

SOUTH AFRICAN ARCHITECTURAL RECORD

THE JOURNAL OF THE CAPE, NATAL, ORANGE FREE STATE AND TRANSVAAL PROVINCIAL INSTITUTES
OF SOUTH AFRICAN ARCHITECTS AND THE CHAPTER OF SOUTH AFRICAN QUANTITY SURVEYORS

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EDITOR VOLUME 35

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DOCTORS' CLINIC

LOUIS BOTHA AVENUE

JOHANNESBURG

HAROLD H. LE ROITH & PARTNERS
ARCHITECTS & QUANTITY SURVEYORS



ELEVATION TO LOUIS BOTHA AVENUE; NON-EUROPEAN ENTRANCE

Since the end of the war there has been a growing tendency amongst the Medical Practitioners to establish small groups of well equipped consulting rooms in suburban centres. This trend has been especially marked in the United States of America though it is also noticeable in this country.

The building here illustrated is most probably the first of its kind in South Africa to be erected by private practitioners on so large a scale.

THE PROGRAMME

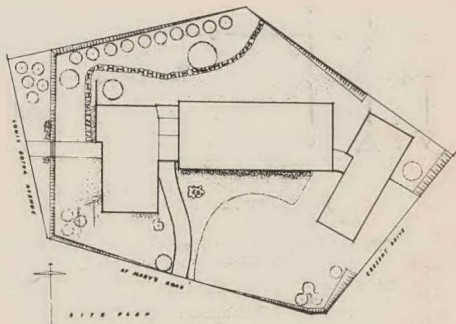
The Programme resolved itself into two main sections. The first was to provide facilities for consultations and examinations. The second was the treatment and cure of minor ailments including minor operations. Dental facilities were also to be provided. The requirements were further complicated by the necessity of providing full facilities for both Europeans and non-Europeans, a provision greatly hampered by the then existing Building Control. Furthermore, provision was to be made for an additional two floors, as well as ample area for the parking of cars. Accommodation for a resident nurse was also to be provided.

THE SOLUTION

The plan was resolved into three wings. The first was the non-European and dental wing; the second, consulting and treatment including the nurses flat, and the third was the Doctor's car-park and servants' rooms.

The Native entrance was located facing Louis Botha Avenue, while the Europeans have access from St. Mary's Road, where the car parking area is located free from interference from the heavy traffic of the main road.

Each entrance leads directly into the respective waiting rooms, controlled by a central enquiry office. On the European side, the dental surgery opens off the waiting room, and has the dental mechanics' rooms adjacent to it, as has the non-European dental surgery. The latter room faces west, and to break up the glare of the afternoon sun, a double row of small windows were provided instead of one large opening.

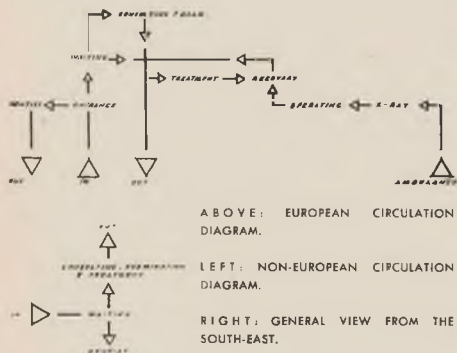
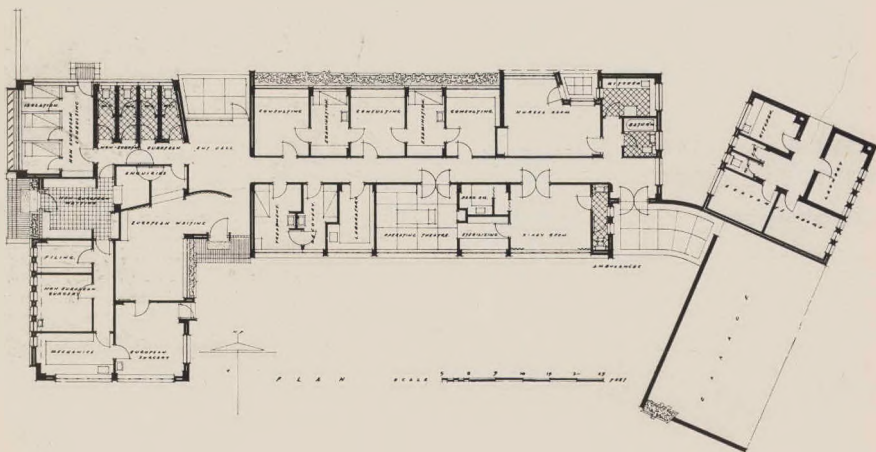




N O R T H E L E V A T I O N



S O U T H E L E V A T I O N



ABOVE: EUROPEAN CIRCULATION DIAGRAM.

LEFT: NON-EUROPEAN CIRCULATION DIAGRAM.

RIGHT: GENERAL VIEW FROM THE SOUTH-EAST.



The Doctors report that this simple device works well, allowing plenty of light for working, while largely eliminating heat and glare. In addition, this wall is painted green to cut down the contrast between the numerous small openings and the wall itself.

The Non-European consulting and treatment room is located to the north of the waiting room. This room is divided into small cubicles, one of which, serves as an isolation ward. It is here, that the large window facing West is protected from the sun by asbestos fins, placed at an angle.

The main wing of the building faces North giving good orientation to the Doctors' consulting rooms and the small examination rooms. The large glass areas here are, however, deeply recessed into the facade to allow direct sun penetration only in winter.

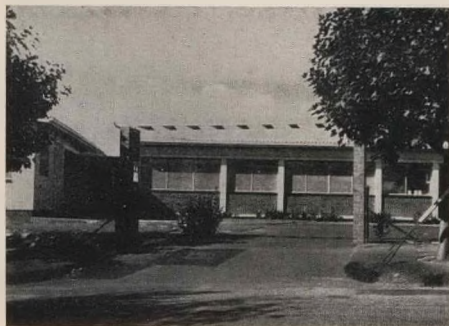
On the south of this wing are located the clinical rooms. These comprise a treatment room with much built-in electrical equipment, and interleading recovery room, a small laboratory and the main operating theatre. The sterilising room is common to both the operating room and the adjoining X-ray room. A dark room, change and recovery room lead directly off this room which is in turn located next to the ambulance entrance. The circulation diagram explains the sequence of the rooms, illustrating how the plan evolved from the various sequences of function.

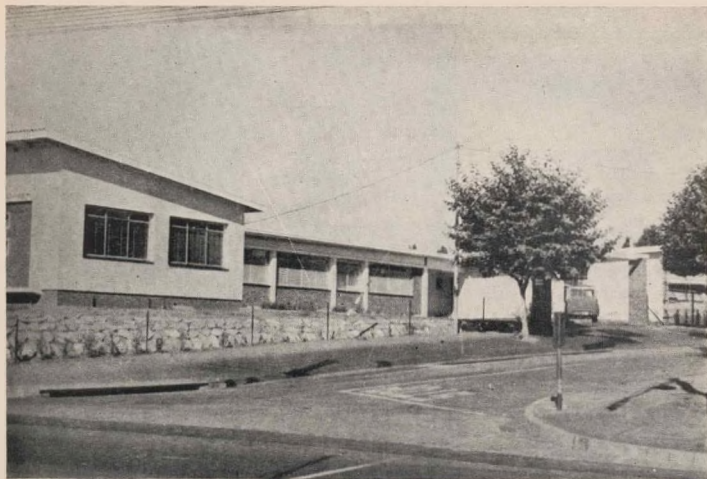
The west or service wing provides garaging for the Doctors' cars and gives them access to the building through the covered ambulance entrance. The servants' rooms, kitchen and laundry are also located in this wing.

Provision for later extensions influenced the plan a good deal, the future lifts and stairs having to be carefully located. The main stair will be added on the North of the entrance 'link' while the lift for stretcher cases will be located directly off the ambulance entrance.



EUROPEAN WAITING ROOM LOOKING TOWARDS ENQUIRY OFFICE.
WHITE TERRAZZO LINING TO OPENING IN BLUE CORRUGATED WALL.
BELOW, LEFT: SOUTH ELEVATION SEEN THROUGH ENTRANCE GATE.
BELOW, RIGHT: THE NORTH-WEST CORNER OF THE BUILDING.





CONSTRUCTION

The building is a framed structure with a concrete slab roof under the mono-pitch corrugated asbestos covering, to facilitate future additions. All the plumbing is concealed in special ducts and cavities. These carry electrical and telephone mains as well, though each is insulated from the other.

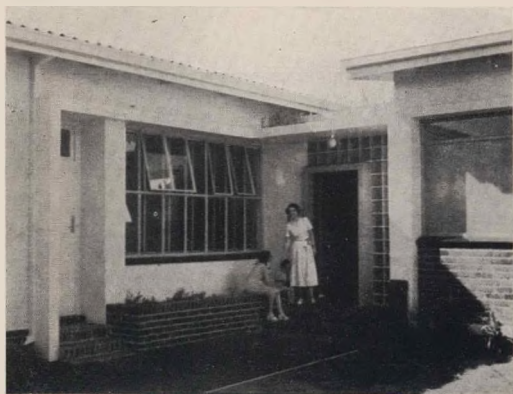
Various colours have been used internally to give the building a cheerful character. In each consulting room the built-in fittings are painted dark red with grey trim, the floor is of green linoleum, the walls are cream, and the ceilings white. All examination and clinical rooms are pale green and white.

The European waiting room has a dark blue corrugated wall at the entrance, with an opening to the enquiry office, framed in white terazzo. The long adjacent wall is a maize colour returning along the wall common with the dental surgery. The wall in which the window is located is pale pink. The ceiling is white.

In planning this building great importance was attached to the landscaping and layout of the grounds. These efforts have been amply rewarded, as the building now stands in a very pleasant, terraced garden with concentrations of poplars located at various points, all giving the building the semi-domestic character so desirable for a building of this nature.

ABOVE: GENERAL VIEW FROM THE SOUTH-WEST, ACROSS LOUIS BOTHA AVENUE.

RIGHT: THE EUROPEAN SURGERY ENTRANCE.



PHOTOGRAPHY: ILLUSTRATIONS ON PAGES 130, 131
E. ROBINOW. OTHERS: S. A. ABRAMOWITZ.

INSTITUTE OF SOUTH AFRICAN ARCHITECTS: THE CENTRAL COUNCIL

ADDRESS OF THE PRESIDENT - IN - CHIEF, Mr. S. N. TOMKIN, A.R.I.B.A., M.I.A.

The address of the President-in-Chief who does not reside at the seat of the Executive Committee must of necessity lack to a large degree the emphasis, urgency and colour of a President who is also Chairman of the Executive Committee. This lot befalls those like myself who live outside the sphere of influence, hard work and mature experience.

At this point I should like to pay tribute to the Vice-President-in-Chief, Mr. Leo Austin, who has also acted as Chairman of the Executive Committee for the past year. Mr. Austin, who lives in Pretoria, has had to make innumerable trips to Johannesburg, and has had to deal with a large number of difficult matters. To him and to members of the Executive Committee and to the numerous sub-committees, we owe a very sincere vote of thanks for their selfless devotion in the interests of our professions.

