DSPACE

https://dspace.org/

African Architect; the Journal of the Association of Transvaal Architects: Journal of the Transvaal, Natal and Orange Free State Provincial Institutes of South African Architects and the Chapter of South African Quantity Surveyors

1912
Institutes of South African Architects and the Chapter of South African Quantity Surveyors
http://hdl.handle.net/10539/18864
African Architect; the Journal of the Association of Transvaal Architects. 1913 vol 2: 1-12 p1-206

Downloaded from a DSpace repository. https://dspace.org/

Registered at the G.P.O. as a Newspaper.



THE AFRICAN ARCHITECT.

VOL. II. No. 1.] JUNE, 1912. [10/6 PER ANNUM, POST FREE.

TRIANGLE MESH REINFORCEMENT

IS THE BEST AND SAFEST MATERIAL FOR CONCRETE FLOORS.

BROWN'S PATENT BRICK REINFORCEMENT

STRENGTHENS AND CHEAPENS BRICK WALLS.

CONGO DAMPROOFING

IS RELIABLE AND DURABLE.

All the above have been used in large and small buildings in South Africa to a considerable extent, affording striking evidence of their efficiency.

SOLE AGENT:

HERBERT AINSWORTH,

CORNER HOUSE, JOHANNESBURG.

P.O. Box 1553. Telephone No. 356. Telegrams: "Ainsco."

WITS UNIVERSITY LIBRARY
JC135059

Structural Steelwork



NEW CARRIAGE SHOPS, S.A.R., DURBAN: THREE BAYS, EACH 400 FT. LONG, 48 FT. SPAN, SUPPLIED AND ERECTED BY US COMPLETE.

STEEL FRAME BUILDINGS, HEADGEARS, TANKS, BRIDGES, STEEL ROOFS, FACTORIES, etc., etc., MACFARLANE'S CASTINGS, WITHERS' SAFES, etc., COLLAPSABLE GATES.

Designs and Estimates upon application.

Gilbert Hamer & Co.

LIMITED. Incorporated in Natal.

NATIONAL STEEL & IRON WORKS

P.O. Box 301. DURBAN. Telephone 872. Telegrams: "Girders."

AND AT

425, CONSOLIDATED BUILDING, JOHANNESBURG.

P.O. Box 1663. Telephone 2386. Telegrams: "Steelwork."

Arch. 1452 6

Established 1880 Established 1880

J. R. McKILLOP

Tiles, Mosaic, Marble and Terra Cotta Merchants.

JOHANNESBURG:
17, Rand Provident Blgs., Fox St.
Telegraphic Address: "KLINKER."
Telephone No. 2767.
P.O. Box 2090.

CAPE TOWN:
77, 79 & 81, Hout Street.
Telegraphic Address: "KLINKER."
Telephone No. 409.
P.O. Box 1219.

Manufacturers of

ROOF AND PAVING TILES, IRRIGATION PIPES AND AGRICULTURAL TILES, FLOWER POTS AND GARDEN EDGING.

Tile Works and Potteries: - - HEIDELBERG, C.C.

The Largest Stock of Decorative Marbles, Suitable for Columns, Pilasters, Wall Dadoes, Floors, Shop Fronts, Counter Tops, Steps and Risers.

SPECIAL TO ARCHITECTS.

SPECIALLY prepared and coloured designs will be posted to Architects of an effective decorative treatment in vitreous Hand-made Tiles and Mosaics. This manufacture is harder than Marble or Tiles all the colours being equally hard; it is therefore more durable than Marble. or Tiles. Being a vitreous material, it is non-absorbent, damp-resisting, and is in no way affected by climatic conditions, fumes and acids. This material being homogeneous the colours are therefore permanent, a good foothold is obtained under all conditions and is therefore suitable for bathrooms, public buildings and engine rooms. These vitreous Tiles, besides the advantages mentioned, can be used on both walls and floors, possessing a slightly matted surface which renders them far more effective for decorative treatment than the highly glazed and mechanically correct Tiles. As the blues, green and peacock tints are the same price as the white, it is possible to carry out a rich colour scheme in this material at prices comparing favourably with any tiles on the market.

A list of buildings can be supplied where these Tiles have been used to the entire satisfaction of the Architects.

'Phone 1752 ESTIMATES SUBMITTED

M. H. ANSELL

(Late of Maples and other leading London Firms)

Builder. Shop & Office Fitter

Coronation Works, North St., DURBAN

Portable Buildings a Speciality
Outside Orders Free on Rail JOBBING WORK DONE

Telephone 1833.
ESTIMATES GIVEN FOR ALL BRANCHES OF THE BUILDING TRADE.

J. S. MARSHALL

CARPENTER AND BUILDER,
SMITH STREET EXTENSION,
DURBAN.

SPECIALITY:
SECTIONAL BUILDINGS FOR UP-COUNTRY

TELEPHONE 463.

W. NOTTINGHAM,

BUILDER AND CONTRACTOR,

P.O. Box 268,
PRETORIA.

J. L. Schoeler

8, HARRISON STREET,
(Near Main Street)
JOHANNESBURG.

Complete Acetylene Gas Installations. The Most Reliable System for Churches, Hotels, Residences, etc. Hundreds of Plants erected, and Success attained everywhere. . . . CALCIUM CARBIDE BURNERS AND ALL ACCESSORIES. Estimates for Complete Plants Free. . . Advice Given. . . .

