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1914

Institutes of South African Architects and the Chapter of South African Quantity Surveyors

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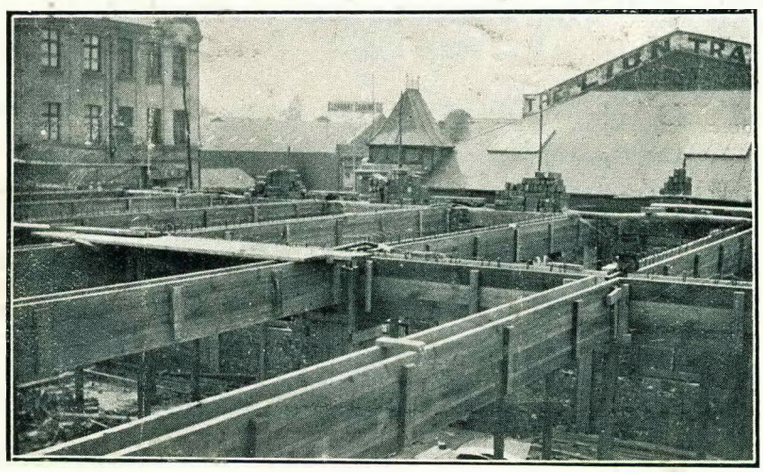


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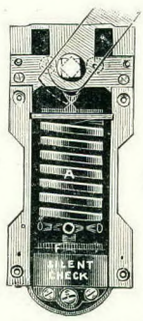
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	Page
Ainsworth, Herbert	Front Cover
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Austin, H. H.	19
Begg, George	7
Clark & Sons, Thomas	2
C. Collins	6
Cooke & Sons, Ltd., T.	24
Cruickshanks & Co.	Inside Back Cover
Caulfield, W. F., & Co.	1
Damerell W. E.	6
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General Accident Fire & Life	Inside Front Cvr.
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Gorven, D. C.	4
Haine, Wilfred, Ltd.	2
Hansen, H., & Co.	4
Harris & Hittinger	Inside Back Cover
Heddle, R., & Co.	18
Henderson & Gordon	Inside Back Cover
Heggie, R.	4
Harrison & Co.	2
Hughes & Co.	8
Jenkins & Co.	4
Johnson, A. H. & Co., "Ceresit"	3
Japolin Enamel and Paint Co.	1
Lissack, Mrs. H.	24
Marshall, J. S.	24
Midgley, T.	6
Millar's West Australian Hardwoods Co., Ltd.	Inside Back Cover
Mangold Brothers, Limited	21
North, A. J.	25
Olivier, Miss J.	4
Paripan	6
Reijenga & Cuchet	20
Ruberoid	2
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South African Granolithic and Asphalte Co.	21
Silvertown Patent India-rubber Tiling	1
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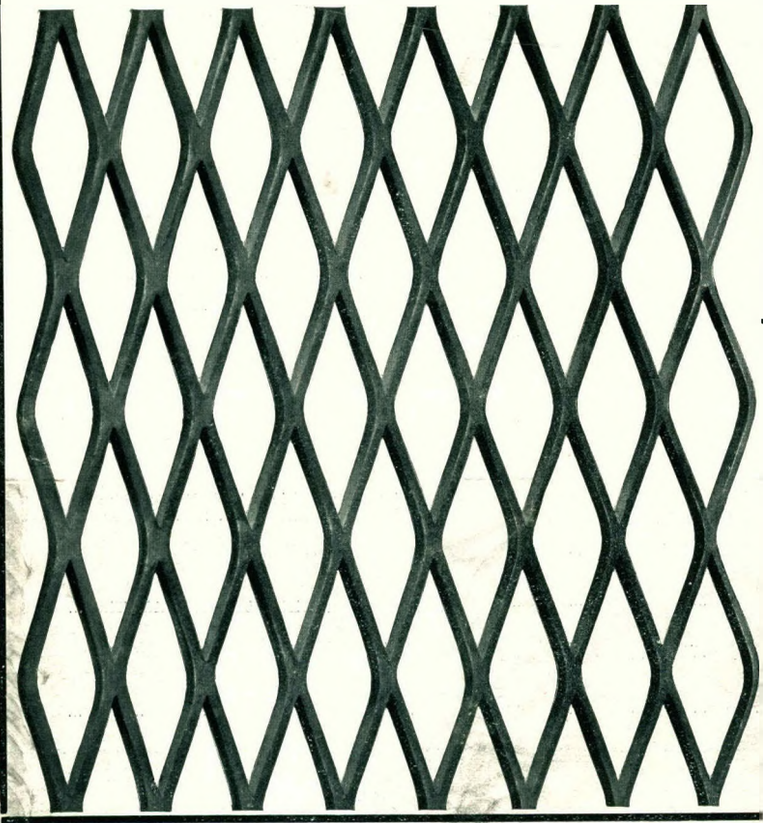
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The Lighting Problem in Evening Schools.

Difficulties of Blackboard Teaching.

The medical inspection of children in schools, though practically a new thing in Great Britain, covers a vast amount of public work now being carried on all over the Home country, in testing and safeguarding the mental and physical capacity of the pupils and their fitness to benefit by school education. In a Blue Book recently issued by the Board of Education for the United Kingdom, the Chief Medical Officer to the Board, Sir George Newman, presents his annual report for 1912, largely dealing with the many aspects of this important question. There is an interesting section of the report which, though presented mainly in connection with day schools, has its principal bearing upon the work of students in evening classes. It deals with "defective vision" primarily, and in it there is incorporated a special "Report on the Artificial Lighting of Schools," containing many points of vital concern in the planning of evening schools. Sir George Newman, after showing that an enormous advance has been made in regard both to the natural and artificial lighting of schools during the last few years, mentions some striking points about the conditions which should prevail in schools and classrooms where artificial lighting has to be used. He quotes from the last report by Dr. Kerr on the schools of London, showing that in 1906-8, of 1,000 schools, 68.5 per cent. were classed as good, and 22 per cent. bad, in respect of lighting, and that in 1909-10 the 22 per cent. of bad had passed over into the fair or good categories. Sir George Newman adds that: "The Board's Medical Department have from the outset pointed out the injurious effects of deficient lighting, and by inspection of plans, advice and requirement have continuously drawn attention to the importance of proper illumination."