In addition, our Registrar, Mr. Lewis, whose sustained interest in our affairs is not only unending, but also quite unique, has earned once again our sincere thanks and admiration.

But despite my absence from the central seat of the Executive Committee, it is possible that after a year of office as President-in-Chief of our very treasured Institute, those in my category can still make a humble contribution to those opinions, criticisms and ambitions which punctuate the progress of our affairs.

I believe that the past year has marked a number of important events which will be dealt with elsewhere on our Agenda, and I believe that these matters have been handled by your Executive Committee, numerous sub-committees and this Council, in the manner which members have learnt to expect with the utmost conscientious care, in the interests of members, and always mindful of the dignity of our profession.

Perhaps one of the factors in the building industry in this country which requires our most serious attention is that of prevailing building costs. Our Institute, consisting as it does of Architects and Quantity Surveyors, possesses both the training and experience which not only fit us to conduct such an inquiry and analysis, but in my opinion obliges us to do so if we are to retain our leadership and status in the building industry in this country. The present critical situation has already prompted others to draw public attention to the rise in building prices. I submit that the possibility exists of this Institute, as a result of not facing up to the problem, of in fact not fulfilling what might be its proper function. That function is to unearth those deficiencies within the building industry, which our experience has taught us do exist, and where possible suggest

remedies or avenues which may be explored with possible benefit.

The cost of building in South Africa is clearly related to the general rise of commodity prices which has its origin in the sphere of international economics. Nevertheless, our local building industry does reveal a certain inefficiency on building contracts which concerns not only international influences but also the building owner, the contractor, the architect and the quantity surveyor.

I believe that some of the points which I am about to mention are the common experience of us all. On the part of the contractor, there is ample evidence of lack of organization on the job, which is a costly factor. This lack of organization can be accounted for in some ways by the difficulties of the supply of materials from almost innumerable sources, which leads to an unco-ordinated development of the progress of the work.

The method of tendering which we employ prevents the contractor from being assured of a consistent annual turnover and may in fact result in a complete lack of work or an over-burdening of his plant and organization. This, in turn, results in an unstable labour force. Bricklayers, carpenters etc. drifting from one contractor to another are unable to develop that stable outlook which is a necessity for a high grade of efficient workmanship. Frequently the contractor is called upon to tender for four or five jobs at the same time; while his organization would be quite incapable of carrying out all these contracts at one time, he is nevertheless obliged to put in prices for them all, in an effort to secure at least one of these contracts. In such a case, the majority of contractors may decide on one contract as being the best to secure with the result that the other contracts are tendered for less keenly, and the resulting prices are higher than they need have been.

Once the contract is secured, the fact that full information on the job is not always available, is a further factor which prevents the contractor from organizing his job fully.

I suggest that some of the remedies for the ills I have mentioned might lie in the raising of the standard of training of contractors and artisans. Courses in job organization, cost accounting, the analysis of contracting costs, the study of building law, building bye-laws and contract documents should all form part of the equipment of the building contractor. The training of artisans requires serious revision and I suggest that our Institute could take a greater interest in this training.

It is possible that through the Federation, times for the return of tenders could be so spaced as to prevent clashing of large jobs in the manner which I have mentioned. A building contractor with full information should be able to bind the suppliers of building materials contractually against time losses.

On the side of the Architect, I feel that he is frequently afforded insufficient time to prepare the full information on the contract. The building owner, after the sketch plan stage, withholds his instructions to proceed with the calling for tenders until he requires the building almost immediately. The architect is thus afforded minimum time for the preparation of his work which frequently results in incomplete detailing before the job commences and subsequent detailing running concurrently with the progress of the work. Specifications cannot be fully prepared and all drawings and documents thoroughly checked. The increasing complexity of building techniques together with the flood of unstandardized types of materials adds still further to the magnitude of the architect's task of supplying full and complete detailed information.

Formerly building was more leisurely. Today emphasis is on speed. Formerly buildings were far more simple than the complex buildings of today. Formerly there were far fewer types of buildings than the innumerable types of today. Formerly building standards were far higher than the average building standard of today. All these factors have necessitated the raising of the standards of education in our profession as a protection for the building public, to deal with the new complex techniques, as well as to raise our status.

These conditions give rise to a serious situation in that it becomes increasingly difficult to supply full detailed information, particularly in the case of the young under-staffed practitioner who, as a result of these problems, in some cases is tempted to drop his standards, cut his fees and provide partial services. With this as his uneasy background there is a tendency to

avoid contact with our Institute, which stands firmly for the maintenance of high standards and a high ethical code.

Forceful publicity on the part of the Institute that will effectively reach the building public is necessary to assist Architects to overcome these difficulties: difficulties the result of which are injurious not only to the practitioner but to the building public and the country's economy.

With regard to the Quantity Surveyors, I believe that the possibility exists within the present Standard System of Measurement that, while providing full legal protection to both parties to the building contract, the system is apt as a result to include certain unnecessary detail which must be priced, on however low a schedule rate, in order to comply with the law.

Some revision of the Standard System might eliminate certain costs which the experience of Quantity Surveyors has shown to be outmoded practice. I believe that the Quantity Surveyor is capable, by virtue of his training and experience, to provide an analysis of building costs which will result in the discarding of certain processes which have become accepted as standard practice in pricing, and might also reveal that good building organization not only results in bigger profits but also in cheaper building.

I put these suggestions forward rather inadequately and sketchily in the hope that they will receive serious consideration even if the end result is their complete rejection. My own belief is that it is necessary for us to devote our attention to this matter in order to satisfy ourselves that our obligations and responsibilities to the Building Industry have been honestly discharged in the interests of the community.

I have no doubt that the traditional leadership of our professions will be upheld by this Council in the future as it has so splendidly done in the past.

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES COVERING THE SESSION 1949-1950

MEMORANDUM BY THE REGISTRAR, MR. J. S. LEWIS

Mr. President-in-Chief and Gentlemen: in this paper I will endeavour not only to review the major activities of the Central Council and its Executive Committee, with here and there an expression of personal opinion, but to pave the way for discussion at the present meeting.

MEETINGS

During the year under review there were two meetings of the full Central Council, nine meetings of the Executive Committee, two Joint Meetings with representatives of the Master Builders' Associations, at one of which the Deputy Controller of Building was present, and a number of Sub-Committee meetings.

MEETINGS AWAY FROM HEADQUARTERS

The 1949 Annual Meetings of the Central Council and the Board of Education were, as you know, held at Cape Town: a gesture of appreciation and courtesy to the Cape Provincial Institute, celebrating its 50th Anniversary. Such meetings away from headquarters are costly. It is difficult to assess their value — even though what may be termed the rank and file of Members are permitted to listen to the proceedings. I can only express a personal view, that a meeting away from headquarters, say once in three or four years, is justified.

Thinking on these lines leads one naturally to the question of holding another Congress of South African Architects and

Quantity Surveyors. I think all who attended the Congress held in Durban in 1947 will agree that it was really worth while. You may wish during your present deliberations to consider holding another Congress, say in April, 1951; and if held in Johannesburg, it will be relatively inexpensive.

AMENDMENTS TO THE REGULATIONS

I think the item that has loomed most conspicuously on the professional horizon during the year has been the legalistic one of "Amendments to the Regulations". This is the tenth series of amendments found necessary in the course of twenty-two years. It may savour of the relationship with a difficult client, after your sketch plan has already been amended nine times.

On this occasion the bulk of the amendments are procedural, relating to the holding of Unprofessional Conduct Inquiries.

If I may obtrude a personal note: I do not think we should be at all dismayed by the necessity for these amendments. Nothing could be more important than the administration of justice; and those who function solely in that sphere are continuously up against the same problem. On this point an historical incident may not be out of place. Overseas, about a hundred years ago, a father and son were charged with murder, found guilty, and hanged. Some time after the execution the alleged deceased was found to be still alive. The judicial authorities then amended their procedure to provide that in subsequent murder trials the first duty of the Prosecution was to establish proof of death and the identity of the deceased.

AMENDMENTS TO THE ACT

The necessity for certain amendments to the Act still remains. But as a matter of urgency it has been felt that we should concentrate on the amendments to the Regulations.

You may at this present meeting perhaps wish to consider when you should proceed with the contemplated amendments to the Act, bearing in mind that the Union Government recently sponsored the Land Surveyors' Registration Act.

UNPROFESSIONAL CONDUCT INQUIRIES

The Central Council was notified during the year of two unprofessional conduct inquiries held by the Transvaal Provincial Institute, six by the Cape Provincial Institute and one by the Natal Provincial Institute.

I think attention should be drawn to one unusual feature under this heading: That is, one of the unprofessional conduct inquiries referred to concerns a Member of the R.I.B.A., also a Member of this Institute. The complaint was made direct to the R.I.B.A. and referred to this Institute.

BUILDING CONTROL

Building Control—like the All Blacks' tour and the Australian cricket tour—is now just another contribution to history. During the administration of Building Control, as during those two tours, there were suggestions of unfair tactics and the equivalents of unfair refereeing and "bumpers".

Well, to proceed. As to the reasons for firstly the relaxation and finally the abolition of Building Control, and, excluding political considerations, I think it may be said that the national survey undertaken by the Central Council assisted materially in that, for the first time in the history of the Building Industry in South Africa, statistical and factual data from which reliable conclusions could be drawn were presented to the Building Council authorities.

I think that the Central Council should formally record its appreciation of the services rendered by individual Architects and Quantity Surveyors throughout the country—often at personal inconvenience and sometimes in circumstances which were felt to be frustrating.

THE STANDARD FORM OF CONTRACT

Gentlemen, you will be asked at this meeting to give consideration to the necessity for amending the Standard Form of Building Contract. The importance of this document, in use as it is every day in the Building Industry, cannot be exaggerated. You will get a bird's eye view of the problems encountered, and the suggested remedies, from the minutes of a recent joint meeting with representatives of the Master Builders' Associations.

If, as suggested therein, many of the difficulties experienced are the result of what has been termed "bad practice", then it is for you, as the statesmen and legislators of the two Professions, to devise and to prescribe adequate remedies therefor.

ARCHITECTURAL COMPETITIONS

The Architectural Competition system has apparently come back to stay. During the year two major Competitions were concluded, one for new Provincial Buildings in Maritzburg, the other for the Harrismith High School. Both attracted a considerable number of competitors. One Limited Competition, for the Reading Country Club, was also concluded.

Several other Competitions, some open, some limited, will soon be under way or are still under contemplation.

I have referred especially to this item of Competitions because of the understandable keenness of our younger Architects.

CENTRAL COUNCIL FINANCES

I will not, in this Summary of Activities, go into detail with regard to our Statements of Account for the year 1949. But I feel I should utilise this opportunity of drawing attention, so as to prepare you for the detailed consideration which will follow later, to the cumulative effect of the applications made to the Central Council for financial assistance, in respect of a grant to the Natal Provincial Institute, to the Chapter, to the "Architectural Record", to the current Baker Scholar and for other educational purposes; and to the necessity for holding a second meeting of the Central Council in the reasonably near future.

