect to carry out the work. Mr. Pilkington's original design was illustrated at the time in this journal.

There is no doubt that the Memorial is a very fine conception, full of symbolism, perhaps not fully appreciated by the majority of the public, hence the scheme has again been the subject of very severe criticism since the unveiling ceremony.

As will be seen from the illustration the "Memorial" is a Cenotaph of somewhat severe lines executed in fine axed granite. At the base on a pedestal is the recumbent figure in Bronze of a dead soldier, in full military uniform, and immediately above a bronze standard supporting a constantly burning lamp, the "Light of Remembrance." The upper portion of the Cenotaph has two angel figures bearing aloft the soul of the soldier into a starry firmament with the rising sun in gold with rays striking down to the figures and a white dove above.



DURBAN WAR MEMORIAL. *H. G. L. Pilkington.*

After Mr. Pilkington's appointment a controversy ensued as to the adoption of a design which necessitated the removal of certain statues already existing in the Gardens, and consequently the original design was considerably modified to one of a Cenotaph form and the work has been carried out according to the modified design.

The words of the inscription are: "Tell it to the generation following."

The figures and laurel wreath are in coloured Faience ware, beautifully modelled, the central figure and the angels are white, the latter with blue drapery, the suns rays are in yellow and the laurel in green. It is the somewhat unusual bright colouring of the Faience which has evoked the severest criticism, probably due to a departure from the simple dignity of the Cenotaph in Whitehall, which has become more or less the accepted form for War Memorials of the Cenotaph type. However, there is no denying that under our sub-tropical sun it is both a striking and inspiring conception.

The immediate layout is formed of granite steps and terraces with the names of the fallen recorded on bronze tablets.

Much of the criticism of the Memorial is undoubtedly due to its setting, placed as it is in the gardens already overcrowded with various types of monuments, and abutting on to Gardiner Street. The fine proportions and lines of the Memorial are marred by the rather "Baroque" character of the surrounding buildings. It would have been much happier placed in an open space as an isolated monument.

CAUSERIE.

WHAT I want to see in this country is a real national style, one that will reflect the old Dutch work in the Cape Homesteads, and—."

The speaker was interrupted by a burst of laughter from one of his companions. "My good man," he said, pushing his heavy black hat to the back of his head, "do you really expect us to build our shops and warehouses like Groot Constantia."

"No you don't see my point, here we are to-day building all over South Africa buildings which would be suitable in England or France, but which are entirely absurd in a hot country like this. Why don't we take what we can from our only traditional work and develop upon those lines?"

"And where would that lead you, when you have to deal with steel framed and reinforced concrete buildings? All the character would disappear from the old work. Isn't it far better to do as America has done and throw aside the old colonial work and start building on an imported European tradition—the whole work of McKim, Mead and White is based upon this idea."

The first speaker smiled at this point. "Yes, and make imitation Italian wooden ceilings, complete with worm holes! The whole idea of importing a tradition is entirely wrong. Moreover—."

"So you condemn practically the whole architecture of the Roman Empire and all conquering races, who have almost invariably carried their own tradition of building to the conquered countries!"

"No, I do not, because wherever a strong local tradition existed, it almost invariably continued its existence or modified the work of the invaders and in the case of our Dutch work—."

"You really cannot call that a strong tradition, man, the amount of work left is extremely small and only represents the racial characteristics of one part of the population. Why don't you want us to copy some of the English eighteenth century work in Cape Town?"

"You're dodging the main issue," said the champion of a South African tradition, "the early Dutch work at the Cape is the only distinctive tradition this country possesses."

"And so under different conditions of Government and social life and in districts a thousand miles away you determine to import this old tradition—an idea which you condemned a moment ago."

"It isn't a fair parallel at all," said the first speaker. "The whole country is South African and I maintain that we must develop South African traditions."

"But what are South African traditions? I cannot accept a hundred or so odd farm houses built under a Dutch Government by a completely Dutch population as a real tradition for a combined English and Dutch community—where is the English influence reflected?"

At this point a student who had been listening to the argument joined in the conversation. "Surely," he said, "the tradition you are talking about is essentially European, not African—you can find Dutch fanlights all over northern Europe in work of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. It seems to me that to be logical if you must follow the Dutch tradition you ought to base your work on the modern designs in Holland which are a natural development founded on the old Dutch architecture in Europe from which the architecture of the Cape was—."

"My good fellow, we can't have that mad ultra modern work out here, its too absurd for words. No, what we want is an architecture which embodies essential Dutch characteristics."

"But why rub in the Dutch and not the English," said the man in the black hat. "There are as many English as Dutch here and as for the natives—well why don't you want us to build kraals up all our main streets instead of shops?"

"It is perfectly clear to me," said the student, "that a national architecture will develop quite naturally, if you give it time, which will include all

the various, conflicting influences and it is quite conceivable that we shall even learn something from the decorative art of the natives."

The first speaker, who had been advocating the use of Dutch tradition replied, almost indignantly, "If you expect a fine style to develop without effort on the part of our architects you are sadly mistaken, we shall simply go on in the same old muddling way that we have been doing for the last twenty or thirty years."

"You are evidently in a great hurry," replied the student, "if you want a new style to develop so quickly. Where can you find a great style in the past that has developed in much under a century ? "

"Things move far more rapidly to-day than they did a century ago and in spite of everything you fellows have said I am quite convinced that our only hope lies in a return to old Dutch traditions."

" Well if you are going back to any definite style," said the man in the black hat, "why not go to Italy or Spain, countries where the climate is almost the same as ours. Bramante or San Michele would form excellent models. It seems far more logical than to copy from a style which had its birth in the damp and cold climate of Northern Europe and was imported by accident to this country. Is it after all peculiarly suited to our needs ?"

"I still think you are both quite wrong," said the student, "and I am sure that the only way in which a real style is evolved is by unconscious effort. A clear logical attempt to solve local problems will in the course of years result in a real South African tradition and not a forced and consequently deformed style." The other two shook their heads and the man in the black hat replied. "But upon what basis are you going to work. It seems to me that the Spanish type of architecture in America lends itself quite naturally to the conditions out here and as a basis from which to start it appears to be ideal."