Minimum Light for Clerical Work.

The Illuminating Engineering Society, of which Professor Sylvanus Thompson is president, appointed a Special Committee to investigate artificial lighting conditions, and the Committee's findings are here reproduced by Sir George Newman.

Taking the unit of illumination as the amount of light afforded by one standard candle at a distance of one foot, the committee say that "for ordinary clerical work (reading and writing, etc.) the minimum of illumination, measured at any desk where the light is required, should not fall below two foot-candles." That is, two candles at a distance of a foot. Applying this standard to the class-room, the committee say: "That whereas the minimum illumination suggested for reading purposes might be enough in the case of a small class-room, where white chalk is mainly used, and no students are further than twenty feet from the blackboard, a higher value would in general be necessary in the case of larger rooms, and on boards where it is customary to use diagrams in coloured chalk. The Committee consider that an illumination on the blackboard about 60 per cent. in excess of that prevailing in the rest of the room is desirable."

What the Student sees on the Blackboard.

The Committee add these pertinent observations:—"As a rule it would be necessary for the illumination on the blackboard to be carried out by special local lighting from lamps equipped with opaque screens, completely concealing them from the eyes of the student. The nature of the surface of the blackboard is also of importance. This should be maintained a dead black, sensibly free from regular reflection, so that the maximum contrast between the white chalk and the blackboard may be available, and so that there may be no glare due to reflection from polished surfaces. The blackboard should be re-painted at regular intervals."

We are told that anyone who has attended an evening class, where only the worn, polished surfaces of the day school blackboards were available, will appreciate the above.

The committee continues: "A point of special importance in connection with school-room lighting is the avoidance of glare from the sources of light, and the committee desire to emphasise the value of proper methods of shading. It is a common defect in school-rooms for the bare mantles or filaments to be within the range of vision of the students when looking towards the blackboard. The committee recommend that no lamps should come within the solid angle subtended at the eye by the blackboard and a space of two feet above it, unless they are completely screened from the eye by a shade impervious to light. In general it is desirable that no incandescent surface should be visible to the eyes of the students or teachers while carrying on their ordinary work."

Many a teacher is aware of the troubles of the old, shiny grey, so-called blackboard, but there are many who cannot realise the disturbing effect of "glare" upon the students, until they make the practical test of judging from the point of view of the students as they sit at their desks, both in the centre and from the extreme edges of the side seats.

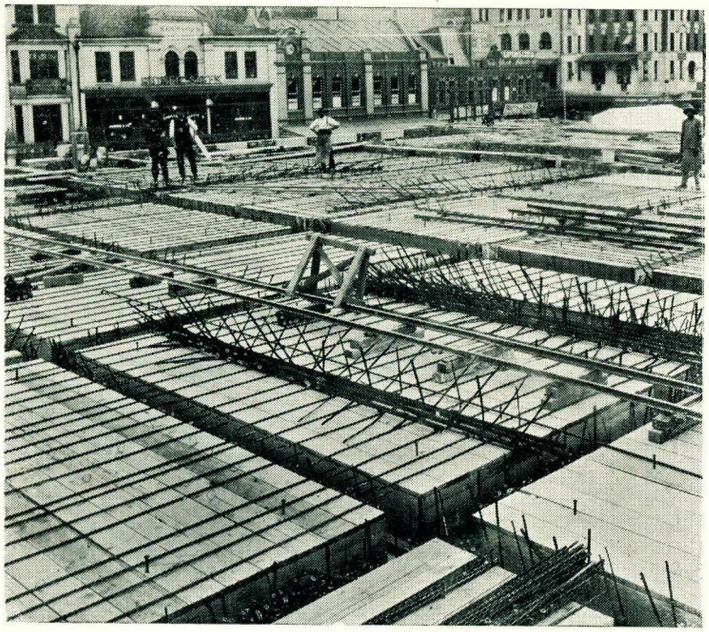
Among other collateral points dealt with by the committee is the importance of so arranging the lighting as to avoid the casting of inconvenient shadows by the body on to the desk. Not only in London is the artificial lighting of class-rooms receiving greater attention, for the Committee mention that in not a few of the provincial areas "the same policy has inspired many of the authorities," and that "vigorous action has been taken to improve both the natural and artificial lighting." "In Cheshire, Lincolnshire (Lindsey), Cumberland and other districts valuable inquiries have been made into this subject." Architects, as well as school teachers and students, have very much to gain from such investigations.

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A JOURNAL DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS
OF THE ARCHITECTURAL PROFESSION
IN SOUTH AFRICA

PROPRIETOR AND RESPONSIBLE EDITOR — JAS. T. BROWN

VOL. 4. NO. 4. — SEPTEMBER 1914. — 10/6 PER ANNUM, POST FREE

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE SOCIETY OF ARCHITECTS

(SOUTH AFRICAN BRANCH.)

JOHANNESBURG,
September 18th, 1914.

NOMINATIONS.

TO THE MEMBERS,

The Council, in accordance with the usual custom, submits the following list of nominations for the election of a Council for the ensuing year, 1914-15. Should you wish to make any further nominations, I shall be glad if you will kindly forward them, to reach me not later than noon on Tuesday, the 29th September next.

Yours faithfully,
D. IVOR LEWIS,
Hon. Secretary.