Moreover, you will be asked to consider whether or not you will proceed with the issue of the next Year Book, in fairness to those Members who have joined since the middle of 1948;

and whether or not the next issue of the Year Book should include the revised Regulations. These matters warrant a full discussion by you later.

BOARD OF EDUCATION

I think, as a matter of sheer justice, priority of mention should have been given to your Board of Education, which has been called upon to deal with several matters of major importance during the year.

The creation of the University of Natal has led to the establishment of an additional Chair of Architecture and Quantity Surveying, and, with the approval of your Board, to the University of Natal being appointed by the Minister as an Examining Authority under the Act. Detailed consideration has been given by your Board to the syllabuses and regulations for the new courses.

Then the University of Pretoria, which has reached the stage of awarding its first Degrees in Architecture, has made application for complete recognition by the R.I.B.A.: that is, that the holders of the Degree in Architecture of the University of Pretoria shall be automatically eligible for election as Associates of the R.I.B.A. This application has been fully considered by the Board, on the report of a Special Inspection Committee; and, at its annual meeting two days ago, the Board agreed to recommend to the R.I.B.A. that the application be granted.

Because of a serious difficulty raised by the R.I.B.A. in conjunction with the Architects' Registration Council of the United Kingdom, your Board of Education has recommended to the South African Universities that no candidate for a part-time Diploma or Certificate in Architecture shall be awarded such Diploma or Certificate until he has satisfactorily completed a comprehensive Design Thesis.

A major matter of principle to which the Board of Education has given what may rightly be termed exhaustive consideration is the possibility of providing for five full years of instruction at a University, to be followed by twelve months of practical experience. This was not found possible, because of the wording of the Act. The Board finally agreed to recommend to the Universities that the period of academic training be extended to four and a half academic years; and that the Board is willing to accept six months' office experience during an academic year after the third, and six months during University vacations in two lots of three months.

The Board of Education has also given detailed consideration to the provision of educational facilities for students domiciled away from a University centre. This point concerns what has been known for some years as the "Certificate Course". The University of Cape Town has decided to abandon such Certificate Course, and, with effect from 1951, to start a part-time Diploma Course in Architecture, to take six years. The Board has under consideration the possibility of centralising the administration and control of Certificate students at one University, so as to have one external examination instead of four.

Finally, your Board of Education has agreed on the necessity and desirability of appointing a Permanent Inspection Committee (the personnel of which may be changed from time to time), whose duty it shall be periodically to visit and report upon the Recognised Schools of Architecture and Quantity Surveying.

ALLEGED HIGH COST OF BUILDING IN SOUTH AFRICA

To you who have expert knowledge, the publicity given to this matter in the Press in all parts of the country may seem unwarranted. But when the Administrators of our two larger Provinces (of the Transvaal and of the Cape) have made public pronouncements deploring the present high cost of building and urging that something be done, it does seem a pity that it has not been found possible for a responsible body such as this Institute to publish a considered statement at least indicative of the magnitude of the problem. I have in mind the type of statement published by the Institute in reply to Press criticisms of National Houses; and the then Minister in charge expressed his very great appreciation at being able to reply to his critics by virtue of the considered statement of a responsible body.

MEMBERSHIP

During the year under review there was a considerable accretion to the Institute's and Chapter's membership; not as high as in the preceding year, but a sufficient number to make one hope, in these difficult times, that they have been satisfactorily envired.

The geographical distribution of the new Architects is unusually interesting. The Cape Provincial Institute heads the list with 31; the Transvaal Provincial Institute on this occasion takes an honourable second place with 26; Natal has the relatively high figure of 17; and the Free State has acquired three new Members. A grand total of 77. Of these 77, 31 are Practising and 46 Salaried Members.

The Chapter has, during the year, also obtained 31 new Members: 28 Salaried and three Practising.

May I hear remark en passant that at one of the Institute's early Congresses, concern was expressed at the ever-increasing number of University students, who, it was feared, could not possibly be absorbed by the Professions, and so forth. Well, many of the then students are now successful practitioners: some of them are members of this Central Council and its Board of Education, and have rendered outstanding service to their Professions.

MISCELLANEA

Consideration of the time factor causes me now to group under the heading of "Miscellanea" other matters dealt with by the Central Council and its Executive Committee during the year: *inter alia*, National Housing; a Suggested Scale of Salaries for Architectural Staff and Students; the endeavour to obtain insurance cover for (pardon the play upon words) what is broadly known as Lateral Support; the manufacture of transfers for the Institute's seal for a special type of Notice Board

for buildings in the course of construction; the issue of the document, 'Conditions under which Architects are professionally engaged'; the preparation of propaganda pamphlets descriptive of the work of the Architect and the Quantity Surveyor, with particular reference to the Professions' "Public Enemy No. 1"—'Cost-plus'; the giving of advice to the Historic Monuments Commission; the proposed legislation in regard to Native Workers; and, lastly, the consideration of professional

matters in Territories so far afield as South-West Africa, Southern Rhodesia and Northern Rhodesia.

APPRECIATION

Finally, Gentlemen, I must say, simply but sincerely, that you have indeed been well served by your President-in-Chief, the Chairman of your Executive Committee, and their splendid team of helpers on your Executive Committee, with all of whom it has been a pleasure to work.

CHAPTER OF SOUTH AFRICAN QUANTITY SURVEYORS

EXCERPTS FROM THE ANNUAL REPORT 1949-1950

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE CHAPTER

The following is your Board's Report covering the Session 1949-1950, during which period the Board comprised the undermentioned members:—

As Practising Members:

Messrs. L. C. Austin, R. F. Bell, A. A. Bjorkman, J. W. S. Castleton, J. W. M. Clark, T. H. Louw, G. P. Quail, P. M. Roos and O. C. Venn.

As Salaried Members:

Messrs. W. J. Clyde, S. F. J. Cosser and R. J. C. Prentice.

Office Bearers for the Year:

President — Mr. T. H. Louw.

Senior Vice-President — Mr. A. A. Bjorkman.

Junior Vice-President — Mr. P. M. Roos.

THE CENTRAL COUNCIL

The following members represent the Chapter on the Central Council of the Institute and Chapter during the year:—

Mr. T. H. Louw — alternate, Mr. P. M. Roos.

Mr. L. C. Austin — alternate, Mr. A. A. Bjorkman.

Mr. R. J. C. Prentice, in his capacity as Union Government Quantity Surveyor Nominee, holds a permanent seat on the Central Council. Mr. W. J. Clyde is his alternate.

The Board of Education:

The Chapter has three representatives on the Institute's Board of Education, elected in rotation each for a period of three years:—

Mr. J. O. Quail — alternate, Mr. R. J. Louw.

Mr. G. P. Quail — alternate, Mr. O. C. Venn.

Mr. W. B. James — alternate, Mr. T. H. Louw.

BOARD MEETINGS

At time of publication of this Report eleven meetings of the 1949-1950 Board have been held, in respect of which the following is the attendance record. (Note — A twelfth meeting was held on the 9th March, 1950, attendance figures for which are not available.)

Mr. L. C. Austin	8	Mr. S. F. J. Cosser	7
Mr. R. F. Bell	10	Mr. T. H. Louw	11
Mr. A. A. Bjorkman	11	Mr. R. J. C. Prentice	5

Mr. J. W. S. Castleton	11	Mr. G. P. Quail	11
Mr. J. W. M. Clark	8	Mr. P. M. Roos	10
Mr. W. J. Clyde	11	Mr. O. C. Venn	10

MEMBERSHIP

Statutory Roll: The total membership of the Chapter, as at the end of February, 1950, is 269, classed as under:—

Practising solely as Quantity Surveyors	116
Practising in dual capacity	17
Salaried	107
Retired	27
Honorary	2
	<hr/>
	269

The total membership of the Chapter, as shown in the Statutory Roll, is 269, but attention must be drawn to the fact that five of these members come under the provisions of Regulation No. 74.

OBITUARY

It is with regret the Board records the death during the year of the members named below:—

Mr. W. G. Moffat	(No. 41)
Mr. W. Murdoch	(No. 183)
Mr. J. Veitch	(No. 310)

LOCAL COMMITTEES

The Local Committees during the Session 1949-1950 were directed by the following members:—

Cape Town:	Mr. W. B. James (Chairman).
	Mr. F. C. Harris (Vice-Chairman).
	Mr. R. H. Aitchison (Honorary Secretary).
	Mr. G. E. M. Anderson.
	Mr. H. G. Labdon.
	Mr. C. A. Smith.
	Mr. A. Wood.
Durban:	Mr. A. O. Simpson (Chairman).
	Mr. C. J. Leigh-Hunt (Honorary Secretary).
	Mr. A. D. Dunlop.
	Mr. L. Martin.
	Mr. J. W. G. Walters.

Port Elizabeth: Mr. S. C. Warren (Chairman).
 Mr. R. F. Percival (Honorary Secretary).
 Mr. P. S. McDonald.
 Mr. C. G. Rowse.

The Board takes pleasure in commenting on the invaluable work performed by the Local Committees and the great assistance rendered by them to the Board in the course of its duties in the interests of the Profession and members of the Chapter in general.

STUDENTS

A satisfactory number of students continue to register at the various Universities. Details of numbers in each grade of study for the year 1949 are given below:

	I	II	III	IV	V	(Q.S.) Cert.	(Q.S.) M.Sc.	Total
Pretoria	13	7	12	17	1	3	1	54
Cape Town	4	6	4	14	9	—	—	37
Natal	8	7	3	8	—	—	—	26
Witwatersrand	15	8	13	41	7	3	—	87
	40	28	32	80	17	6	1	204

REVISION OF STATUTORY SCALE OF FEES

In the Board's Report for last year it was reported that the Sub-Committee appointed to deal with the Revision of the Statutory Scale of Fees had completed its work.

The revised scale was approved by Central Council in March, 1949, at its meetings in Cape Town, and the document is now awaiting Ministerial sanction.

ADDRESS OF THE PRESIDENT, MR. T. H.

Ladies and Gentlemen, It is with full consciousness of the responsibility of my position here to-day that I am addressing you in a rather optimistic strain, although I hasten to add a warning that this optimism is related only to the position obtained by the Quantity Surveyor to-day in the field of building in this country.

As far as the economic position and outlook is concerned, so aptly referred to by my predecessor in his report last year, I can only repeat his warning that if the financial position deteriorates any further, we shall be among the earliest sufferers, and appeal to you to make a sincere effort to consolidate our position by giving only the best services at all times and to strive for true cohesion and mutuality. The real test of our sincerity and our ability, not only to retain our position, but also to improve it — and there is still ample room for improvement — will come in times of financial stress and hardship.