"No, no ! " replied the first speaker. "Groot Constantia should be our starting point, it is essentially our own tradition."

" Don't you realize," interrupted the student, " that it is only in the logical solution of your own programme in the light of past experience that you can find hope for the future. Your idea of returning to or importing a dead style from the past or a living style from other countries will only lead to confusion, for everyone will want to use a different starting point—it will be revivalism at its worst."

At this point an old gentleman who had been listening to the the conversation got up from his chair and left the room, and, as he passed out through the heavy swing doors, he was heard to murmur :

"Myself when young did eagerly frequent
"Doctor and Saint, and heard great argument
"About it and about : but evermore
"Came out by the same door as in I went."

A.S.F.

RECENT ARBITRATION.

A protracted dispute of some interest to architects, quantity surveyors and contractors generally, perhaps particularly those of Durban, has been brought to a conclusion by arbitration award.

On instructions from the St. Mary's Church Committee of the Richmond Vicarage towards the end of 1923, the firm of Street-Wilson and Paton, of Durban (Fellows of the Royal Institute of British Architects and Members of the Natal Institute of Architects), prepared drawings and specifications for a new vicarage building at Richmond, which were approved by the Committee. Bills of Quantities (also with the approval of the Committee) were prepared by W. G. Thompson, of Durban (Fellow of the Surveyors' Institution of Great Britain and Member of the South African Institute of Quantity Surveyors).

It was agreed that the Architects should not undertake complete supervision of the building work, but, under arrangement, would provide partial supervision and furnish advice.

The building is an attractive two-storied brick house with tiled roofs, and contains eight rooms, also kitchen and bathroom, verandahs, balconies, porch, entrance hall and stairs hall.

Tenders for the erection of the building were called for on the before-mentioned Bills of Quantities, resulting as follows :—

McAlister and Couzens	£3,523	0	0
A. Steel	3,490	0	0
Vercoe and Dunnett	3,323	0	0
H. G. Cross	3,098	13	7
W. C. Williams	3,027	0	0
Wilson and Henry	2,957	0	0
Wilson and Grant	2,883	10	3
Gordon Bros.	2,823	15	5
T. K. McAlister	2,800	0	0
Scott and Mitchell	2,738	18	3
G. W. Bullock	2,701	14	10
Dow and Dale	2,700	0	0
A. G. Wishart	2,500	0	0

Negotiations were taken up with the lowest tenderer, Mr. A. G. Wishart, and his tender figure of £2,500 was as a result of modifications in the proposed building reduced to £2,377 19s. 0d. This figure was adopted as a contract sum, and the Building Committee appointed a sub-committee for the inspection and supervision of the work during its progress.

Various alterations and modifications were ordered from time to time, and on completion the contractor presented an account for the extra work, which the architects examined and revised, disallowing some items; and after referring the account to and receiving the approval of the committee the architects issued a final certificate in settlement of the whole contract amounting to £2,490 14s. 5d, For some reason this certificate was not met. After a lapse of time a document, comprising a measurement of part of the building, was put before the architects, representing that the final certificate was incorrect, and accompanied by a request for an explanation. This document was prepared, under the instructions of the owners, by Messrs. Langton and Barboure (the former a Member of the South African Institute of Quantity Surveyors and the latter a Member of the Natal Institute of Architects), of Durban.

Messrs. Street-Wilson & Paton made representations to the owners, to the effect that they were prepared to abide by their certificate, which they considered to be a fair and equitable settlement of the whole contract and that they could not accept the document of remeasurement, which had been prepared without their knowledge or assistance and without reference to or collaboration with the quantity surveyor, Mr. W. G. Thompson. The owners, however, continued to withhold payment, and furthermore, instructed Messrs. Langton & Barboure to measure the remainder of the building. Mr. Langton proceeded with this remeasurement and prepared an account showing a credit due by the contractor to the committee.

Protracted contentious dispute followed, culminating in the appointment of Mr. J. E. McEnanem, of Durban (Member of the South African Institute of Quantity Surveyors) as Arbitrator, and the submission was as follows:—

> Between the Vestry of St. Mary's Church, Richmond, Natal (Owners), and A. G. Wishart, of Durban (Contractor).
>
> The Owners' contentions were, briefly, that the total amount that should have been paid for work actually done as shown in the documents of remeasurements prepared by Messrs. Langton and Barboure was a sum of £2,063 8s. 3d., and that as they had paid the Contractor the sum of £2,253 14s. 5d., the Contractor was indebted to them in the sum of £190 6s. 2d.
>
> The Contractor's main contentions were, that so far from being indebted to the Owners, he had supplied material and provided labour (owing to errors he had made in his prices, etc., and items disallowed) to the value of £303 7s. 8d., of which the Owners had received the benefit without making any payment therefor: that there was a balance due and unpaid on the Architects' certificate amounting to £237 0s. 0d. (being the difference between the amount the contractor had received viz.:—£2,253 14s. 5d., and the amount of the Architects' final certificate viz.:—£2,490 14s. 5d.).
>
> After the Arbitrator had considered the evidence of the witnesses, Messrs. Nicolson, Langton, Paton, Thompson, and Wishart, examined all the documents, dimension sheets and books, abstracts and Bills of Quantities, submitted, and visited the site and inspected the building, he found as follows:—
>
> (1) "That the Contractor is not indebted to the owners in the sum of £190 6s. 2d.
>
> (2) "That the Owners are indebted to the Contractor in the sum of £237 0s. 0d., and interest thereon from the 18th day of July, 1924, to date of payment."
> "Interest to be calculated in accordance with Clause No. 33 of the Schedule of Conditions of Contract"
>
> (3) "That the Owners are liable for all the costs of the Arbitration proceedings as between party and party including my fee and the fee of the Shorthand writer;"
> "and I award and order accordingly."
> (Sgd.) "J. McENANEM."

Messrs. Street-Wilson & Patons' final certificate based on the contract figure derived from Mr. W. G. Thompson's Bills of Quantities, is therefore upheld.

The legal advisers to the Owners were the solicitors, Mr. H. G. Nourse, of Richmond, and Messrs. Nicolson & Thorpe, of Durban, represented at the proceedings by Mr. J. H. Nicolson. The contractor was legally represented by Messrs. Calder, Woodhead & Calder, solicitors, of Durban, with Mr. W. B. Calder present at the proceedings.