	NOMINATIONS. 1914-15.	RETIRING COUNCIL. 1913-14.
President:	Mr. D. Ivor Lewis.	Mr. G. W. Nicolay.
Vice-President:	Mr. W. J. McWilliams.	Mr. C. H. Stott.
Hon. Secretary:	Mr. S. C. Dowsett.	Mr. D. Ivor Lewis.
Hon. Treasurer:	Mr. D. M. Burton.	Mr. S. C. Dowsett.
Council:	Mr. M. J. Harris, Mr. H. G. Veale, Mr. J. F. Beardwood, Mr. G. W. Nicolay (*ex-officio*).	Mr. J. F. Beardwood, Mr. D. M. Burton, Mr. M. J. Harris (*ex-officio*).

NOTE.—At the Seventh Annual Meeting of the Branch, held at 5 p.m. on the 20th October, 1913, at the Board Room of the Association of Transvaal Architects, it was resolved: "That in view of the increase in the number of members of the Branch to increase the number of members of the Council by one," hence the increase in the number of the Council.

RETIRING PRESIDENT'S REPORT.

SESSION 1913-1914.

GENTLEMEN,

The year 1913-14 of the South African Branch of the Society of Architects is now at its close. It has been one of political and social trouble. It has been marked by an all-round reduction of architectural output, and of great difficulty to the less fortunate of the profession. Beginning under the gloom of trades unrest and warfare, it has culminated in strife among the great nations of the world. But while political and private interests convulse the civilisation of the world, the working people (and the members of this Society may justly claim to be of their number and fellowship) continue, even while the storm is raging, the prosecution of their duties and attention to their interests. Accordingly the South African Branch of the Society of Architects, in closest sympathy with the parent body, have been occupied in watching and, as far as its opportunities allowed, of making use of the happenings about its sphere of influence. In one quarter the representatives of the Society have suffered a slight temporary set-back. The Association of Transvaal Architects (this being the registering body) is represented on its Council by one less than last year; the immediate result of the difference of opinion held by members as to the draft Registration Bill put forward last year. We are not in possession, at present, of the alternative proposals, but we trust that a way will be found to enable the members of the Branch to come to united action in the future. The competition for the proposed Governor-General's house at Capetown, though most unfortunate in many ways to the interests of the profession, has led by a stormy passage to the formation of an Advisory Board, which the Minister of Works has expressed his willingness to consult at such times as the Government may consider advisable, and the representatives of the Branch may, I believe, be congratulated on their work in this connection, and our representatives on the Board, namely, myself and Mr. M. J. Harris, will do what we can to forward the interests of the Society of Architects

on that Board. These interests being simply stated, the interests of every member of the profession, and in this will follow loyally the great lead of the parent Society with regard to registration. The builders of the Union of South Africa are making a strong move towards the reduction of architectural practice so far as documents are concerned to uniformity. The Council, while realising the difficulty of making, say, a uniform agreement applicable to all men, contracts and circumstances, support the movement with a whole heart, believing that if practicable it will be a great boon to building work in general. Your Branch is represented on the Committee, and trusts that useful results will follow. The South African School of Mines, having at a pecuniary loss conducted classes for Construction, Design and Architectural History, have not met with the response we hoped would repay their efforts. The classes have not been well attended, and the examinations have not had very encouraging results. The Council of the South African Branch of the Society of Architects has received a suggestion that prizes would encourage students and stimulate enthusiasm, and has expressed its willingness to consider most favourably the expenditure of money for this object next year. The present year's work at the School of Mines is now approaching its end.

In connection with the deplorable war now depleting Europe, the claims of the Prince of Wales', Governor-General's, and Belgian War Funds have properly been brought to the notice of the Council, and it has been resolved that the Architects of South Africa should combine in so important a matter. The Branch will contribute £20 (Twenty pounds) to the three Funds previously mentioned, to be allocated as may be thought best by the Council of the Branch, provided the other architectural bodies will give a similar amount. It must not, however, be supposed that the donation of the Branch depends entirely on this combination.

The Branch may be, I am sure, congratulated on its maintaining a steady increase of membership. During the past year we had eleven new members added to the Roll, and three additional students.

Referring to the Hon. Treasurer's statement, it will be found that the Branch is now in a flourishing condition financially. The members of the Council have worked as aforetime in most cordial relations with one another. The attendance has been regular, and the interest in the various matters before it maintained at a high level. All have worked with enthusiasm. Thanks are given to Mr. D. Ivor Lewis for the excellent manner in which he has carried out the Secretarial duties, and also to Mr. S. C. Dowsett, who combined the Secretary's duties with his proper

work as Treasurer during Mr. Lewis' absence in England. During Mr. S. C. Dowsett's absence in the Colony, Mr. E. H. Waugh (whose interest in the Branch is unabated) took up the duties of both offices, and I only mention this as confirming the sympathetic work of the Committee, though very glad of the opportunity of bearing witness to their support and encouragement.

I beg most heartily to thank the Officers of the Branch and members of the retiring Council for their disinterested and constant work for the Branch, and conclude by wishing success to the incoming Officers and Council.

G. W. NICOLAY,
President.

Mr. D. IVOR LEWIS.

The newly-elected President of the South African Branch of the Society of Architects (London). He is a member of the Council, Transvaal Institute of Architects, a member of the Royal Sanitary Institute, a member of the Concrete Institute, and has acted as Examiner in two subjects, viz., Architectural History and Practice, on the Examining Board of the South African Branch, Society of Architects (London). Mr. Lewis is also a past President of the Witwatersrand Cambrian Society, and a past member of the Council of the Association of Transvaal Architects.

Mr. Ivor Lewis was born in the year 1876 at Machen, near Newport, Monmouthshire, England, and, after receiving his education at public schools and colleges, he was articled for five years to the firm of Messrs. Wm. Graham, Hitchcox & Co., Architects and Surveyors, of Newport, Monmouthshire. Mr. Lewis remained with this firm for about seven years.