Reverting to my opening remarks, it must be conceded by anyone in regular contact with building in this country, even over the last fifteen years, that Quantity Surveying has made

QUANTITY SURVEYING EDUCATION

A memorandum setting out the Chapter's views on courses of instruction in Quantity Surveying was prepared during the period under review by the Education Sub-Committee and approved by the Board.

The memorandum was accepted by the Institute's Board of Education at its meeting in January last when it was agreed that it go forward to the various Universities.

REVISION OF THE STANDARD SYSTEM

On account of the general business of the Board in which was included many matters involving long and arduous consideration and consequent time, little progress on the work of the revision of the Standard System has been made.

THE A.S. AND T.S.

The Chapter has continued its membership of the Associated Societies and the Board has pleasure in recording its thanks to that body for the satisfactory and very efficient manner in which its secretarial duties have been performed. The Board wishes to record its sincere appreciation of the services of the staff and in particular to Messrs. A. J. Adams and J. McLaren.

The Board desires to express its grateful appreciation of the valuable services rendered by its Office Bearers, Members, and Co-opted Members who, on Sub-Committees, as representatives and as delegates, have given their time and energy so unstintingly to the interests of the Chapter and to the Profession.

CONCLUSION

The Members of the retiring Board desire to convey to members of the Chapter their good wishes for a successful Annual General Meeting and prosperity in their various activities throughout the ensuing year.

LOUW, FOR THE SESSION 1949-1950

great strides ahead. To-day it is offered as a course of training by four of our leading Universities, it is recognised as an essential service by the Government, the Railway Administration, all the Provincial Administrations and many local authorities and other bodies and it enjoys the respect of most responsible people.

In giving you a short resume of events and trends during my year of office, you will find, I think, some justification for my optimism:—

First of all there was the revised scale of fees, which, unlike its forerunner in 1939, was accepted 'in toto' by Central Council with only a few minor amendments to text. Unfortunately it was too late for the Parliamentary session last year which accounts for the delay in publication.

This is now expected in the very near future.

Then the Institute's full Board of Education has recently unanimously approved our detailed Memorandum on Quantity Surveying Education, which, with permission, attempted to obtain a change in approach, viz. from the Architectural to

the Quantity Surveying. Three of the Universities have already brought their courses into line as far as domestic considerations allowed, while the fourth is still considering it. We are sincerely grateful to those responsible at the Universities, particularly the Professors of Architecture, for their willing co-operation and assistance in this, to us, all important matter.

While on the subject of Education, I wish to draw your attention to the fact that the newly established University of Natal is instituting its own course in Quantity Surveying, a step which is heartily welcomed by the Profession. We trust that our members in Natal, and everywhere else for that matter, will continue to give every assistance to the Universities.

The Board has also succeeded in the past year in establishing new contacts for Quantity Surveying. Fruitful approaches were made, for instance, to the Electricity Supply Commission, the South African Broadcasting Corporation and one of our larger Municipalities. Other such approaches are under way or contemplated. I am very pleased to say that only last week we were offered the assistance of The Joint Practice Committee of the Transvaal Provincial Institute of Architects, the Master Builders' Associations of Witwatersrand and Pretoria and The Chapter, in any future approaches to establish the principle of quantities for builders' work.

In co-operation of this nature lies the strength of the building industry. Similar joint Committees exist on a purely voluntary basis in many of our large centres today and are doing very good work. In the Transvaal, for instance, this Committee has, amongst other matters, succeeded in bringing about a considerable modification in the builders' qualification of tenders, cleared up the position regarding hoardings and footway deposits and instituted moves to establish a standard form of tender and to bring Building Society practice into line with our own, both of which have been referred to the respective national bodies.

On the national basis I can bear witness to even greater activity and co-operation. Agreement has, for example, been reached between the Institute, The Chapter and the National Federation of Building Trade Employers in South Africa on an arrangement that will make insurance against damage resulting from the removal of Lateral Support possible, while constructive progress can be reported on the revision of the standard Contract Forms.

Furthermore, extensive amendments to the Regulations under the Act have been successfully completed, all of which should improve matters for both professions. Far-reaching changes to the Act are still under consideration. Incidentally, your Board's attempt to provide a standard form of Articles for pupils, as well as a suitably printed form of application for enrolment, has been delayed by the proposed amendments to the Act.

The Board's decision, at the suggestion of the Architects, to postpone the publication of the Chapter's booklet, intended to

enhance the position of the Quantity Surveyor, was actuated by a sincere desire on the part of both professions to stand, and act together. It is hoped that some propaganda on the lines thought of, will still come to fruition by joint action in the near future.

Excellent proof of a better understanding between the two professions can be had from the recently expressed views of Central Council and your Board respectively, viz. that Architects should not prepare bills of quantities and that Quantity Surveyors should not perform work in conjunction with non-Architects, where Architects could normally be employed. In this spirit much can still be obtained for both professions, thus eventually ensuring the full and proper use of the services of both.

The recent attempt on the part of the National Development Foundation of South Africa to organise a National Conference of all interested parties on the question of rising building costs, seems, for the present at least, to have come to grief. The Chapter was invited to play a leading role with three other organisations in this Conference. Your Board welcomed the opportunity to assist in such a vital question and believed that lasting good would have eventuated.

The ever-increasing attitude of leading Building Societies and Insurance Companies to insist on the employment of Architects and Quantity Surveyors, where large building loans are concerned, is most heartening and should not be treated carelessly. Indeed, every effort should be made by both Architects and Quantity Surveyors to assist these institutions in this attitude and to foster its development.

I must also refer to the part played by your Board during the past year regarding the question of Municipal Valuations, which was a subject of enquiry on a Provincial basis both in the Transvaal and the Cape. This part was duly reflected in the Board's minutes, but the results have not yet come to hand.

The Board was also consulted on the revision of the Technical College courses appertaining to Quantity Surveying, which should result in improvement in the training of prospective builders.

Then I am pleased to report some progress in the Board's rather bold effort to bring about the adoption of our scale of fees and our Standard System throughout Southern Africa. During the year contact was made with the East African Branch of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors in Nairobi, the Honorary Registrar of the Architects' and Quantity Surveyors' Registration Board of Northern Rhodesia, viz. Mr. T. J. Pratt a member of this Chapter, and individual Quantity Surveyors in Southern Rhodesia, while the well-known Mr. Davson of R.I.C.S. fame paid us another valued visit. The general tendency so far has been to adopt our scale of fees in preference to that of the R.I.C.S.

Inescapably I am lead to the rather delicate question of the

revision of the Standard System, at least as far as I am personally concerned as the Chairman of the responsible Sub-Committee. Apart from the co-ordination, sorting and classification of all suggestions received, which task was kindly undertaken by Mr. Venn, very little progress has been made. I do not wish to look for any excuses and am prepared to take all the blame. A useful suggestion has been made that a skeleton draft should be compiled by a single person to ensure greater uniformity and that this draft should then serve as a basis for discussion by the various trade sub-committees. This suggestion is basically good but to find the person with the time available and the ability to undertake such an onerous duty, is another matter. Personally, I believe, that the profession as a whole has been too busy in the past few years to have successfully tackled the revision of the Standard System. This, although you may not believe it, brings me to the South African Bureau of Standards, to one important aspect of which I feel I should refer, and that is the value of the Bureau's mark. I have no hesitation in saying that more advantageous use could be made of South African materials bearing this mark, which carries with it a reliable guarantee of quality.

This is a suitable opportunity for drawing your attention to the ever-increasing tendency towards specialisation in sub-contracting, which must lead to the more frequent use of provisional sums leaving less work to be measured—inevitably resulting in the Surveyor being left to produce a mere skeleton

Bill of Quantities. The consequent danger to our profession is obvious.

Before closing this address I must refer to the financial assistance from Central Council enabling coastal members of the Chapter to serve on your Board. I think you will all agree that this is a most encouraging gesture on the part of Central Council and a satisfactory conclusion to the negotiations referred to in the report of your immediate past President.

In conclusion I wish to express sincere thanks to my colleagues on the Board, local and other Committees, all of whom were always willing to give up valuable time in the interests of the Chapter, often at great inconvenience to themselves and their affairs. While on the subject, I must refer to the voluntary retirement of Mr. R. J. C. Prentice who has served on the Board without a break for twenty years during which period he was elected President on not less than five occasions, more than anyone else since the days of the Transvaal Society of Quantity Surveyors in 1905. He also served a long time on Central Council and was elected President-in-Chief of the Institute in 1938-39. Mr. Prentice's guidance over the years has been invaluable and it is with extreme regret that we view the departure of this esteemed friend.

I also wish to place on record my personal appreciation of the assistance afforded me by our Secretaries, the Associated Scientific and Technical Societies of South Africa, particularly Mr. McLaren who handled our affairs so ably and courteously.

THE CAPE PROVINCIAL INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

ADDRESS OF THE PRESIDENT, MR. R. F. OHLSSON, FOR THE SESSION 1949-1950

The past year has been an interesting one for our profession. The year started with the celebrations held in conjunction with the 50th anniversary of your Institute. At this time there was considerable building activity and with money available the prospects for the year were good. The one shadow that frustrated us was the retention of Building Control. As the year progressed, however, the economic world conditions made themselves felt and money became scarcer. The result was that when building control was eventually abandoned we had in its stead import control and a definite shortage of money for building purposes — the promise of a prosperous period for the profession without controls has not been fulfilled. I hope, Gentlemen, that this is only a temporary state of affairs and that the coming year will see a general improvement. This recession has however had one good result and that is it has temporarily, at any rate, stopped the increased cost of building. The conclusion I draw is that this is due to increased production through keener competition by all in the building trade. I hope this standard of production will be maintained or even increased (it is still far short of pre-war standard) to

off-set any further rise in price of materials which may occur.

To revert to more domestic matters and to the work done by your Committee during the year, I would like to refer to two matters raised at the last Annual General Meeting.

Mr. Kantorowich proposed that the then incoming Committee investigate the possibility of reaching an agreement with the Joint Practice Committee consisting of Architects, Quantity Surveyors and Builders with a view to abolishing the necessity for quantities for domestic work under the control size of 2,000 sq. ft.

This, I regret, we were not able to get the Builders or Quantity Surveyors to agree to. The position therefore remains the same. As Building Control has since been removed, I very much doubt if it is worth trying to get the figure for quantities raised above the £5,000 mark which is the figure at present agreed upon.

The second matter proposed by Mr. Stern at the last Annual General Meeting was the further sub-division of the scale of fees as at present set out. This matter was discussed at length with Mr. Stern who was most helpful.

The conclusion arrived at by your Committee was that although the Cape had never been unanimous about the change, the new fees are the result of investigations by a Special Committee covering the whole Union, and passed by Central Council, and embodied in your regulations, and they have to be adhered to. Your Committee feel it would be unwise for individuals to try and sub-divide these fees still further without running the risk of weakening the position for the rest of the profession.

The difficulty seems to arise up to the 4% stage. In other words, where details are not required. Your Committee feel they cannot give a hard and fast ruling on this. Practitioners must judge each case on its merits. One guiding principle is that if anyone reduces his services as laid down, he must be able to justify his reduction in his fees if called upon to do so. A good guide for this is to apply the old scale of fees where 3% was charged for the $\frac{1}{4}$ " scale working drawing.