CONTEMPORARY ARCHITECTURAL MAGAZINES.

THE EDITOR.

IT is very refreshing to find that the majority of the leading architects in England welcome the idea of mutual criticism. "I firmly believe," says Mr. Mewes, "that criticism is not only useful but indispensible, that it ought to be able to make itself heard in technical reviews and in the general press, in schools and on public platforms; that it should exist *ante* and *post mortem;* in short that if it is an evil it is one that is necessary to the development of human thought of which art only represents a portion."

The *Architects' Journal* has recently issued a questionaire to discover the general view of the profession on this subject, and although a certain number entirely disagree with criticism of any kind either in the technical or lay press, the majority welcome it with considerable warmth. "Criticism should be absolutely free and open," says Mr. Lanchester, while Mr. Clough William Ellis stresses the importance of being rude about bad architecture. But while the general tendency is to welcome criticism one notices a few points of warning. Criticism must be obviously handled with great care lest it militates against the unity of the profession and causes it to appear before the public in an unfavourable light, the critic must be fully conversant with the difficulties of the programme or his opinion will be unjust and finally personal considerations must be eliminated as far as possible. That anonymous criticism is undesirable is almost universally admitted. It can "provide a cover under which the functions of a critic may be abused with impunity," and again those who write "should put their names to what they write, and one will then know what importance to attacth to their criticisms."



The Plaza. *F. T. Verity.*

ARCHITECTURAL JOURNAL.

Sir Edwin Lutyens suggests, "that we shall get better, more impartial and more salutary criticism from laymen possessed of the necessary architectural knowledge" than from architects themselves. Personal taste is undoubtedly one of the great difficulties in criticism—it is not easy to give a just opinion on a design carried out in a style one does not appreciate but any criticism based on individual likes and dislikes is bound to be unjust. We may not appreciate the Baroque but elaboration of detail must not prevent the critic from seeing the excellence of the design nor must his love of Italian detail make him blind to the general defects in a building of Florentine character.

Professor Richardson read an interesting paper before the Institute of Technology at Manchester, in February, on "Architecture from the Structural point of view" in which he seeks for a new architecture based on structure. "The nineteenth century," he said, "encouraged an eclectic taste which arrived at the picturesque . . . being an attempt to produce style from external form rather than to develop style from cause . . . In the Victorian period no one was strong enough to break with tradition, and there ensued a remarkable burst of style exploitation. At the present time we are still under the spell of obsolescent methods. On the constructional side we are hampered by curious by-laws, and on the aesthetic side by an innate sluggishness which fetters us to consideration of periods, styles and reproductions . . To demand a new type of building without enquiring into root causes is for all practical purposes as bad as taking ready-made ideas from past styles and from contemporary work in other countries. Then we hear of the alternative method of evolving from tradition. This requires thought, but there is a vast difference beween an extension of antique external expressions and correct evolution . . . We have a confused idea of styles, ornaments and details, but it cannot be said that our ideas are original, for we are fatigued by the effort to learn the past and bewildered when we try to fit it to present-day needs."

The Plaza Theatre in London, designed by Mr. Frank T. Verity, and recently completed, appears to be one of the most luxurious in London. The interior is lavishly covered with carefully studied detail and the exterior is very faintly reminiscent of Nash and

old Regent Street. The attempt to fit the past to present-day needs, however, is not quite successful in spite of the cleverness in handling the detail, and there is a lack of cohesion in the design which is not convincing. In the elevation the ground floor quarrels with the upper floors and the Eastern dome stands proudly aloof from its alien neighbours.

Another building of considerable importance which is illustrated both in English and American papers, is that of the Telephone Company of San Francisco. This building is another example of the modern tendency to stress vertical rather than horizontal lines in a composition. The Gothic treatment of the Woolworth building has fortunately been ignored, while the difficulty of producing a suitable crown or finish at the top has been overcome very cleverly by the addition of lines of decoration placed at the top of the structure between and parallel to the main vertical lines of the design which extend from the ground to the skyline. This treatment is worthy of close study as it appears to offer a solution to one of the greatest difficulties in treating the skyline of a building of this type. The receding planes on the elevations are also very cleverly handled and the general effect of the building is exceptionally fine.

The American magazines have recently been illustrating the Annual Exhibition of the Architectural League of New York, from which one can form a good idea of current work. It always seems rather surprising that a country which is capable of producing such fine and original work as that illustrated by buildings like the Telephone Building at San Francisco, is satisfied with an obviously artificial treatment of domestic work so common all over the country. Spanish and Georgian interiors in American homes appear very artificial and compel invidious comparisons in which the modern work generally suffers.

America is very fortunate in the fact that it can indulge in enormous schemes which are quite impossible in smaller and less wealthy countries. The *American Architect* illustrates one of the most colossal memorials in the world which is to be carried out at Stone Mountain to the Confederate Soldiers, Augustus Lukeman being the Sculptor. A great frieze of sculpture is to be carved on the mountain side in which the figures of Generals Lee and Jackson and President Davis are to be 170 feet high and at the foot of the cliff a memorial hall nearly 100 feet long and 50 feet high is to be carved out of the solid rock. The approach is through a monumental entrance 650 feet from the mountain the intervening space being treated with monumental steps and a huge lagoon 125 feet wide by 300 feet long. It is a scheme which an architect dreams of and which he so seldom has the opportunity of carrying out.

Mr. Herbert J. Rouse has been placed first in a competition for a large bank in Liverpool. The plan is well studied and the elevation scholarly. It is a typical example of the work of Liverpool University, but we have seen it many times before and begin to weary of it.

The development of Regional Planning in England should be of great interest to the architects and the town authorities of the various centres along the Reef. The necessity for some scheme of development and co-relation of existing organizations must be obvious to everyone, yet apparently nothing is being done. In England, Regional Planning is becoming almost universal, particularly in the North Western region To quote from the *Architects' Journal,* "Of the 104 local authorities in the region only twenty-nine, with a population exceeding 20,000 are required by statute to prepare schemes. But altogether up to the present seventy-three local authorities have adopted resolutions to prepare schemes for the whole or part of their respective districts, in spite of the fact that such action is entirely optional in most cases. The report rightly states that this activity is "a great tribute to the efforts of the committee in its endeavour to secure controlled development, and indicates an appreciation of the advantages associated with a pre-determined plan." The report on the regional scheme for the Manchester district which has recently been published is the result of six years careful work, and will facilitate the progressive development of the area considered.