Mr. Lewis emigrated to this country in the year 1902, and obtained the appointment of Chief Architect in the Town Engineer's Department of the Municipal Council of Johannesburg, which position he occupied for a period of nearly six years. During the time he occupied this position he was entrusted with the preparation of the designs and supervision of works under the late Town Engineer, Mr. D. C. Leitch, M.Inst. C.E., and the present Town Engineer, Mr. G. S. Burt Andrews, M.Inst.C.E., amounting approximately to £1,000,000 (One million pounds sterling), the works being of a most miscellaneous character. Mr.

Lewis resigned the position of Chief Architect in the Town Engineer's Department of the Municipal Council of Johannesburg about six years ago, and entered private practice in Johannesburg, where he has been practising for the past six years, in addition to being on the technical staff of Messrs. Wm. Hosken & Co. The class of work that he is chiefly engaged upon is designing and supervising the erection of buildings of the domestic class, and other structures of steel construction as now in use on the various mines. Mr. Lewis, for the past three years, has acted as Hon. Secretary to the South African Branch of the Society of Architects, and during last year acted as one of the Hon. Secretaries in connection with the very successful Congress held under the auspices of the Royal Sanitary Institute at Johannesburg.

Mr. D. Ivor Lewis has been asked by an influential deputation to stand for the Municipal Council elections at Johannesburg, which are to take place on the 28th October next. It has been felt that with Mr. Lewis' large knowledge of Municipal matters, that he would prove of the greatest service on the Town Council. Mr. Lewis has agreed to offer himself for election, and hopes to be nominated for Ward 2—this being the ward in which Mr. Lewis resides. All fellow Architects wish Mr. Lewis every success in the forthcoming elections.

MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS.

Amongst the candidates for Municipal honours at the forthcoming elections in Johannesburg are Mr. Waterson (of Messrs. Waterson & Veale), Mr. John Moffat, and Mr. D. Ivor Lewis. These gentlemen are to be asked one question at least by the representatives of the Master Builders—"Are you in favour of departmental work?" A reply in the negative will secure quite a number of votes.

THE WAR AND ITS EFFECT ON THE ARCHITECTURAL PROFESSION.

Than members of the profession in South Africa, probably no other body of men have felt so rapidly the effect of the war. Building contracts that had been signed for prior to the outbreak of hostilities, of course, went on, but proposed

building schemes vanished into thin air—held over until peace, which means indefinitely! The confidence of the public was, of course, shattered by the announcement of the intention of the Government to suspend Public Works services, but the resumption of these would in all probability inspire much private work. It was announced a week or two ago that the Cape was lucky, inasmuch as practically the whole building programme on the Provincial estimates was to be proceeded with. Architects in the Cape Colony are also lucky in this respect, because they are entrusted with the designing and carrying out of quite a considerable number of schools and other Government buildings. Because of this and that the work was well advanced is the Cape lucky, and we believe that architects in other Provinces wished that the same had applied to themselves. Anyhow, the vast majority of architects, unless the war comes to a speedy conclusion, are in for a very lean time.

UNIFORM CONDITIONS OF CONTRACT.

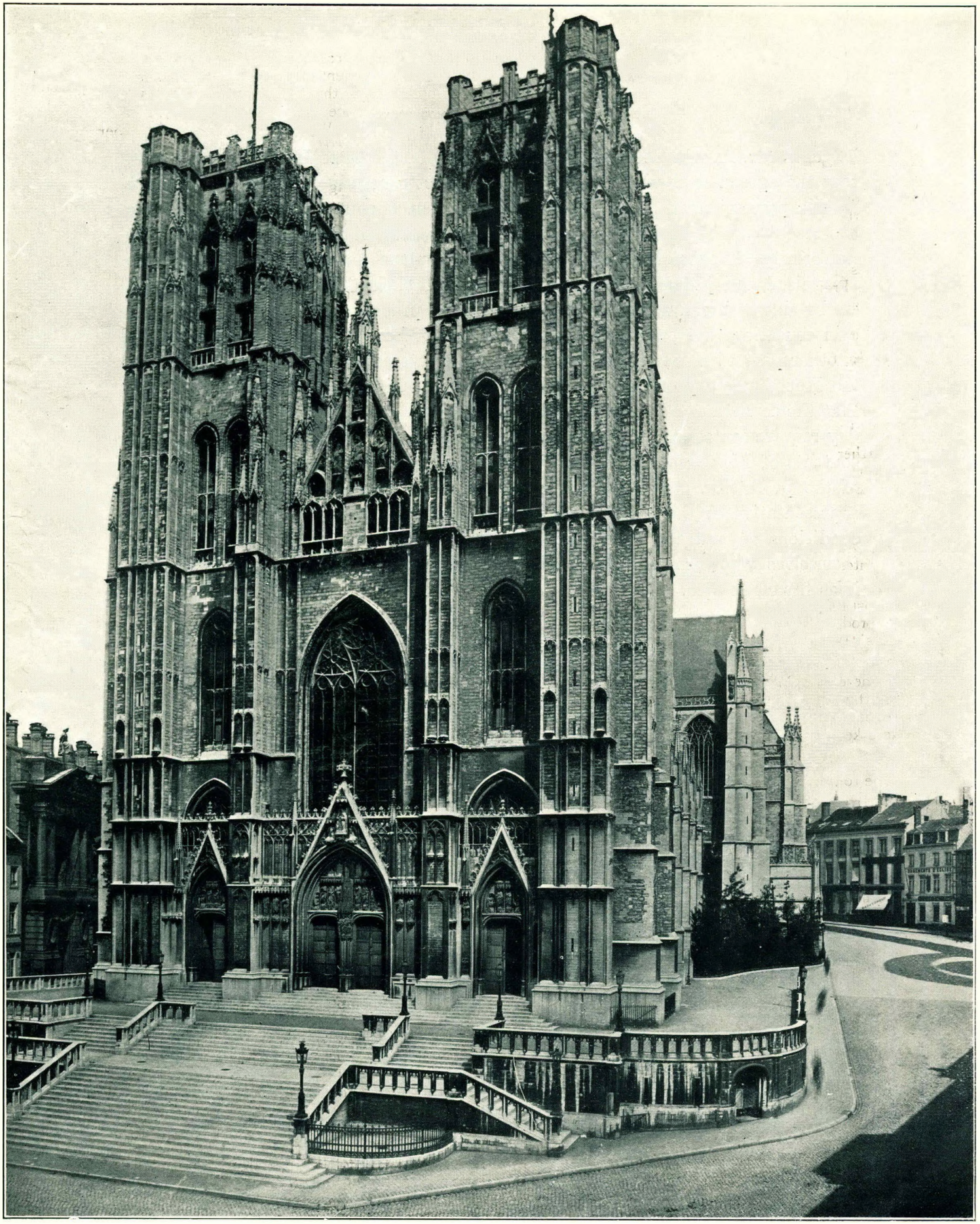
The address of Mr. G. W. Nicolay, the retiring President of the South African Branch of the Society of Architects (London), has an interesting reference to the proposal of the master builders that a uniform set of conditions of contract should be adopted by the members of the various Institutes of Architects in South Africa. While being in entire agreement with the suggestion, we nevertheless recognise the difficulty of bringing this about. It is now something like ten years ago that steps were taken in Natal to bring into existence conditions which would apply throughout that Colony, and our mind goes back to the long series of meetings, extending well into three years, before the document finally received the approval of the Natal Institute and the Federation of Builders. These conditions were based primarily on those of the Institute of British Architects, and from time to time, as the negotiations proceeded, the Durban builders submitted the results of their negotiations to their confreres in the Transvaal and the Cape Colony, so that it may be said the conditions of contract operating distinctly and separately in the Provinces of South Africa to-day are based on practically the same lines. The proposal of the builders now is to put them all in the melting pot and produce an entirely new document made up of what is best in each. Now, having experience of the trouble that was gone to in securing the present conditions, being aware of the difficulty of even yet, in many instances, getting the prevailing conditions used on contracts, we are not to minimise the task which the master builders of South Africa have laid down. It is common know-