Legal Opinion re Copyright :

During the year two very interesting cases involving copyright have come before your Committee. Legal opinion has been obtained. These opinions are too long to circularise to members, but are available in the Institute's offices for perusal by members should they be interested.

Notice Boards :

The Central Council have indicated that it is desirable to display a uniform notice board on all buildings to publicise buildings designed by Architects. Transfers of these boards I hope will soon be available and it is hoped that members will comply with Central Council's request.

Roof Trusses :

The very valuable work done by Messrs. Cruickshank, Immanuel & Stubbs in producing a booklet on roof trusses is now going to print. This booklet is a work that every Architect will welcome. They will be obtainable from your Secretary—the cost is still to be decided. The profits derived from the sale of these booklets will be added to the Benevolent Fund.

New Building Regulations :

This very important matter is still being pursued by your Committee. I regret to state however that no satisfaction has been obtained from the City Hall. I trust that the incoming Committee continue to press for some action from the City Engineer.

Unprofessional Conduct Enquiries :

I regret that there appears to be a number of practitioners who do not know or have forgotten their regulations. During the year four enquiries were held into the alleged misconduct under the following regulations :—

Result of Enquiry

One under 87(cc)	Guilty.
" " 87(e)	Guilty.
" " 87(l)	Not guilty.
" " 87(a)	Guilty.

The appropriate action was taken in each case.

Arising out of these cases your Committee was not unanimous in its opinion as to whether the finding should be given to the lay press or not. The Transvaal Institute do publish the results of unprofessional enquiries. I would like to hear the opinion of the meeting on this point which will be a guide to your incoming Committee.

Exhibition :

At the beginning of the year, your Committee arranged an exhibition of contemporary work in the Gallery of the Association of Arts. I would like on behalf of your Committee to thank those of you who supported the exhibition which turned out to be a great success. It is estimated that 800 to 1,000 people attended. I hope that in a few years time a similar exhibition will be held and I hope the support will be still greater. I would like to thank the sub-Committee and helpers under the guidance of Dr. Harper for the hard work they put in in organising and arranging the exhibits.

News Letter :

Some of you may have noticed that no presidential news letter has been circulated during the year. I have purposely not issued a news letter as this is an expense and waste of time unless it serves any useful purpose or is of interest to members. I would therefore like to hear from the meeting whether the news letter has been missed and whether you wish the new President to continue writing this letter.

In conclusion, I would like to thank Mr. Naude, your Vice-President, for holding the fort during my absence in England and to thank the Committee for their support and hard work during a very busy year.

I would like to mention how sorry I am that Mr. Day has found it impossible to stand for re-election to the Committee. I think I am correct in saying that Mr. Day has served your Institute continuously, with the exception of the war years, for approximately 20 years. His experience and advice will be missed.

I cannot end without thanking Mr. McDowell and his staff for their hard work. Mr. McDowell has asked for and been granted four months leave of absence during which time he is to be married. I am sure I am expressing your feeling when I say that we all wish him and his future wife the best of everything.

NATAL PROVINCIAL INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

ANNUAL REPORT 1949-1950

Your Committee has pleasure in submitting the twenty-third Annual Report of the Natal Provincial Institute of Architects together with the Balance Sheet and Accounts for the year ended 31st December 1949.

MEMBERSHIP

The membership at the close of the year consisted of 71 Practising, 30 Salaried and 3 Absentee members, making a total of 105 members.

Since the commencement of the year this Institute has gained a Practising member from the Transvaal Provincial Institute and lost a Salaried member to the Cape Provincial Institute. Ten new members have joined the Salaried class and one member of the Salaried class resigned. Two Salaried class members joined the Absentee List, and one Practising and one Salaried member died during the year.

COMMITTEE

At the last Annual General Meeting the following members were elected to the Provincial Committee:—

Messrs. J. C. Corrigan, C. E. Fridjohn, R. P. Hamlin, L. C. Lambert, D. C. McDonald, L. Peyton, G. E. le Sueur, S. N. Tomkin and A. Woodrow.

Mr. S. N. Tomkin was elected President and Mr. R. P. Hamlin, Vice-President, at the first meeting of the Committee.

MEETINGS

During the year under review, three General Meetings were held. The Provincial Committee met seventeen times and a record of attendances at these meetings is set out below:

	No. of Meetings	Leave Granted	Attendances
J. C. Corrigan	19	9	9
C. E. Fridjohn	19	1	18
R. P. Hamlin	19	5	13
L. C. Lambert	19	5	14
D. C. McDonald	19	2	17
L. Peyton	19	2	16

ADDRESS OF THE PRESIDENT, MR. S. N. TOMKIN, FOR THE SESSION, 1949-1950

Today I find myself in the very pleasant position of not having a great deal to report to you as I have made interim reports during the year at our quarterly general meetings. Despite this, however, I wish to make it clear that any matters which members wish to raise even though not mentioned in this report will be gladly dealt with by myself on any other member of your executive committee at this meeting.

One of the momentous items absent from our Agenda is "Building Control". We are all, I feel sure, greatly relieved at its removal and grateful for the very considerable part our

G. E. le Sueur	19	5	14
S. N. Tomkin	19	—	19
A. Woodrow	19	—	19

In addition to these, numerous Sub-Committee meetings were held.

FINANCIAL

The year under review reflects an excess of Expenditure over Revenue of £136 5s. 0d. This is mainly due to the high cost of holding an Unprofessional Conduct Enquiry, but other factors contributed towards it. Firstly, subscriptions are taken to Revenue by this Institute as and when they become due, but the Central Council Levy of one third of these subscriptions is only made when the subscriptions are actually paid.

During the year an all out drive to collect subscriptions was made with the result that one hundred and fifty pounds of subscriptions standing over from the previous year were collected. As mentioned above the whole of this amount had been taken into Revenue in previous years and yet fifty pounds of this amount became due to Central Council and stands as a charge in this year's Accounts. Secondly, it was decided to write off several small balances standing in the books. These items are clearly reflected in the Accounts.

NATAL HOUSING BOARD

During the year £357 has been received from the above Board. A Levy of 5% has been deducted by the Institute and the balance is to be distributed to members who supplied the plans.

CENTRAL COUNCIL

At the Congress held in Cape Town in early March, Mr. S. N. Tomkin was elected President-in-Chief and Mr. L. C. Austin Vice-President-in-Chief.

GENERAL

A Report on the activities of the Committees and Institute in general, will be submitted in more detail by the President at the Annual General Meeting.

Institute has played in helping its function and also in obtaining its removal when we considered its work to be no longer in the common interest. I should like to take this opportunity of thanking the Natal Provincial Institute representatives on Building Control for their excellent services, as well as the Building Control Authorities in Natal whose spirit of co-operation resulted in Building Control being far less onerous in Natal than in other centres.

* * * * *

Further items which I wish to refer to in this brief address

include the "Art of Architecture" Exhibition, model Building Regulations, University of Natal, and the Durban Building Industry Advisory Board.

With regard to the Art of Architecture Exhibition, I am happy to report that this will shortly be presented to the public by the University students assisted by the Institute. I feel that much more could be done in the direction of publicity by means of exhibitions, and I have recently received reports of an exhibition of photographs of work done by Cape Town Architects which was very well attended by the public. I understand the Administrator of the Cape Province opened the exhibition, which was of a high standard, and which presented to the public the work of the Architect, an example which we would do well to follow. I sincerely trust that the forthcoming Art of Architecture exhibition will receive the enthusiastic support of the professions.

The School of Architecture at the University of Natal is rapidly developing the necessary facilities for a high standard of Architectural education, and I am happy to report that the Natal Provincial Institute holds the unique position of having a representative on the University Committee for the making of staff appointments to this School of Architecture.

The Model Building Regulations which are in the course of preparation by the S.A. Bureau of Standards are scrutinised at their source by members of the S.A. Institute, at present Chapter 3 Part III of these draft Model Building Regulations are available at our Secretary's office, and members interested are welcome to inspect them. This section deals with drainage and water supplies.

Once again I am able to report the smooth functioning of the Durban Building Industry Advisory Board during the past year. Many items of interest have been dealt with, and apart from

the creative side of the committee, its function has proved most successful in preventing small misunderstandings developing into grave difficulties. One of the important items presently under review is the abolition of the 5% Builders discount, and members' comments on this item will, I hope, be heard later.

The revision of the standard form of Building Contract is still under consideration and the final revised draft should be available during the year. It is my opinion that the standard form does not require a great deal of revision, that it is in fact an extremely competent document as compared with others of a similar nature, and that we will be well advised to consider alterations to it with the greatest detailed care.

Our City Councillor member, Mr. Leighton Black, has written to the Institute stating that the City Librarian will welcome advice and suggestions from our members for the purchase of reference books for the Architectural Section of the City Library. I hope that members will avail themselves of this opportunity to improve this section of our City Library.

At this stage I wish to offer my grateful thanks to all members of the Executive Committee and our numerous sub-committees for their selfless and untiring work on behalf of the Natal Provincial Institute. It has at all times been a delight to work with all these members, and I hope that the incoming committee will experience the same co-operative spirit, and on behalf of the outgoing executive, I wish them a successful year of office which will still further strengthen our happy relationship with outside public bodies and further the interests of our professions.

Before closing my report, ladies and gentlemen, I will ask you to stand to mark the passing of two of the oldest members of this Institute, Brigadier G. T. Hurst and Mr. W. G. Moffat.

PORT ELIZABETH LOCAL COMMITTEE OF ARCHITECTS

REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN, MR. B. A. SIMPSON, FOR THE SESSION 1949 - 1950

The past year has been notable for steady progress in the profession and this centre is indeed fortunate in having suffered only a minor recession in the building industry when compared to the larger cities of this country. Already the effects of changing financial conditions are showing signs of being overcome and confidence appears to be returning.

Our numbers continue to increase and there are now 23 practising and 9 salaried members.

The Committee has met regularly during the year and the meetings have been well attended. From the Financial Statement tabled you will notice that the credit balance now stands at 428 Ss. 5d. No doubt some useful suggestions for the use of part of these funds will emanate from this meeting.

CENTRAL COUNCIL

Your delegate attended both meetings of the Central Council, the first at Muizenberg in April and the second in Johannesburg in September.

CAPE PROVINCIAL INSTITUTE

At the Annual General Meeting and the 50th Anniversary of the Cape Provincial Institute, this Province was numerically well represented, as your Chairman and Messrs. H. Pullen, H. J. Tanton and A. A. Tait were present in response to the general invitation of the Cape Institute.

EDUCATION

The Educational Sub-committee under the Chairmanship of Mr. L. C. Symes has continued its attempts to re-start

architectural classes. It is with pleasure that we are able to announce that classes in History of Architecture have commenced and that there is every prospect that classes in Design will follow within a few weeks, as suitable premises are being provided by the Technical College.