Telephone Building. *San Francisco.*

AMERICAN ARCHITECT.

The *Architectural Review* for April is an issue of exceptional interest. It deals entirely with Modern British Craftsmanship, and contains many photographs illustrating the various crafts. Of the articles the most helpful is that on Faience by Harold Stabler, who carried out the faience work on the Durban War Memorial. He points out that Faience must not be used as stone, that is must be designed so that the rain will keep it clean, that mouldings for this reason must be of very slight projection and that the utmost decorative use should be made of joints and colour.

That opinion varies not only among architects but among craftsmen is clearly illustrated in two articles on stone carving. Mr. Laurence Turner states quite definitely that "the average masons who frequent builder's yards in London are without experience and without knowledge of their craft" while a more optimistic note is found in the opinion of Mr. W. Aumonier, who thinks "stone-carving to-day is in a healthier condition than it has been for some generations;" and that "there is work being done to-day equal to that in any age or any country."

An exhibition of the work of Bertram Grosvenor Goodhue has recently been held in London. In the death of this architect the profession have lost one of its greatest practitioners. Sir Giles Gilbert Scott in opening the exhibition explained that all through his life Goodhue was wholly opposed to the Paris Beaux Arts tradition, which had a great following in America. Later when the tendency toward greater freedom of thought in architectural style developed, he came into his own. His work was always fresh and independent, and he worked in various styles, but it was in the Nebraska State Capitol that he expressed himself most freely. He was one of the pioneers of the new movement in America towards freedom and logical expression. "I cannot help feeling," said Sir Giles, "that the movement will be due largely or almost entirely to the genius of one man, Bertram Grosvenor Goodhue."

The profession has also lost a friend in the death of the artist Joseph Pennell—his work is well known to us all and the delight which we have all experienced from his drawings will be saddened by the knowledge of his death.

REVIEWS.

A SHORT HISTORY OF THE BUILDING CRAFTS,
by Martin Shaw Briggs, F.R.I.B.A
Oxford University Press.

The objects of this book, as the author states in the Preface, are to serve as a companion to existing text-books of architectural history, and to remind the various branches of building craftsmen of the position of their ancestors in architectural history and to tell something of bygone methods of work.

In the opening chapter an interesting account is given of the evolution of the Architect, as we know him to-day, from the Craftsman of the Past and a survey is taken of the conditions under which building was practised during the chief periods of architectural activity. Beginning with the Egyptians and continuing with the Greeks and Romans we find that the buildings were mainly erected by forced labour and it was not until medieval times that the individual craftsman gained some freedom and craft-guilds were formed which were a distinctive feature of town life.

We are told that the medieval craftsmen worked very long hours in the "good old days," usually from sunrise to sunset and the wages in the fourteenth century for summer and winter were 5d. and 4d. per day respectively; he was also fined for being late, for idling, quarrelling, losing his tools, and obstructing other workmen!

The earliest forms of buildings, doubtless, began on the banks of the Nile and the mud washed down by it became available in Ancient Egypt as a building material in the form of Pisé and sun-dried bricks. Brickwork was very largely used by the Romans and they also manufactured roofing tiles, drain-pipes and other clay products. Brick building with all its varieties of ornament is traced through the centuries and well illustrated by sketches.

The chapter on Masonry is illuminating in showing the extreme care and accuracy taken in ancient times to work stone; the blocks were finely squared and close fitting and dowels and cramps were largely employed.

The foundations of buildings erected by the old builders were often deficient and carelessly executed and bad building and scamping were not unknown then. We are apt to think that all building in the old days was inspired and perfect, but this is not borne out by the facts.

Carpentry, Joinery, Plasterwork, Roof Coverings, Ironwork, Plumbing and Glazing are fully described and illustrated and the details given remind us how little anything has changed. The craze for cheap work, however, and the speeding-up of building to-day are factors calling for other methods of construction and of these reinforced concrete bids fair to alter the whole aspect of modern building.

The book bears out its title well and is full of interest and information.

N.T.C.

L'ART DECORATIF D'AUJOURD'HUI, *by le Corbusier Saugnier. Les Editions G. Crés et Cie, Paris.*

At the International Congress on Architectural Education some eighteen months ago, M. Leon Jaussely, Government Architect and Professor at the Ecole des Beaux Arts, in Paris, read an interesting paper on the Architectural Education of the future. "Whatever opinion we may hold," he said, "of the present evolution of architecture, it is undeniable that this evolution does exist, and that we are at present witnessing conscious or unconscious attempts to renew architectural forms and aesthetics . . . These new aesthetics are . . . characterised by the simplification of the articulation and its reduction to a small number of elements, the search for enveloping form and general colour in place of detailed moulding; points of decoration are sought for their contrast value, but are sparsely distributed and stand out against a bare background; the appreciation of volumes and masses is exact, the outlines are severe. The sobriety of these aesthetics excludes all mannerism . . . Particularly successful as modern architectural works must be considered those engineering works of great frankness where the very striking appearance is due to the effect produced by combinations of purely constructive forms without any ornament . . . A new tendency seems to have arisen which can only become still more pronounced."

This definite statement by one of the leading architects of France cannot be ignored. The modern movement, whether we like it or not, is a real and living force and one which will revolutionize the architecture of the future.

Le Corbusier-Saugnier in his book *"Vers une Architecture,"* published some year or so ago states the case of the Modernist with more than usual bluntness. "A great era is beginning. A new spirit is alive . . . The "styles" are a lie. Style is a unity of principle which lives in the works of a period and which results in a distinctive character. Our era fixes its style each day. Our eyes unfortunately have not the wit to perceive it."

He speaks of the beauty of simple forms, of the motor car and the liner, of the Parthenon and the Pantheon. "Conservons, des Romains, la brique et le ciment romain et la pierre de travertin et vendons aux milliardairies le marbre romain."