ledge, as Mr. Austin Cooke, the Hon. Secretary of the Cape Institute, points out, that the agreed-on conditions of contract are not generally observed, for we have in our possession at least half-a-dozen different documents in use by private architects. And, notwithstanding the immediate truth of the strongest plea for uniformity—*i.e.*, the creation of conditions of contract that would, in law, become recognised and judgments obtained thereon establish workable precedents—will we be able to break down that conservatism of practising architects that their own conditions are good enough and have never been the cause of trouble. In another part of this issue will be read a most interesting letter from Mr. Chick, the Hon. Secretary of the Natal Institute of Architects, from which we gather that the conditions of ten years ago in Natal have been amended to suit present-day requirements, and have been "revised so as to make each clause legal." The contents of Mr. Chick's letter we will, in the meanwhile, commend to members of the profession generally, for it has yet to be considered by the gentlemen representative of the various bodies concerned in the work of drafting the conditions of contract. We only trust that architects and builders will throw themselves wholeheartedly into the proposal, otherwise the desired uniformity is as far off as ever.

A USEFUL PUBLICATION.

Laite's Commercial Blue Book for South Africa.

Mr. W. J. Laite, editor of our well-known contemporary journal, "The S.A. Commerce and Manufacturers' Record," has rendered commercial men generally commendable service in publishing the above "Blue-book." It is, as the cover denotes, a practical and comprehensive book of reference on South African trade, and for even the smallest business house is a necessary equipment to the office. The Blue-book, briefly, embraces the most important details concerning our trade and commerce, statistics which must have entailed enormous and laborious work in collecting and tabulating into concise form, and, as we have already said, the compilation should find a place in every office and library in South Africa. We heartily commend the Blue-Book to our readers, and hope that Mr. Laite is reaping the fruits of his labours in big sales that he deserves. It may be obtained for the modest sum of 3s. 6d. on application to S.A. Publishers, Cape-town, or orders sent to this office will receive attention.



THE CHURCH OF STE. MICHEL ET STE. GUDULE, BRUSSELS.

The Church of Ste. Michel et Ste. Gudule is situated on the slope leading to the upper parts of the town of Brussels. The church was begun about the year 1220, while part of the choir, the transept, the nave, and the south aisle were completed in 1273. The north aisle and vaulting and the windows of the nave were constructed towards 1350 and 1450. The windows of the transept and the towers, each 226 feet high, date from the end of the 15th century. The large north Chapel of the Sacrament from 1543-39. The south Chapel of Notre Dame de Déliverance from 1649-53. A facade, approached by a modern flight of steps, resembles in its features rather the German than the French Gothic style. The interior is of simple but noble proportions and measures 354 feet in length by 164 feet in breadth. The nave rests on 12 round pillars and six piers strengthened by buttresses, the choir on ten round columns.

Uniform Conditions of Contract.

Further correspondence has passed between the Cape and Natal Institutes of Architects and the Master Builders' Federation with reference to drawing up a uniform Condition of Contract for South Africa.

Mr. Austin Cooke, Secretary of the Cape Institute, writes as follows:—

"As requested in yours of the 5th inst., I send by same post three copies of 'Conditions of Contract,' the joint production of the C.I.A. and the Master Builders' Association issued in March, 1908, for three years.

"These conditions were not binding, and in fact were little used until recently. The Cape School Board has adopted them for all their work, and the printers keep them on sale.'

The following letter came from Mr. Chick, Secretary of the Natal Institute:—

"Your letter of the 5th ult. was received too late for the last Council meeting, but was put before them to-day, and I was duly instructed to reply to you as follows:

"The Council of the Natal Institute of Architects is in favour of having contract conditions for general use throughout the various Provinces if one can be arranged to meet all general requirements, and that also command the confidence of the Building public and of the Contractors.

"To be in a position to command this confidence the contract conditions must be more than a merely nominal set guiding the progress of the various activities concerned during the progress and completion of the work, and should also be a legal document whose conditions are not easily evaded by either of the contracting parties.