BUILDING CONTROL

The gradual relaxation of Building Control, culminating in its total abolition, has been most welcome. The Committee wishes to record its appreciation and thanks to Mr. C. H. N. Merrifield for having so ably carried the burden of representing the profession on the Local Building Control Advisory Committee for the past seven years.

JOINT PRACTICE COMMITTEE

Our representatives on this Committee are, as previously, Messrs. H. Pullen and D. M. Brown. The Committee has held monthly meetings and matters of interest and contention have been examined and settled.

JOINT TOWN PLANNING COMMITTEE

The establishment of a Joint Town Planning Scheme embracing the Municipalities of Port Elizabeth and Walmer and the Divisional Council of Port Elizabeth took place early in 1949, and this Committee has been represented on both the main body and the Technical Sub-committee.

TECHNICAL COLLEGE COUNCIL

Mr. L. C. Symes has continued to represent the Committee on the Council, and though modestly silent on the matter, his efforts on behalf of the profession seem to be gaining some measure of success.

NATIONAL HOUSING

The majority of schemes appear to have been shelved for

the present, although one scheme has been put in hand at Uitenhage during the year under review.

SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

During the year, quarterly gatherings were held. The response and attendance at these "Get togethers," from 30% to 40% of local members, should give the incoming Committee a guide as to what further types of entertainment should be attended.

At the invitation of the Master Builders and Allied Trades Association a Bowls Match was played between that body and the professions. The spirit in which this game was played augurs well for the future and it is hoped that further meetings in this and other sports will take place.

GENERALLY

A brief visit was paid to the City by Mr. R. F. Ohlsson, President of the Cape Provincial Institute, and it is a matter for regret that time did not allow Mr. Ohlsson to meet more of the Committee.

The appreciation of the Committee is due to Messrs. Jones and McWilliams for providing the venue of the monthly meetings.

In conclusion I wish to thank the Members of the Committee for their loyal support during my year of office and in particular Mr. Brown for the very able manner in which he has performed the duties as Honorary Secretary.

The following are the officers and delegates elected at the General Meeting, held on 22nd February, 1950.

Committee: L. Symes (Chairman), C. H. N. Merrifield (Vice chairman), B. A. Simpson, E. F. Vos, D. M. Brown (Hon Secretary), 33 Lowcliffe House, Main Street, Port Elizabeth, P.O. Box 268. Telephone 2423.

INCIDENTALLY . . .

A Column by GILBERT HERBERT

THE WORLD AT YOUR FEET

Perhaps you remember a story by G. K. Chesterton, called "The Green Beetle," although I am not altogether sure about that; anyway, it is a story of a clergyman, a good and noble man of God, who found it in his heart to condemn a man as evil; and to kill him, with a great weight dropped from the church tower, onto this man standing below, killing him as one would squash a beetle. This good and noble man had often come to stand at the parapet of the tower, at a height above the world; and thus watching the world at his feet, and thus looking down at human beings and seeing them for much less than what they are, he came to think that perhaps he was as God, to judge and to condemn.

When one is at a height, and looks down at man, one tends to get a picture which, even if megalomaniac tendencies are

not present, is necessarily a distorted one. Birds-eye view results inevitably in false perspective: and when birds-eye view is also planners-eye view, a distortion of planning results. Birds-eye planning denotes a conception of planning as an exercise on paper, paper patterning. Now despite the fact that the advent of the aeroplane has to some extent brought a new dimension and a new viewpoint to city design, the art of town planning nevertheless remains an earthbound one, concerned primarily with a series of successive viewpoints and successive perspectives for the observer on the ground, each satisfactory in itself, yet providing cumulatively an experience of the whole town. Town planning, because of the scale on which it is practised, cannot be based on one viewpoint from which a complete and comprehensive view of the city is obtained.

THERE I WAS, AT NINE HUNDRED FEET . . .

Sorry about the sermon! You see, I have just been up to the summit of the Eiffel Tower, and have been looking down on Paris, and that was the spark for this train of thought—not that thinking is easy when visiting such a magnet for tourists as the tower. The tourist invasion of France for the year 1950 is just beginning and its first waves are lapping around the four gigantic bases of Eiffel's fantastic creation. In the lifts, on the platforms, at the telescopes, buying postcards and brooches and models of the tower that have somehow inserted themselves into spherical crystal bowls, just at the very place where one would appreciate quiet contemplation, the *utlanders* gather. Amidst scenes of excitement, and gasps of "Ooh!" we stand at nine hundred feet, and look down at Paris below us. I say nine hundred feet with some assurance, for that is the figure in my guide book, which is a mine of useful information. If one is keen, one can find out the number of rivets in the tower, and how much the tower weighs, though unless one were a weight lifter the latter information is of little practical import. That is the trouble with most guide books and phrase books designed presumably to help the bewildered traveller—plenty of information, but very little of direct application. After all, as the man in the radio show said the other day, does it really help to be able to say in French, German, Spanish and Italian that "my ear-trumpet has been struck by lightning," which is the sort of phrase one finds in phrase books. My book, for instance, while giving me ample instruction in the method of obtaining the name both of the vicar and the deputy mayor, fails lamentably to supply the French and German equivalents, of "my dear sir, your prices are simply ridiculous!"

BIRDS-EYE VIEW

Paris from above is a city in miniature, with model buildings and pin-head figures and cars (as someone inevitably clichéd) just like Dinky toys. One feels a Gulliver in Lilliput, thus looking down, one feels elated, inspired, impressed. But for the planner the experience is instructive, for he suddenly realises that he is seeing Paris for the first time as it was designed to be seen. He is now seeing what he is familiar with through close study of the plan, but which from the ground, although occasionally implied, is yet never really conceivable. For although there are elements of great beauty in the plan of Paris which are appreciable from ground level, yet the synthesis into a comprehensive, coherent plan depends on the view from above. Seen from a height, or in plan, the Place d'Etoile is a magnificent focus for twelve grand boulevards; seen from the pavement, it is a maelstrom of madly whirling traffic. Seen from above, the Place de la Concorde is an important event in the sequence from Louvre to Arc de Triomphe; to the pedestrian on the driver it is a meaningless, bewildering sea of lamp standards. These elements, so correct in scale when related over long distances in plan to other

large elements, are completely out of scale to the individual who must comprehend them. This sort of criticism cannot be levelled against planning of the nature of the London squares: A progression from Bloomsbury Square to Russel Square to Bedford Square is an exciting and stimulating experience, yet at no stage during that progression does one feel out of scale with one's environment. These elements relate to each other to make a unity obvious from the ground as well as from the air.

Now, in itself, it is no criticism of Paris to say that for complete comprehension of the city one must get above it, and that therefore for normal purposes one's impression of Paris is a multiple one. As Giedion points out, even in the field of architecture and engineering, new structures such as the Radio City complex and the clover-leaf flyovers are so vast in scale that instantaneous, comprehensive appreciation is impossible. Time becomes a factor, and appreciation now depends on a series of images obtained successively in time. The criticism of Paris as a town plan lies in the fact that this concept was not accepted, and that while in practice it is only possible to look at Paris in fragments, in a series of complementary images, yet it was not designed for this, but as a complete pattern to be seen as a whole. I feel that it is a strong criticism that any city be designed to be appreciated mainly from a viewpoint other than the normal and accessible one. City planning today, in my opinion, although there is place for the grand boulevard and the dramatic vista, demands a certain intimacy of approach, so that the beauty of the city may be, literally, within the compass and comprehension of the man in the street.

THE FIELDS OF PARADISE

Paradoxically, it is in the main boulevard of Paris, the *piece de resistance* of the Grand Manner, that a certain sense of intimacy may be obtained. Now, what I am going to say should be taken to be neither frivolous nor sacrilegious: but to me, in the Champs Elysee, although on an altogether different level of experience, there is a close aesthetic parallel to a Gothic cathedral. Let me explain. One enters a great cathedral; down the length of the nave one sees a long, steeply-perspectived vista, terminating on some feature, perhaps a vibrantly coloured rose window. One is conscious of great size, great distance; infinite height, infinite space. One is overwhelmed, awed by the size, impressed by the magnitude of the conception—but at the same time, lost: for although one stands in the cathedral and is aware of its majesty, one is not part of it. It is only when one moves to the aisles, with their enclosing walls and columnar screens and lower vaults that one gets in touch with, in scale with, the cathedral. Then the height of the main nave achieves new significance, for it can be related back to the human figure, and its scale determined. And finally, in the chapels within the bays of the cathedral the building ceases to be a vast impersonal

structure, but becomes an intimate environment for prayer and meditation.

Now, it is thus with the Champs Elysee. One looks down the length of the main boulevard towards the Arc de Triomphe, and one is aware of grandeur and size and distance. One is aware, and experiences, but as one would be conscious of happenings of the stage of a theatre: one is aware as a spectator, but never as a participant. The city becomes a stage for drama, but one is never the actor. One's horizons are too broad, and one loses a sense of scale. It stretches too far, and its width is too great; it is a street, or a staircase from earth to heaven; being infinite, it has no size. It is magnificent, but in it a person is lost.

Move to the aisles, though, to the two side roads flanking the main boulevard. These aisles have their bays too, with canvas partitions dividing one from the other: and their gaily striped and coloured awnings ceil the space as do the vaults of the church aisle. In these cafe-chapels, one is again in scale with the world, the environment of man comes again within man's comprehension. One participates again in life.

DRAMA IN THE TOWN

The achievement of the grand and the dramatic in planning is a relatively simple affair. Exhibitionism, monumentality, grand spectacle—there are ample precepts for these. They have their place in the plan for the metropolis, just as the theatre must have its place in the cultural activity of the community. But just as the theatre is not an adequate or suitable environment for the everyday activities of life, so the element of drama in the city, essential though it is, yet cannot be the be-all and end-all of city planning. City life, and especially metropolitan life, is on such a vast and impersonal scale, that it should be the prime task of the town planner, in creating an environment for life, to see that such an environment helps to integrate the individual into the affairs of the community. The problem of town planning is to create a town which functions for the community, while at the same time relating in scale to the individual within the group. To this end, the cafes of Paris do more to make it a pleasant, liveable city than all the grand boulevards in the world.

CONTEMPORARY JOURNALS

APARTMENTS

Architectural Forum—January, 1950, pp. 69—128.