It is a book which strikes at the very roots of our old ideas and ideals and makes us reconsider them all.

A companion volume has recently been published under the title of *"L' Art Decoratif d'Aujourd'hui,"* in which our long cherished theories are again attacked. "Le passé n'est pas une entité infaillible. Il a ses choses belles et les laides." He pours out his scorn on the old idea of decoration and quotes for our benefit a theory that has been regarded for years as undeniable . . . "Un objet utile doit être décoré; compagnon de nos joies et de nos peines, il doit avoir une âme. Les âmes réunies des objets décorés créent l'atmosphère radieuse dans laquelle notre sort triste se passera au rose. Au vide du siècle machine, il faut répondre par l'effusion ineffable d'un décor berceur et doucement enivrant." He protests. Objects used by us every day are our servants, our slaves. We do not take them as intimate friends but we sit down on them, we work on them and when they are worn out we replace them.

Tradition, or folklore, as he calls it is not to be ignored. Tradition is the result of experience--a new idea is born, adopted, changed, corrected and refined until perfected. He maintains that the great building traditions are ignored. "Les folklores sont usurpés par les paresseux et les stériles pour remplir l'air d'un bruit assourdissant de cigales, pour chanter faux avec le chant et la poésie des autres." He does not hesitate to bludgeon those who do not meet with his approval. "L'industriel pensa . . "le décor, cache les pailles, les taches, toutes les tares." Consécration du camouflage. Inspiration désespérée et triomphe commercial."

It is from machinery that we are to take our lesson, in the close relation of cause to effect. The machine is based upon geometry, logic, precision and economy and simple geometrical forms are the result.

"It has been stated," he says, "that decoration is necessary to our existence. Let us correct this: art is necessary for us; that is to say, a disinterested passion which inspires us. Decoration is a medley, pleasantly amusing to a savage . . . But in the twentieth century, we have greatly developed our judgment we have raised the level of our soul. Our spiritual needs are different and higher ideals than those of mere decoration satisfy us more completely. It seems fair to say that the more highly cultivated a people are the more mere decoration disappears."

"In mentioning these matters," said Professor Richardson, in reference to this modern tendency, "I am aware that I am on dangerous ground; the theory cuts at the very spirit of the things we have all been cherishing and professing. But the subject has to be faced. The movement towards reality, force, fitness, rightness of character, augurs a frame of mind which is akin to the spirit of art, ever changing and ever seeking change."

Le Corbusier illustrates his argument with numerous photographs—which are less convincing than his arguments, for to English taste they appear ill chosen, but he develops his thesis logically and most certainly holds our interest. He shows us the problems of decorative art from an entirely new standpoint and it is difficult to recognise them.

It is a book of great interest and one which "gives furiously to think."

A.S.F.

BOOK NOTICES.

LAYMEN AND THE NEW ARCHITECTURE, *by Manning Robertson, A.R.I.B.A.*
John Murray, London. 12s.

Author's Preface.—The future of the new architecture is dependent not so much upon the architect as upon the layman. The architect, in England and abroad, has begun to realise an architecture that translates our practical needs into a reasonable twentieth-century art form; but the layman alone can decide whether the rebirth that is now stirring the architect's world is to be a powerful general movement towards orderly dignity and real beauty, or whether it is to perish of inanition through lack of public appreciation and support. Our modern towns provide sufficient evidence that architecture, during the past hundred years, has slowly withered. Is this not primarily because it has been shelved by the layman as "a technical subject," and confused with archaeology, until the public, educated and uneducated, has forgotten what architecture really is? This book has been written, not with the ambitious purpose of explaining what architecture is, but rather of suggesting points of view that may help to quicken interest in an art movement that is not at present fully appreciated even by the most cultured among laymen.

THE BRICK ARCHITECTURE OF THE COLONIAL PERIOD IN MARYLAND AND VIRGINIA, *by Lewis A. Coffin and Arthur C. Holden. Architectural Book Publishing Company, New York* $16.50.

THE ENGLISH INN PAST AND PRESENT, *by Prof. A. E. Richardson and H. Donald Eberlein.*
B. T. Batsford, London. 21s.

"The book is without peer in the extent and interest of its study of inn lore, its reasoned historical informativeness and the extreme fascination of its vivid illustrations from the photographs, prints, drawings and engravings, of Inns, large and small, famous and obscure, from mediaeval times to the present day."

THE SMALLER ENGLISH HOUSES OF THE LATER RENAISSANCE, 1660—1840, *by Prof. A. E. Richardson and H. Donald Eberlein, B. T. Batsford, London.* 25s.

The period selected begins with the accession of Charles the Second and extends to the opening years of Queen Victoria, a rich tradition persisting for nearly a hundred and eighty years. The middling-sized house has always been of interest, and while more attention has been paid to the larger work of architects, the lesser houses have not received deserved treatment. The book is wide in scope, including regional traits; it deals with the influence of material, and aims at making clear the evolution in style.

THE MINOR ECCLESIASTICAL DOMESTIC AND GARDEN ARCHITECTURE OF SOUTHERN SPAIN, *by Austin Whittlesey. Architectural Book Publishing Company, New York.* $13.50.

CORRESPONDENCE.

JOHANNESBURG RAILWAY STATION.

The Editor, S.A. ARCHITECTURAL RECORD.

DEAR SIR,

The most important question to be settled, before any further progress should be made regarding the proposed Johannesburg Station, is as to whether the station should be a Terminal or a Through Station. It is true that the Railway Authorities have decided that the new station shall be a Through Station, but after every effort to obtain from them any justification for such a decision, one is forced to believe that the weight of evidence in favour of a Terminal Station has not been seriously considered by them.

The public have a right to know why all the advantages gained by a Terminal Station should have been so lightly set aside by the Railway Authorities who after all, though experts on Railway Administration and Construction are no better judges of what the public require than the public themselves.

Any newly erected station anywhere in the world, where it is humanly possible, is designed as a Terminal Station and much more so when the particular station is built in practically the terminal city of the line.

Not one out of every hundred people who entrain at Randfontein goes on to Springs nor those that entrain at Springs go on to Randfontein, if they go as far as Johannesburg they get off at Johannesburg

and the same applies to all trains entering or leaving Johannesburg, that is the trains practically empty at Johannesburg and refill at Johannesburg.