"The one essential feature that should be kept in view is the independence of the Architect, so that matters left to his judgment and control should be free from all bias.

"Regarding the formation of the Committee to go into this matter: If it is intended that the members invited to be present at the meeting held on the 31st July should form the Committee, we are afraid you will find in practice that the numbers will make progress very slow. We are speaking from experience gained in revising the contract form in existence in Natal.

"Might we suggest that a small Committee, say of three, be appointed to study the clauses of the conditions, and submit a draft of the resultant document to the various Institutes, etc., who will in turn discuss any variation from their respective existing official contract forms and agree, or otherwise, with the amendments suggested, and delegate two of their number to meet at a central place to discuss, and, if possible, finally agree upon all outstanding matters.

"It will be quite impossible to discuss the proposed set of conditions, and thoroughly settle all difficult questions involved, without expending a very considerable amount of time, and it would be impossible for us to obtain suitable delegates to give so much of their time, and it would also be impossible to nominate two local representatives, as their views on all points would be unknown to us.

"As requested, we are sending you three copies of the contract form used by the Natal Institute of Architects, which has been recently revised so as to make each clause legal. In doing this the best legal advice obtainable has been secured.

"We have received a letter from the President of the Transvaal Institute of Architects *re* this matter, and are sending a copy of this letter to him."

"Competitions"—and other Forms of Gambling.

Architectural competitions—a perennial subject of controversy—are being denounced and defended again in an extensive newspaper correspondence—this time in the "Manchester Guardian," and with reference to the Manchester Royal Exchange. Our old familiar friend "Fair Play" (a formidable rival to the redoubtable Mr. Algernon Ashton), having referred to architectural competitions as "a gamble," Mr. William Affleck contends that, on the contrary, an architectural competition is one of brains and ability, precisely like a contest to be First Wrangler, and he refers to the plans of the Manchester Assize Courts, the Technical School, the Welsh National Library, the London County Hall, and the Wesleyan Hall, Westminster, as exemplifying the sweet uses of competition in enabling "some of our best men to come to the front and to work out plans of exceptional merit which otherwise would never have seen the light." One would have thought all this to be res judicata; but a correspondent signing himself "Architect" refuses point-blank to accept "this 'game-of-skill' line of argument as a cloak to cover the evil effects of lotteries and other forms of gambling." He seems to think that the seekers after fame are viciously speculating in futures! So far as we are concerned, the "lotteries-and-other-forms-of-gambling" line of argument closes the controversy.

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Indian Architecture.

Four questions have been put by Mr. King in the House of Commons to the Secretary of State for India on the subject of Indian architecture. They were: (1) If he was aware that a certificate of an Indian engineering college was required from persons seeking appointments as building experts under district boards; whether these engineering colleges or the architectural section of the Bombay School of Art provided theoretical or practical instruction in the traditional building craft of India, or had any teachers on their staffs who had studied the subject and were qualified to give instruction in it; and, if not, whether the Secretary of State or the Government of India would consider the desirability of ensuring greater efficiency in this respect. (2) If his attention had been drawn to the fact that a fine mosque, larger than Shah Jahan's great mosque at Delhi, and considered by expert authority to be better in design than the latter, was now being built at Bhopal entirely by master builders using traditional Indian methods; whether it was stated, in an official reply to a petition presented to the Secretary of State, urging the employment of Indian methods of buildings at the new Delhi, that such methods had long ceased to be applicable to works of any magnitude; and whether the Government of India considered it expedient that master builders of such capacity should be barred from municipal employment of over 50 rupees per month for want of a certificate from a Government engineering college. (3) Whether the European architectural experts of the Public Works Department, appointed by the Secretary of State to advise ths supreme and local governments, were given sufficient opportunities for acquainting themselves practically with Indian building craft upon the sites of buildings, or whether they were chiefly occupied in the preparation of drawings to be used as patterns by Indian craftsmen, and, in the latter case, whether the Government would call upon their experts for suggestions for improving the system. (4) If he had noted that the Report on Modern Architecture, published last year by the Government of India, revealed the fact that Indian master builders working independently of the Public Works Department generally showed much greater power for original work and a higher standard of technical skill than those employed by the department; and whether the Government of India would investigate carefully the reasons for the deterioration of native craftsmanship, and especially to what extent this was due to the conditions and methods of departmental building in India.

Mr. C. Roberts, Under-Secretary of State for India, replied that the first question presumably referred to the rule in force in the Madras Presidency, directing that, except with the express sanction of Government, no one should be appointed as an assistant engineer to a district board unless he had a University degree of B.E. or an engineering college certificate in engineering. The duties of a district board engineer were largely concerned with roads and bridges, and a rule requiring evidence of training as a civil engineer was of obvious expediency. The Secretary of State was not informed as to the extent to which instructions in the traditional building craft of India was given, but it might be assumed that the matter had not been overlooked. With regard to the second question, the Secretary of State did not feel in a position to commit himself on the architectural merits of the mosque referred to. As to the third question, the Consulting Architects to the Indian Government were employed to carry out the usual functions of architects, and the Secretary of State had no reason to doubt that they were given sufficient opportunities of the kind suggested. He did not propose to address the Government of India on the subject. In reply to the last question, the Secretary of State was unable to associate himself with Mr. King in the inference he drew from the Report on Modern Architecture. The matter was merely one of opinion. The encouragement of Indian craftsmen and their more extensive employment on Government buildings were objects which the Government of India desired to further in any way they could.

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The Qualified Architect.