- (1) Mies van der Rohe's Promontory Apartments open to lake view in Chicago illustrating Glass and Brick in a Reinforced Concrete Frame.
 - (2) Mies van der Rohe develops his open design in the Lake Shore Drive Apartments with floor-to-ceiling windows in a steel frame.
 - (3) Community Development Trust gives private enterprise a means of providing Urban housing, finances the development of new building Techniques.
 - (4) New construction ideas developed by Architects Holzman, Holzman, Kilekamp and Taylor to save space, time, materials, and money in apartment building.
 - (5) Open Corridor Design by Skidmore, Owings and Merrill.
 - (6) Interlocking Floor Design and large rooms designed by Perkins and Will, Architects.
 - (7) Vertical gardens in a 10 storey building by Burton Schutt offer vast outdoor terrace spaces.
 - (8) Le Corbusier's "Living unit" in Marseilles is designed to provide outdoor living and indoor privacy.
 - (9) Spiral Floors in a cylinder by Architect I. Pei offer unusual construction economies and lay-out flexibility.
 - (10) Portfolio of outstanding apartment designs—
 - (11) Modern Studio Apartments in Spokane by McClure and Adkinson.
 - (12) Garden Apartments in Houston by Wilson, Morris and Crain.
 - (13) Balcony Apartments in Seattle by P. Thiry.
 - (14) One-storey Apartments in Wellesley, Mass., by H. Stubbins.
 - (15) Multi-storey Duplex Apartments—a project by Hugh Stubbins.
 - (16) Low Cost Apartments in Alexandria, Va., by Investors.
- Architectural Review*—November, 1949, pp. 315—322.
- Flores: Towards an Architecture, by L. Brett. The author classifies the kinds of layout, and the kinds of building now current in Britain.

ARCHITECTURE

Progressive Architecture—November, 1949, pp. 65—66.

The Sound and Smell of Architecture, by Richard J. Neutra.

COMPILATION BY UGO TOMASELLI

The Architects Journal—December 22, 1949, pp. 703—706.

Swedish Drill. A travel diary with accompanying sketches by Hugh Casson, who recently paid a visit to Scandinavia.

Architectural Review—December, 1949, pp. 345—349.

Gloucester and London in the Fourteenth Century, by J. M. Hastings.

Architectural Review—January, 1950, pp. 2—65.

The Functional Tradition. *Architectural Review* discusses road surfaces, road signs, railings, awnings, lettering, symbols, signals, colours, and textures, and compares good examples with bad examples under the following headings:—

- (1) The discipline of functionalism.
- (2) The Cob.
- (3) Landscape elements.
- (4) Trim.
- (5) Texture and colour.
- (6) Application.
- (7) Conclusion.

Architectural Review—February, 1950, pp. 77—84.

Alvar Allo, by Sigfried Giedion. Here in an additional chapter from the forthcoming new edition of "Space, Time, and Architecture", Dr. Giedion surveys the whole range of Allo's achievement to date and finds that Allo's genius as an architect and a designer is due to the fact that he possesses "rare ability to attack building problems functionally and solve them in an organic way."

Architectural Review—February, 1950, pp. 91—110.

Rome: The Third Sack, by Henry Hope Reed. In spite of the damage done by traffic planners, speculators and Fascist Imperialists, Rome still remains the most perfect example in Europe of the Capital that carries out its functions as a capital without loss of historic continuity.

Architectural Review—February, 1950, pp. 123—130.

South American Scrapbook, by P. J. Marshall. Here, an architect who recently visited South America contributes his impressions of four South American cities—Rio de Janeiro, Sao Paulo, Montevideo, and Buenos Aires.

COMMERCIAL

Progressive Architecture—December, 1949, pp. 61—64.

Store for the sale of home appliances in Los Angeles, California.
 A. Martin and Associates, Architects and Engineers.
Architectural Record—January, 1950, pp. 94—112.
 Small Business Buildings. *Architectural Record's Building Types Study* No. 157.

- (1) Small Business Buildings. An article by F. Pawley, Architect, covering finance, decentralization, zoning, parking planning, equipment, materials and fire insurance.
- Architectural Forum*—February, 1950, pp. 79—105.
- (1) China and Gift Shop. This Morris store in San Francisco by Frank Lloyd Wright does away with the open front, introduces a ramped floor and a plastic ceiling to help merchandise crystal and silver.
- (2) City Department Store, Macy's, Kansas City, with its new ideas in store lighting, customer circulation, and ceiling flexibility, results from the collaboration of four of the nation's top-flight store designers: Kivett and Myers, Daniel Schwartzman, Gruen, and Krummeck.
- (3) Suburban Branch Department Store, integrating air conditioning and structure. Architect: Robert Little.
- (4) Store-on-Stilts. Architects Kelchum, Gina and Sharp invent a new form for suburban departmental store, with parking on the ground floor.

COMMUNITY CENTRES

The Architect—February 24, 1950, pp. 185—189.
 A Community Centre at Accra, Gold Coast, by Architects Maxwell Fry and Jane Drew. The adult accommodation comprises committee rooms, classrooms for adult education, library and dining rooms, and a large hall for dances, films, etc.

CONSTRUCTION

- Progressive Architecture*—November, 1949, pp. 69, 87, 89.
 Selected Details—
 (1) Curtain wall for Industrial Building, N.Y.
 (2) Floodlight Standard for George Stadium. Aeck, Associates, Architects.
 (3) Diving Platforms for Swimming Pool. B. Hoyt, Architect.
- Progressive Architecture*—December, 1949, pp. 85, 87, 89.
 Selected Details—
 (1) Glass wall in office lobby. J. Gardiner and Associates, Architects.
 (2) Display window for Auto Showroom. Gruen and Krummeck, Architects.
 (3) Display window for Appliance Store. A. Martin and Associates, Architects.

DOMESTIC

- Progressive Architecture*—November, 1949, pp. 43—56.
 Three houses are presented and criticised—
 (1) House: Sysselt, New York. H. Jackson and J. Callender design a medium-size house on a large, heavily wooded and sloping site.
 (2) House: Seattle, Washington. Designed for a single career woman and her two brothers on an irregular shaped site bounded by three streets. J. Holmes and Associates, Architects.
 (3) House: Los Angeles, California. A home for the architect and his wife with provision for future children on a wooded canyon overlooking the city. C. Maston, Architect.
- Progressive Architecture*—December, 1949, pp. 65—68
 Two houses in Palm Springs, California. A two-bedroom house for the owner and a single-bedroom house for guests or rental on a desert tract with a vista of mountains. Clark and Fry, Architects.
- Architectural Review*—December, 1949, pp. 375—380, 381—384.
 (1) Blackages and Shop-built Housing, by R. Neutra. In this extract from Richard Neutra's forthcoming book, "Survival through Design", he examines the cause underlying the slow progress made in the U.S. towards prefabrication.

(2) House at Santa Monica, by R. Neutra.
Architectural Record—January, 1950, pp. 76—83.
 Residence in Sarasota, Florida. R. Twitchell and P. Rudolph, Architects. This scheme illustrates a combination of residence, pool, and boat landing in which recreation takes precedence over formal pretentiousness.

Architectural Forum—February, 1950, pp. 106—115.
 (1) A group of houses in San Antonio's medium price class by Architect Milton Ryan create a contemporary neighbourhood.
 (2) In a Danish house, closely integrated with its garden. Architect Eric Slengade uses built-in furniture to make the most of small rooms.

Architectural Record—February, 1950, pp. 85—89.
 Environment Controls Design. A house in Palm Springs, California, by Architect W. Cody.

HOSPITALS, WELFARE

- Progressive Architecture*—December, 1949, pp. 44—58.
 Three Specialised Hospitals are illustrated—
 (1) 400-Bed Industrial Hospital for medical care and restoration to social usefulness of industrial workers, or state employees, who become ill or sustain injuries as a result of their occupations. The scheme includes nursing units, operating suites and outpatients' department as well as a combined physical and occupational rehabilitation centre. I. Rosenfield, Architect.
 (2) A Maternity Hospital and Training Centre as part of the University of Sao Paulo Medical Centre on a steep site. F. Pestalozzi and R. Cesar, Associate Architects. R. Levi, Architect.
 (3) 230-Bed Mental Hospital with facilities for acute and chronic patients in Jerusalem. J. Neufeld, Architect. H. Rau, Associate Architect.

Journal of the R.A.I. of Canada—October, 1949, pp. 309—356.
 Sunnybrook Hospital, Toronto, Canada. Allward and Gainslock, Architects.

- Architectural Forum*—February, 1950, pp. 116—127.
 (1) Hospital Design. A report, by Robert Cunningham, on changes in medical and nursing practice that will call for changes in future hospital design.
 (2) Modular Hospital Design saves money on simple construction and spends it on individual toilets, insulating glass, and a new form of air-conditioning. Pace Associates, Architects.
- Architectural Record*—February, 1950, pp. 100—126.
 Hospitals. Building Type Study No. 158.
 (1) Type plans for State Public Health Laboratory.
 (2) Nurses' School and Residence for Sao Paulo, Brazil. Peter Pfisterer, Chief Architect.
 (3) Instituto Central Do Cancer, Sao Paulo, Brazil. Rina Levi, Roberto Cesar, Architects.
 (4) Cancer Hospital for Roswell Park Memorial Institute, Buffalo, for the Department of Health, Iadore Rosenfield, Architect.
 (5) St. Clare's Hospital, Schenectady, New York. York and Sawyer, Architects.
 (6) Tuberculosis Hospital, Decatur, Alabama. Charles McCauley, Architect.

HOTELS

- Architectural Review*—December, 1949, pp. 350—353.
 Hotel and Cinema in Sao Paulo, Rina Levi, Architect. The hotel occupies 17 stories of the main building placed above the three stories of the facade at the front of the cinema. Seating capacity of cinema is 1934. Hotel provides 200 rooms, each with its own bathroom.
- Architectural Review*—February, 1950, pp. 115—116.
 Week-end Hotel near Zurich. Steiger and Giacomelli, Architects. The main building has 50 beds in 25 guest rooms, and in addition 40 people can sleep on the ground floor on bunks.

INDUSTRIAL

Architectural Review—November, 1949, pp. 284—290.
 Steel Rolling Mill at Scunthorpe. F. Gibberd, Architect. Illustrating the electrical sub-station, the office and welfare building, and the steel rolling mill.

LANDSCAPE DESIGN AND TOWN PLANNING

- Architectural Review*—December, 1949, pp. 354—374.
 (1) Townscape by I. de Wolfe.
 (2) Townscape Casebook, by Gordon Cullen. This article, with its drawings and photographs attempts to revive the objective way of looking, and to establish a basis for an art of environment founded on that way. The examples illustrated are grouped under headings designed to suggest the type of vision—the particular exercise of the eye—needed to apprehend them.
- Architectural Record*—January, 1950, pp. 69—75.
 Space and People, by Garrett Eckbo. The editors present in these pages a condensation of part of an important book, "Landscape for

Living", which will be published early in 1950 by the Architectural Record.
Journal of the Royal Architectural Institute of Canada—December, 1949. A complete issue devoted to "Plan for the National Capital of Canada—Ottawa."

MATERIALS AND METHOD

Progressive Architecture—November, 1949, pp. 75—78.
Weather-conditioning of Roofs for Residences: Part 1, by Graft Conklin.
Architectural Record—January, 1950, pp. 112—114.
Air Conditioning works with Design for Space Utilisation, Flexibility and Economy.