That passengers should have to mount staircases or dive into subways when there is no necessity for same is beyond the comprehension of any reasoning being, one has only to compare the congestion and inconvenience of the staircases at Johannesburg with easy access to platforms at Durban, Cape Town, Pretoria, etc., to see the advantages of a Terminal Station..

Yours faithfully,

H.R.

The Editor, S.A. Architectural Record

Dear Sir,

Your correspondent, H. R., very rightly urges that the vital practical consideration in the design of Johannesburg Station lies between the Terminal and Through principles. The conditions of the traffic are fairly stated by H. R., namely, that in effect Johannesburg is almost entirely terminal. It is unnecessary to enlarge upon the extreme comparative disadvantages of the ordinary Through Station. But when it comes to comparing, as H. R. invites your readers to do, the conditions of Johannesburg with those of Pretoria, Cape Town, Durban, etc., it will quickly be realized where the essential differences and practical difficulties lie. Except that Pretoria is a Through Station for Northern traffic only (at present easily accommodated at a single platform) all these Terminal Stations are dead-ends of a divergent system which has come to a common direction long before arriving at the terminus. The entrance and egress of the trains therefore, whether from or to destinations or sheds, is always identical in direction. Johannesburg on the other hand is the actual 180 degrees branching point in two important directions ; and the sheds lie on the rather less important side. Unless therefore room can be found (as on the Kazerne site) to deploy through 90 degrees from either direction or unless there is to be highly inconvenient shunting, the true terminal Station appears in this case to be unobtainable. It remains, however, to be seen whether a compromise cannot be effected combining the advantages of both principles. To the travelling public the mere entering the train before it leaves, though important, is not the only nor the most engrossing business to be transacted ; the booking. the baggage, cloak rooms, waiting-rooms, refreshments, bookstalls and conveniences as well as necessary Station officials should all be found concentrated on one and the same level area. Such an arrangement is well managed at the Great Central Station, Nottingham, where a lofty roof covers alike the business area on the higher level (approached from the Street by inclined ways) and the lines and platforms below.

The effect is impressive and the arrangement convenient and easily controlled. Steps, lifts and escalators are not formidable as a mere incident to entering and leaving the actual train. Smoke and steam can be coped with without difficulty and in any case are likely to disappear shortly under electrification. The space available for lines and platforms would be effectively increased. A clever adjustment of the levels should make this scheme economically practicable. But until the Administration frankly takes the public into their confidence with concrete and detailed proposals constructive criticism seems futile. The strongest joint representation by all concerned should be made immediately for the public to be afforded opportunity to consider the plans.

ONLOOKER.

ASSESSORS' AWARDS IN COMPETITIONS.

The Editor, S.A. Architectural Record.

Dear Sir,

Brevity is stated to be the soul of wit, but when it comes to an assessor's award in an important architectural competition the bare announcement that design No. 13 is placed first, No. 1 second and No. 27 third, is hardly the "soul of wit" that gives satisfaction to the large majority of the competitors.

An assessor may be legally correct in merely awarding the first, second or third premiums, but would he as a competitor feel satisfied with his severely concise form of award.

Fortunately it is customary for Assessors to give their reasons for the decisions arrived at, and it is submitted that all assesors should recognise this moral obligation to both promoter and competitor.

The selection of designs in a large competition requires infinite patience, study and skill, and no assessor can arrive at a decision without good reasons for doing so.

Is it too much to expect that those reasons should be given in the form of a brief written report for publication ?

This would give far greater satisfaction to those who have spent much time and money in submitting designs, with the full knowledge that only one can be placed first.

The promoters also would feel far more satisfied when an award is supported by the well considered views of the assessor.

This communication is written with the object of raising a discussion as to the desirability of imposing a condition that an assessor, in making his award, is expected to give a brief outline of the different designs submitted and his reasons for the decision arrived at.

I am etc.,

UTILE DULCI.

The Editor, S.A. ARCHITECTURAL RECORD.

DEAR SIR,

Your correspondent Utile Dulci is right in urging that Assessors in architectural competitions should publish a report on their awards.

In the recent Pretoria Town Hall Competition two lines of thought were in evidence in the designs; one (a) with the Town Hall practically a separate unit and the other (b) with the Town Hall incorporated in the general scheme. Either one of these methods of arranging the plan would have been satisfactory, but the Assessor evidently plumped for alternative (a) and the competitors who were placed were the only ones who adopted scheme (a).

The Assessor's report merely states that the drawings on the whole are excellent and then sets out the awards.

The competitors are surely entitled to know what influenced the Assessor in discarding all designs which did not conform to the type he had determined upon.

Out of a field of 27 competitors, three isolated their Town Hall, and all these designs were placed and the remainder who did not follow this plan were evidently on the wrong lines at the outset from the Assessor's point of view.

What a lamentable waste of time, labour and expense for the unsuccessful competitors!

All this might have been saved to them if a preliminary sketch competition with drawings in outline had been held, and a few selected to enter upon a final competition.

The competitors who were "off the track" and had not the faintest chance of success could have been eliminated by this method and saved the work of completing their plans in detail.

All important competitions should be carried out in this way, i.e., a preliminary and a final competition. The disappointment and bitterness engendered by competitions would be assuaged if a concise report were issued by the Assessors to support their awards and the competitors thereby enlightened on their faults.

Yours,

N.T.C.

BUILDING MATERIALS.

The Editor, S.A. ARCHITECTURAL RECORD,

DEAR SIR,

I have, in course of preparation, a work on the building materials of South Africa and I am therefore anxious to collect as much data as possible on the subject, i.e., materials employed, analysis and tests made and any important buildings in which the respective materials have been used.

Naturally it is quite easy to obtain this information about the well known materials in use, but there may be many lesser known materials such as building stones, bricks, etc., with which Architects are acquainted.

I shall be glad therefore if you will allow me, through the medium of your valuable paper, to request Architects and others interested in building materials to let me have any information they possess on the subject.

Yours, etc.,

G. E. PEARSE,

University of the Witwatersrand.

PROFESSIONAL NEWS.

ARCHITECTS' AND QUANTITY SURVEYORS' PRIVATE ACT.