There is surely no calling which demands so many qualifications and such wide and varied knowledge as that of the architect. Of course, the calling does not always get what it demands. But to be really efficient would appear to involve so much that, after reading a summary of the architect's qualifications, one may well ask, "Who is sufficient for these things?" Here is a statement of the qualifications as given by the "Irish Architect and Builder" in a recent article: –

The qualified architect (says the writer) must know more about bricklaying than a bricklayer, more about plumbing than a plumber, and, indeed, more about building than a builder. We dont suggest that he should be able to go on a scaffold and lay 100 bricks a day more than the best man on the job, nor that he should be able to wipe a joint, nor, again, that he should be able to keep a builder's wage and time-sheets and conduct his business for him; but when an architect goes on to his job he is boss, and to be boss he must have the knowledge enabling him to find out mistakes and show how to correct them. These are only a few instances, but it must be evident that we are not far astray in suggesting that a qualified architect needs to know other people's business in addition to his own.

He must know more about other people's business than they do themselves. Let us qualify this statement by examples. He should be able to tell a lady client how to run her house more economically, by labour-saving devices, short cuts, up-to-date fittings, and good planning. He should be able to improve the business of a draper by showing him new methods of displaying his stock-in-trade, or devices for constructive genius. He must know all about building materials, their adaptability and their suitability, and he must have the faculty for putting them together properly for constructing the building. This one branch of knowledge is of extraordinary far-reaching effect; it carries with it the necessity for a knowledge of minerals, timbers, and so forth, not merely as stone and metal and wood, but as chemical constituents acting and reacting internally and externally; they have to be combined, and the effect of one upon another must be calculated and foreseen. He must be constructive in that the materials he deals with should be so put together that each part will give out its full value and be protected in its vital parts.

He must be an artist. By this we do not mean that he must be able to paint pictures or carve statues; but that he must possess a true knowledge of artistic proportions, and sufficient ability with the pencil or brush to enable him to convey his instructions and wishes to the builder, painter or sculptor.

The highly qualified architect must have a smattering knowledge of the law in general, and of building law in particular. He cannot practise as a lawyer, but still it devolves on him very often to know the law so far as to keep his client from getting into legal trouble. The city architect, in especial, must be fully conversant with the laws of easements and of light and air, and he must keep his client straight in the drawing up of contract agreements, etc. He must have a considerable knowledge of sanitary engineering, ventilation, heating and lighting, and now-a-days these few words represent a desperate lot of study. To be sure, some of these branches of building are done by specialists very often, but a small building will not "carry" more than one professional man, and the architect must know, at all events, sufficient to be able to specify all but large works of this nature; and in every case he must know sufficient of these engineering matters to be able to make proper provision for them in his designs.

Finally we are told that the foregoing are only some of the architect's qualifications. Evidently the shortest way of stating the matter would be to give a list of the things with which the architect need not concern himself.

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Mixed Colours.

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Exquisite tint, most lovesome blue,
Seen at thy best in cloudless skies,
Or in the yet more heavenly hue
Of my adored Amanda's eyes,
I fain would speak for thee a word or two.

Why should we say, forsooth, that he
Whose love is false, whose cash is spent,
Whom chill winds of adversity
Have left rheumatic, crippled, bent,
Is looking blue—the tint of ecstacy?

Science speaks true who saith that green
Best typifies all human woe.
Upon the landsman's face 'tis seen
When ocean winds do rudely blow
And o'er the rail his stricken frame doth lean.

Yet, when I think, I must confess
The champion's smitten orb displays
Cerulean unloveliness
And, upon chilly winter days,
Noses grow blue to beauty's sore distress.

While green is still the hue of spring,
Of innocence that is not "fly,"
And so, although I meant to sing
In praise of blue, it seems that I
Have made a shocking muddle of the thing!

TOUCHSTONE, in the "Daily Mail."

Museum of Moslem Art.

The opening by the Heir Apparent to the Turkish Throne of a Museum of Moslem Art in Constantinople is an event of unusual interest, the exact significance of which is not immediately apparent. Museums are perhaps typical of European, not Oriental, civilisation. It is not easy to call to mind any museum founded by Oriental people on their own initiative. In all probability this one is the first. Is it to be taken as a sign of the spread of Western ideas? Those who take the view that art museums are a sign of artistic degeneracy; that a race with a vital art is more concerned with producing than with collecting works of art, more interested in the future than in the past, may be disposed to look upon this museum as a proof that the paralysis which afflicted European arts and crafts during the last century has now attacked Asiatic ones. However this may be, there is no doubt so fine a collection of the best specimens of Turkish and Persian art will be welcomed by all European students.—"The Builder."

An Equine Error.

Architects with a taste for austere simplicity in domestic building may run risks they little suspect. An architect of the ultra-simple or barbaric school once (so the story goes) built himself a little house in the country, miles away from anywhere. After he had moved in he invited a friend to visit him. The friend accepted the invitation, but found it necessary to hire a horse. After many inquiries he was at length directed to a curious-looking structure. He dismounted and rang the front door bell. When the maid opened the door the horse bolted in—thinking it was a stable.—"Illustrated Carpenter and Builder."

Education and Manure !

Dr. A. H. Fison, Secretary to the Gilchrist Educational Trust, declared at the North of England Education Conference, held recently in Bradford, that our modern systems of education, while admirably adapted for the student of fair intelligence, contained much that was fatal to the incipient genius. When we compared the great men of to-day with the great men of yesterday, it was impossible to avoid the suspicion that we were engaged in destroying genius rather than encouraging it. He was inclined to agree with those who, according to Mr. Birrell, believed that much of the money spent on education would have been better spent on artificial manure.

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New Director of British School at Athens.

At the last meeting of the Court of St. Andrews University a letter was read from Mr. A. J. B. Wace, M.A., Lecturer in Ancient History and Archæology, intimating that he has accepted the directorship of the British School of Archæology at Athens, and resigning his lectureship in the University as from the end of the current academical year. Mr. Wace stated that it will be part of his duties, as director of the School at Athens, to give, at Oxford and Cambridge in October each year, a lecture on the latest excavations by the School in Greece, and he hoped the Court would allow him to give an annual lecture at St. Andrews as well, so that his connections with the University should not be altogether broken. The Court accepted with hearty thanks Mr. Wace's proposal. Mr. Wace was a scholar and is now a Fellow of Pembroke College, Cambridge. He obtained a first-class in the Classical Tripos, Part I., 1901, and also in Part II., 1902, with special distinction in archæology. In 1902, and again in 1904, he was elected to the Prendergast Greek studentship, and in 1903 to the Craven studentship. He is a corresponding member of the Imperial German Archæological Institute.