SCHOOLS

Progressive Architecture—November, 1949, pp. 62—64.
Addition to a school to provide for 50 children of kindergarten, first and second grade ages. O'Dell, Hewlett and Luckenbach, Architects.
The Architect—February 3, 1950, pp. 116—124.
Swanley Hall, Wye College, Kent. Architects: R. Shepp and Partners. This College accommodates 80 students with teaching staff, library, reading rooms, quiet rooms, music rooms, common rooms, domestic staff rooms, and a small assembly hall.
Architectural Review—February, 1950, pp. 85—90.
Women's Hostel at Wye College, Kent. Architects: Sheppard and Partners.
Architectural Review—February, 1950, pp. 111—116.
Primary School at Lucerne. E. Jauch and Burgi, Architects. This

school accommodates 480 children, and is the result of a competition open to architects of Lucerne.

STADIUMS

Progressive Architecture—November, 1949, pp. 59—61.
Stadium: Atlanta, Georgia. Aeck Associates, Architects, design a stadium to seat 10,000 at a football field, to be used by six city high schools.

STATE BUILDINGS

Progressive Architecture—December, 1949, pp. 39—43.
State Game Department Building, Seattle, Washington. A combination office and warehouse, providing separate administrative quarters for the personnel (e.g. licences, conservation, beaver control, etc.), warehouse section includes storage, laboratories, heating plant and various machine shops. J. Gardiner and Associates, Architects.

TRANSPORT

Architectural Review—November, 1949, pp. 301—314.
Aircraft Assembly Hall at Filton, Architect: E. Ross. This group of buildings consist of the assembly hall of three bays, together with a canteen for the workmen and administration staff, a boiler house, various workshops and storage buildings, and a two-storey block of offices and workshops for the B.O.A.C.
The Architectural Journal—December 22, pp. 714—716.
Bus Station at Newbury Park, designed by O. Hill.
Architectural Record—February, 1950, pp. 90—93.
Chicago Municipal Airport Terminal. A Standard Unit Scheme varied to speed Airport Traffic. Paul Gerhardt, City Architect.

OBITUARY

The death of George Edmond Fitzgerald occurred on 11th April, 1950, at his home in Pretoria. He had been in poor health for some years.

Mr. Fitzgerald was born in Dublin in 1882. He pursued his studies in Architecture at London University where he qualified with a Degree in Architecture in 1908. He worked in London for some years and in 1911 came to South Africa where he joined the staff of the Public Works Department. At the outbreak of the First World War he enlisted with the artillery and served in the East African campaign. After the

GEORGE EDMOND FITZGERALD, F.R.I.B.A.

war he returned to Pretoria and was employed by the Municipality until he commenced private practice in 1920.

Mr. Fitzgerald's designs won the competitions for the Pietermaritzburg Town Hall and the Milton High School, Bulawayo. His practice included a number of schools designed for the Transvaal Provincial Administration, the Brits Agricultural College, hostels at Thabazimbi, work for the National Match Company as well as private homes.

Mr. Fitzgerald is survived by his widow and only son, to whom we extend our sincere sympathy.

NOTES AND NEWS

BUILDING RESEARCH

A congress on building research is to be held in London from September 11th to 20th, 1951 and will be the first of its kind ever to be held. It will mark the rapid developments in building science made since the end of the war and has been arranged because of the great and growing interest shown in the subject in many countries.

The Congress is sponsored by the British professional institutions and learned societies interested in building science, and by government departments, with the support of representative industrial federations in Great Britain. The Department of Scientific and Industrial Research is providing the central organisation for the Conference. Papers are being invited from

research workers in many countries on a wide range of topics, and arrangements are being made to welcome to the Congress a large number of visitors from overseas.

The purpose of the Congress will be to review the progress made in research in relation to architecture, building, and the associated branches of civil engineering.

The Congress will be organised in three divisions which will hold concurrent meetings. Visits to buildings of interest and to civil engineering works etc. will be arranged during the period of the Congress.

Announcements of detailed arrangements will be made in due course, but those interested should notify the Organising Secretary as soon as possible in order that detailed information may be sent direct.

The Organising Secretary, Building Research Congress 1951, Building Research Station, Bucknalls Lane, Garston, Watford, Herts, England.

TRADE AND TECHNICAL REPORTS

MESSRS. WILLIAM NEWMAN & SONS, LTD.

THE BI-CENTENARY OF THE FOUNDATION OF THE FIRM.

The year 1750: George II was on the throne and England was enjoying a breathing space between two wars with France. In six years William Pitt the Elder was to take charge of the nation's affairs. Mean time Clive was about to open up India, Wolfe was soon to achieve death and glory in Canada and Captain Cook was shortly to begin the voyages which opened up Australia and the Pacific to British trade.

These events were portentous. The discovery of vast new markets and the practical application of scientific advances together produced a tremendous wave of industrial expansion.

What happened in the brass trade was typical. A generation of Englishmen in the Midlands area of Wolverhampton and Birmingham set up in brass-founding to such purpose that the trade became one of the greatest and most prosperous in the country.

William Newman was one of that generation, and the generation that turned England from an agricultural to an industrial nation. Since then there have been seven generations of Newmans who have devoted their lives to the firm, and whose leadership and initiative have brought it to its prosperous state.

In fact the story of Newman's since 1750 is the story of British industry everywhere, not only of Birmingham firms, many of which have similar stories of family continuity, but also of British industry as a whole, which has been built up on just such individual enterprise.

The first Newman set up his small workshop in Wolverhampton.

There are no trade catalogues from those days to tell us what William Newman made in his foundry. Certainly he used both brass and iron, and he is referred to in the few street directories of the period as a manufacturer. "Locks, hinges, steel buckles, steel toys" are all included in lists of Wolverhampton products at that time; and it is reasonable to suppose that even in those days Newman was making some kind of primitive door-spring, perhaps similar to that on view at the Victoria and Albert Museum.

From 1750 onwards Wolverhampton grew apace. In fifty years it doubled its population, and then doubled it again. Streets were paved, lamps were lit, drains were installed. William Newman prospered and when he died in 1822, he was succeeded by his eldest son William.

This was the William Newman from whom the firm takes its name. He had premises in Bricklin Street (later named Salop Street) which combined dwellings and workshop in one.

With the continued prospering of his affairs, he moved his family out to the village of Tettenhall, and came into work every day in his gig. At Tettenhall, he and his wife Susanna brought up a typically large nineteenth century family. Of these, it was his ninth son, William, born in June, 1818, who came into the business with his father.

In 1853 Newman took new premises in North Road, and sold the Bricklin Street site. The firm was now known as William Newman and Son, and it was beginning to establish its reputation beyond the confines of Wolverhampton.

His death in 1891 closed a chapter in the history of the firm. The workshop in North Road was closed down and the two-storey building, with its cramped little shops, two upstairs and three down, no longer echoed with the sounds of the anvil and lathe.

But at the same time a new chapter was being written. For eleven years previously, in 1880, three of William Newman's seven sons (he had followed his father's example in the matter of large families) came over to the near-by town of Birmingham to set up a branch of the firm.

So George, Edward and Frederick Newman looked about in Birmingham for a suitable site, and left their father and their brother Charles

to look after the North End works. After temporary locations in Bond Street and John Street, land was bought in Hospital Street, the present site of the firm, and the building of the Reliance Works was begun. By 1885 the firm of William Newman & Sons was established where it is to-day.

The culmination of the successful expansion of the firm in the last two decades of the nineteenth century was its incorporation as a private limited company. This took place on December 24th, 1900, so that by a happy coincidence it is possible to celebrate the half-century of incorporation in the same year as the two hundredth anniversary of the firm's foundation.

George Newman became Chairman at that time and Edward Newman Managing Director. Frederick Newman, who was the firm's traveller, became a Director of the firm.

The range of products made by the firm underwent an expansion. An advertisement in 1885 lists, "Improved door-springs, bell-springs, shutter-bars, Cook's Registered Candle Springs, etc."

A certain amount of cabinet brass-foundry was undertaken, but the staple product of Newman's then, as now, was the door-spring. The basic door-spring was the radded spring, known affectionately as the "monkey", or "rat-tail" spring, which is still popular to-day.

It has always been made in three sizes, called the "one-cross," "two-cross" and "three-cross," these names being derived in the old days from the inability of the men to read or write.

Another form of air-operated door spring developed by the firm was the Norton, to-day still an important item in the firm's catalogues.

The radded spring and Norton had a great rival in the hydraulic spring and check in the development of which Newman's played a leading part. Throughout those years, the hydraulic spring rapidly gained ground on its rivals. Newman's made a series of them, such as the Bardsley, the Blount, and finally the king of them all, the Briton.

This door-spring and check proved such a great success that it has formed the best-known of all the firm's products ever since, and can be seen in operation wherever one goes throughout the world.

The outbreak of the World War in 1914 interrupted the steady development of the firm. Some 80 of the firm's employees went into the Forces.

Naturally the firm played its part in the war effort. Bomb carriers, fuse gainers, shell clips and other items of war equipment were made at the Reliance Works. The normal products of the firm were not abandoned, however, as the demand for door-springs, etc., was as great as ever, although it came from government departments rather than private sources.

In 1920, at the age of 69, George Newman died, and was followed by his brother Edward six years later. This blow deprived the firm of the two well-loved figures who had guided and directed its affairs so successfully for 40 years. They had carried out the move to Birmingham, had turned the firm into a limited liability company and had seen it safely through the hard years of the war.

Herbert Newman became Chairman of the firm. Frederick, Royle and Wellesley were elected Joint Managing Directors in 1929.

Just as in 1914 the advent of war interrupted an extension of the firm, so in 1939 Newman's was preparing to open Branch Works No. 2, when war was declared on Germany. This building, opposite the Main Works in Hospital Street, was bought from its previous owners, Dugards, and converted to house several shops. Soon after the start of war the Ministry of Supply approached the firm with a contract to make Bofors 40 mm. anti-aircraft guns. This necessitated a complete re-organization of shops and machinery.

Bofors were not the only items of war equipment made by Newman's. Other guns, rocket projectors for the Royal Navy, stirrup pumps, dia phragms for parachute flares, A.R.P. shelter door-locks, stretchers, metal bunks and parts for Beaufighter aircraft poured out in a constant stream.

The window-gearing department erected black-out gear in many large factories throughout the country.

When the war ended some permanent changes had taken place. The death of Frederick Newman, aged 73, in 1942, and of Herbert Newman in 1945 resulted in a re-organization of the Board of Directors. Royle Newman was made Chairman. Colonel Newman, now returned from the war, became Managing Director, and Mr. Shead, who continued to act as General Manager, was elected a Director.

Thus the sixth generation of Newmans took command. The seventh generation is represented by the two sons of Royle, Peter and Philip, and by Edward Barnes, grandson of Edward Newman and nephew of Royle and Wellesley.

The story of the five years that have passed since the end of the war is of yet further expansion. The transition back to peacetime production was carried out smoothly, and the 145 men who had gone into the Forces were almost all re-instated in their jobs.

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Write: Margaret Stinger, 13 Lyndhurst Avenue, Cliftonville, Margate, Kent, England.

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Two Architectural Assistants required: one senior and one intermediate standard. Reply to P.O. Box 677, Nairobi, Kenya Colony, stating age and experience, when full particulars of service will be forwarded to suitable applicants.

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