Now that Parliament has definitely agreed that the second reading of the Architects' Bill is to be considered at next session, it is possible to summarise to date what has actually taken place. After a great deal of deliberation on the part of the Union Registration Executive Committee a final draft Act was submitted to Parliament which, with very little difficulty, passed its first reading and was referred to a Select Committee. The Select Committee sat consistently for over a period of six weeks taking evidence for and against the Bill and amended the Bill chiefly to meet the requirements of certain sections of the community.

The most drastic alteration made by the Select Committee was the elimination of details from the Bill and making provision for an Inaugural Board to deal with these matters, so leaving the Bill to deal with principles only,

The main principles as approved of by members of the profession and submitted by the Executive, representing all the Associations throughout the Union, are still predominant in the Bill and if passed by Parliament next session will be a great step forward in raising the status of the profession and securing better conditions for everyone connected therewith.

With reference to the financial side of the question it is gratifying to know that, although the expenses of the Bill have been heavy and much more than originally estimated, the costs to date do not

exceed the amounts collected and promised by very much, and, together with the anticipated costs to see the Bill through, it is estimated that a further levy of £1 per member will be amply sufficient.

In this respect it should be mentioned that it is anticipated that a considerable portion of the amount subscribed will be repayable immediately the Bill is passed from the Registration fees, etc., of new members.

In conclusion the Executive feel that the members of the profession have every reason to be highly pleased with the position and express their thanks to all concerned for the willing and generous way those connected with the measure have rendered their assistance and co-operation.

THE NATAL INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS.

The Annual General Meeting of the Members of the above Institute was held in the Secretary's Office, 18, Field Street Buildings, Field Street, Durban, on the 26th April, 1926. The Chair was taken at 3.30 p.m., by the President, Mr. H. E. Chick. There were also present Messrs. R. N. Jackson (Vice-President), F. J. Ing, B. V. Bartholomew, Col. Hurst, W. S. Payne, E. O. Payne, E. M. Powers, A. S. Frost, W. Barboure, and the Secretary, T. H. Chaplin.

Before vacating the Presidential Chair, Mr. Chick welcomed those Members present and said :—

It has been customary in the past at our Annual General Meetings for the retiring President to present a report upon the work and activities of the Institute during the term of his office.

I should like at the outset to thank the Members of the Council for their diligence and loyalty in dealing with matters affecting the best interests of the Profession, and I hope that the Members of all future Councils will give their President the same kindly and sympathetic support granted by the retiring Council to me during my term of office.

It is pleasing to record that the Institute has been consulted by various bodies during the year and I feel sure we all desire to continue this service in the future, either by advising, co-operating, or by the appointment of one or more Members to serve on various Committees.

Your Vice-President, Mr. R. N. Jackson, has at the instance of the Union Government, been appointed Overseas Correspondent of the Central Association of Architects of the Argentine Republic.

Col. Hurst represents this Institute on the New Council of the Natal Technical College.

Mr. F. J. Ing is Chairman of the Building Trades Apprentices Committee which fact is, I think, a compliment to the Profession.

Messrs. Paton and Bartholomew continue to serve on the Art Advisory Committee appointed by the Municipality, and Mr. Wallace Paton, F.R.I.B.A., was appointed by the Municipality of Bethlehem to act as Assessor in connection with new Municipal Buildings.

Registration. The most important subject dealt with during the year is the Union Registration Bill which is now before Parliament. Messrs. Ing, Paton, Hurst, Payne and myself, were appointed to act on the Provisional Council and I had the honour of representing your Institute before the Select Committee at Capetown last month. It is gratifying to hear that the Select Committee have found that the Premable has been proved and I hope it will not be long before we hear that the Bill has successfully passed through Parliament.

I feel, Gentlemen, that we owe a deep debt of gratitude to the Executive Committee for the tremendous amount of labour they have expended on behalf of the Profession, and I would like especially to mention Messrs. Burton and Harris and the members of the Cape Institute who represented the Executive before the Select Committee and who literally worked night and day.

In my opinion, the Registration Bill, whilst giving to qualified Architects of the future the same professional status that is afforded to the other professions, will protect the public as much if not more than the Architect. Of all the Arts, Architecture comes most intimately into the daily life of men and women, and successful results can only be achieved by those who have been trained to produce them : it is therefore in the public interest to prevent untrained and incompetent persons styling themselves Architects from imposing upon the community.

This should surely be patent to all when it is considered that the only qualification at present required before a person may style himself an Architect is his ability to pay the yearly licence.

A good education is as important a factor in the making of a successful Architect as in any other profession, good in the general sense of culture and good in the particular matter of design, a term which includes the suitable planning and constructional stability of a building as well as its appearance. In this connection it is pleasing to record that classes are being maintained at the Natal Technical College to provide facilities for the education of students desirous of entering the profession and a Diploma Course is now being introduced so as to come into line with the other centres of the Union and I trust members of this Institute will encourage the attendance of pupils and others at these classes. As a tangible proof of its interest in and earnest desire that these classes should succeed your Institute has donated the sum of Ten Guineas for prizes, and I hope this interest will continue in the future.

R.I.B.A. One of the most important events which has taken place during the year is the Amalgamation of the Royal Institute of British Architects and the Society of Architects. This fine achievement is bound to strengthen the profession throughout the British Commonwealth.

With your indulgence I will refer briefly to other matters of interest to the profession.

Competitions. One or two Architectural Competitions have been banned during the year, until brought into line with the R.I.B.A., rules and regulations.

Conditions of Contract. Proposed amendments to the authorised Conditions of Contract Agreement have been considered but up to the present the final draft has not been received from the Executive.

Master Builders' Association. Matters affecting the smoother workings of Building Contracts have been discussed with the Executive of the Master Builders' Association.

Town Planning. The Durban Corporation have none too soon formed a Town Planning Committee, Mr. Wallace Paton represents the Profession on this Committee. It is to be hoped that this Committee will prove to be a real live body and that its recommendations will be carried out by the Town Council. I am sure this Institute will be ever ready to collaborate with and advise the Committee on any scheme or recommendation which has for its object the beautifying of our Town.