Concrete Reinforced.

Reinforced concerete comes as a boon and a blessing to architects. Mr. W. Adamson, who is the architect in charge of the new Railway Institute now in course of erection at the bottom end of Adderley Street, found a bad foundation. There was a depth of about 17 feet of rubble deposited in reclamation work upon the sea sand. If expense had been no object he could have made a firm foundation of piles, but as the building had to be carried through within the limits of a modest vote, the expensive piles were eliminated. This is where reinforced concrete offered its services, and as the work on the pier had ceased, men skilled in reinforced concrete were available. A float floor of concrete was spread, and then a six-inch layer of concrete reinforced by large steel bars laterally and longitudinally. Upon this base are rising the columns and buttresses and main supports all in concrete reinforced by a thicket of steel rods. The concrete is mixed on the spot, and consists of one part cement, two parts sea sand, from Camps Bay, and three and a half parts crushed stone. The mild steel rods are bent to any required angle or curve by a powerful machine known as a "bender," and the walls are coming up in great style, with promise of a fine building for the Capetown railwaymen. — "Cape Times."

Business as Usual

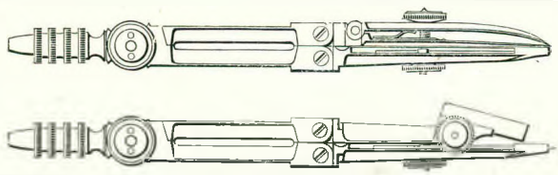
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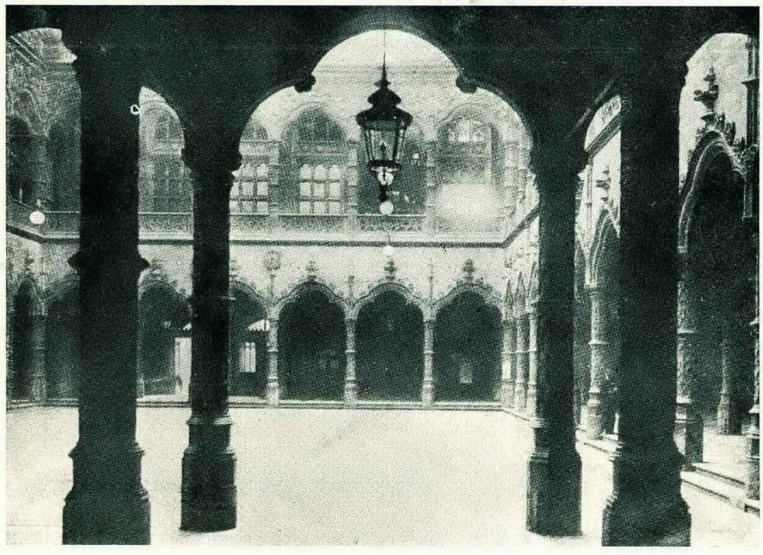
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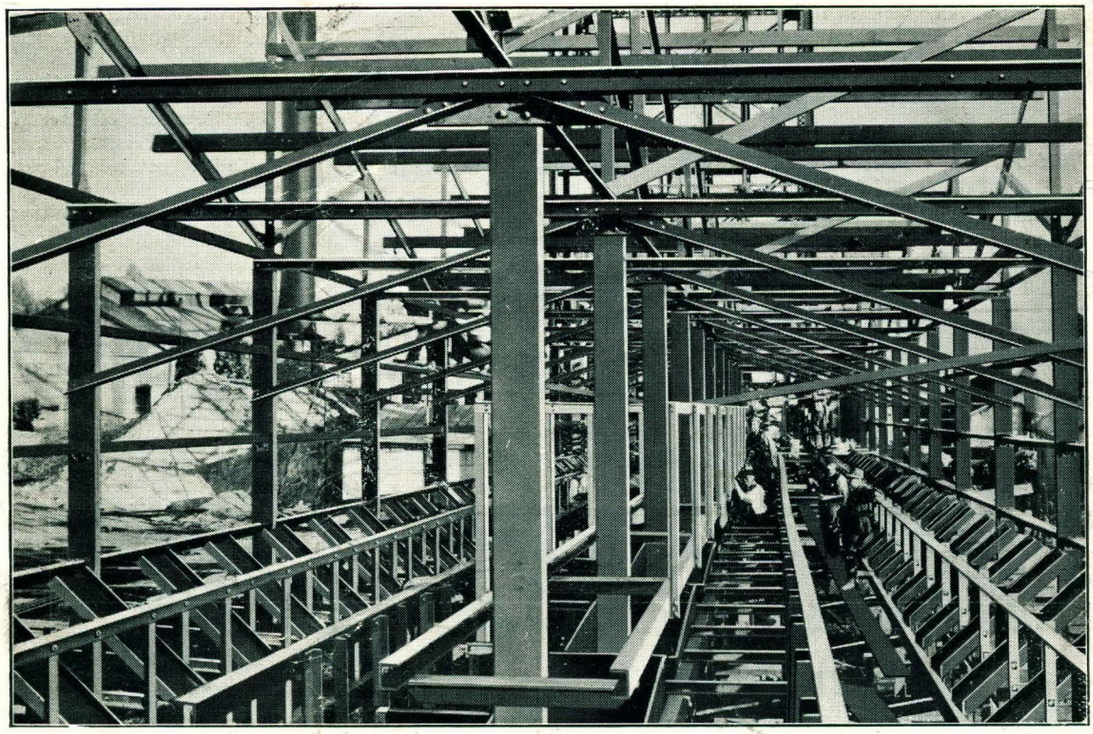
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