Members. Three new members have joined the Institute during the year which brings the roll up to twenty-four Members and two Associates. Four applications for membership were refused owing to the applications not conforming to our Bye-Laws.

Official Organ. Our official Organ, The South African Architectural Record, has been delivered to all members gratis during the year, and has, I feel sure, been much appreciated.

Finance. The finances of the Institute are reflected in the Secretary's Balance Sheet and Statement of Revenue and Expenditure, a copy of which you have already received.

Meetings. Eight Council Meetings and three Special Meetings have been held during the year which have been well attended.

Our thanks are due to the Press for their assistance during the year and to the Technical College Council for the use of the Architectural Room.

In conclusion I wish to express my grateful thanks to Mr. T. H. Chaplin, our Secretary and Treasurer, for his valuable help. His able assistance has always been at my disposal and has made my duty as President comparatively light.

With the exception of the President, who is ex officio a member of the succeeding Council, the Members of the Council retire, but are eligible for re-election.

The President received the scrutineers report of the votes cast for the members of the Council for the ensuing year and declared the following members duly elected :—

Messrs. R. N. Jackson (President), Wallace Paton (Vice-President), F. J. Ing, H. E. Chick, B. V. Bartholomew, E. M. Powers and W. S. Payne.

In referring to the retirement of the past President, Col. Hurst spoke of the thanks due by this Institute to Mr. Chick, who has so ably acted as President during the past year. Col. Hurst's vote of thanks to Mr. Chick was carried unanimously.

The Architectural Design Class, at the Natal Technical College, Durban, is taken by Mr. E. M. Powers, F.R.I.B.A., as successor to Mr. A. F. Laurie, A.R.I.B.A., who has recently returned to Johannesburg. The Architectural History and Building Construction Classes are taken by Mr. W. B. Oxley, A.R.I.B.A.

CAPE TOWN NOTES.

Cape Town is in a state of feverish building activity with its main streets bounded by frontages reminiscent of the teeth of a growing child. Imposing new buildings stand amid older ones whose days are numbered, and here and there a pregnant gap. The diversity of the new buildings, now scattered, but ultimately items in frontages of some pretension, points to the need, with regard to City Building, of some control beyond that of Bye-Laws intended only to safeguard life and health. The effect of town development without town planning is already apparent, and, before long, street building without control of elevations and verandahs will be regarded as a similar neglect of opportunity.

In the hurried progress too little regard is being paid to such old buildings as have historical or architectural interest. The Old Supreme Court is undergoing drastic re-construction, the Weeshuis has come into new prominence as a dairy, the Round Church is subjacent to a transformer house and electrical showroom, and the charming residence in Roeland Street, which was recently vacated by the School of Domestic Science, after brief service as a garage, is to be pulled down and the site used for a clothing factory.

A good deal is being said about the desirability of fostering South African Nationality, but the old architecture of Cape Town, which is one of the most remarkable of our National achievements, is being destroyed at a rate which, unchecked, will result in virtual effacement in the near future.

The Metropolitan Cathedral is in a somewhat different position. The demolition of the old building was commenced when it had not acquired any great claim to respect on account of antiquity. Buildings, like china and furniture and many other things, pass through a dangerous period when they are neither new nor old and it happens that during the years that the Cathedral has been standing half built, the old tower and portico have begun to emerge from that period.

To many people the pleasure of anticipation of the resumption of building operations is tempered with regret that a most pleasing example of copy-book Renaissance must perish. Nevertheless, the design for the New Cathedral is a magnificent conception and we will all wish the new Dean, an early realization of his courageous aspiration to see the building completed.

C.P.W.

DOMINION EXHIBITION IN LONDON.

The following letter has been received by Council from the Secretary of the Royal Institute of British Architects, and is published for the information of Members. Will all those Members who are prepared to submit designs or drawings for selection to be forwarded to London please communicate with the Registrar without delay?

"The Council of the Royal Institute have decided that the next Annual Exhibition of the R.I.B.A., to be held from 19th October to 17th November, 1926, shall be devoted to the Architecture of the Dominions and Colonies.

I am directed to express the hope that you will kindly collaborate with us in endeavouring to make this Exhibition fully representative of the interesting and important work done in the Union of South Africa in recent years.

The Exhibition will be in five main sections:

(A) Canada.
(B) Australia.
(C) New Zealand.
(D) South Africa.
(E) The Colonies (West Indies, Hong Kong, Singapore, etc.)

The Space available in the R.I.B.A. Galleries amounts to a total of 300 feet run, of this space 34 feet have been allotted to South Africa. The height of wall space available may be reckoned at 6 feet, making a total of 204 square feet available for the South African Exhibit which we hope to receive.

It is desired that the South African Exhibit should be selected by you, in consultation with the Allied Societies in South Africa, and it is hoped that you will consent to take the responsibility of deciding what is to be sent.

The cost (freight, insurance, etc.) will be borne by the R.I.B.A.

The Exhibit should consist of photographs and drawings of buildings actually erected in the Union of South Africa. The Exhibits need not be framed or glazed before despatch, and it is thought that there will be less danger of injury in transit if framing and glazing are omitted.

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Photographs should be **as large as possible** and must be suitably mounted before despatch.

Modern work is preferred, but it would add to the interest of the Exhibition if a small proportion of historic work were included

H.R.H. The Prince of Wales and the High Commissioners of the Dominions will be invited to become "Patrons" of the Exhibition, and there will be an opening ceremony to which a distinguished and representative company will be invited.

The High Commissioner for South Africa will be invited to arrange a special "At Home" day in the Galleries and, if possible, a public lecture on South African Architecture.

There will be additional space available for a few small models if you think it desirable to include them.

I should be indebted to you if you would kindly let me know at your convenience whether it will be possible for you to make the arrangements suggested."

NATIONAL FEDERATION OF BUILDING TRADE EMPLOYERS.

A letter has been received from the National Federation of Building Trade Employers in South Africa in which the following resolutions, passed in their congress, were brought to the notice of the profession.

"This Congress instructs all associations to refrain from submitting a time limit when tendering for work, as it considers that it is the duty of the parties calling for tenders to state the time in which a contract should be completed."

"Leaving tenderers to state the time for completion of contracts is not permissible and members of this Federation are not allowed to tender on this basis."





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