J. L. SCHOELER,

Member British Acetylene Association.

P.O. Box 2045. Telephone 2707.

Robt. Forbes

& CO.

Builders and Contractors, Manufacturers of Church Office and School Furniture

JOINERY A SPECIALITY

CONTRACTORS TO THE WITWATERSRAND SCHOOL BOARD.

Works and Offices:

Corner Phillips & Fox Sts.,

JOHANNESBURG.

P.O. Box 5188. *Telephone 2307.*

P.O. Box 63. Telegrams: "Pedler." Te'ephone 383.

Pedler & Clapham,

Builders' and Commercial Brokers,
12, BUREAU LANE, PRETORIA.

Lysaght's Iron.
Allen Wack & Co., Timber Merchants, Delagoa Bay.

TIMBER, HARDWARE, PAINT, OIL, GLASS, IRON, etc.

"The African Architect" Advertisers.

The number indicates the page in this issue on which the Advertisement will be found; where a (——) dash appears it denotes that Advertisement does not appear in this issue.

	Page
Adams & Co., M. J	xvii
Ainsworth, Herbert	Front Cover
Ansell, M. H.	ii
Baerecke & Kleudgen	xxi
Barker, Hugh	xxv
Basson & Timberlake	xxvi
Beard, Ellis & Scott	xxiv
Begg, George	xxvii
Bitcon, J. C.,	xvii
Blackhurst & Co.	vi
Boston Wallpaper Co., Ltd.	xxviii
Brick and Potteries Co.	xvii
Brown, S. C.	xxv
Casse, H. E.	xxvii
Chester, Arthur	xxv
Chevers, Jesse C.	iii
Clark & Sons, Thomas	xxvii
Coke, Geo.	xi
C. Collins	xxi
Connell, R	xvii
Cotts, & Co. William (Durban)	iii
Cyclone Gate & Fence Co.	xxx
Cummings, Walter	xix
Dean, W. H.	xxviii
Decolite	ix
Dey, W. R.	xi
Drew, Harris & Sheldon, Ltd.	xx
Donovan, M.	xxv
Douglas, Son & Pugh	xii
Douglas, Thomas	xxvii
Electric Joinery Works	xxv
Embello	xix
Esson & Co	xxii
Evans, Herbert & Co.	xxi
Furman, L.	xxvii
Forbes, Robert	ii

	Page
Gabriel Fire Alarm	xiii
General Fire Appliances	xviii
General Accident Fire & Life	xxix
Gilbert Hamer & Co., Ltd. (Macfarlane's)	Cover
Giovanetti, C. W.	xi
Gwilliam, Fred	xxv
Haine, Wilfred, Ltd.	xxi
Hancock, & Co. J. C.	vi
Hannam & Co., Ltd. (Embello)	xix
Henderson & Gordon	xxiv
Henwood Son, Soutter & Co	xxix
Hingle, George	xi
Hoheisen & Co., Ltd.	xix
Jansen, P.	xxiv
Japolin Enamel & Paint Co., The	ii
Jarrah Timber	iv
Jenkins & Co.	xv & xx
Johnstone, W. F.	xxvi
Kerr, J. A. W.	viii
Lane and Allwright	xxvii
Marshall, J. S.	ii
McKillop, J. R.	i
Meikle & Co., J. B.	xvii
Minton Tiles	xii
Millar's West Australian Hardwood Co.	iv
Moodie & Drennan	xvii
Mosenthal, & Co. Adolph (Port Elizabeth).	iii
Mosenthal & Co. (East London), agents for Pabco Special Surface Roofing	iii
Neuchatel Asphalte Co. of S.A., The	xi
New Muckleneuk Brick Factory (Pretoria)	xxvi
Nottingham, W.	ii

	Page
Paraffin Paint Co.	iii
Pedler & Clapham	ii
Pentland Blue Hydraulic Lime	xix
Plate Glass Bevelling & Silver Co.	xxx
Poynton Bros.	xxii
Prentice & Mackie	xxvii
Pretoria Portland Cement	xi
Proudfoot & Co.	viii
Rainey, H	xxvii
Reid & Knuckey	xvii
Ross, M.	xxx
Ruberoid	xxviii
S.A. General Electric Co.	xxiii
Schoeler, J. L.	ii
Schroeder, Wm., Ltd.	xvii
W. & G. Scott (Capetown)	xvi
Sykes & Co.	iv
Union Granolithic & Asphalte Co., The	xxi
United Asbestos Agency, Ltd.	ix
United Engineering Co., Ltd.	Back Cover
Vereeniging Brick & Tile Co., Ltd., The	xix
Valentine Agencies Co.	xix
Wells Bros.	Inside Back Cover
Whitehorn. E. L.	iii
Wilkinson, Sam	xxiv
Wilson & Son, J.	x
Wright & Sons, John	xiii
Woollacott, G.	xxv

THE
STANDARD PRESERVATIVE
FOR
CYANIDES, SMELTERS, ACID WORKS
IRON BRICK
STEEL STONE
WOOD FIBRE
BOILERS AND SMOKE STACKS,
ELECTRICAL INSULATION

P & B Paint

Damp Proof Prevents
Does not Blister or Scale Oxidisation or decay
SMOOTH SURFACE
COMBINES STRENGTH
AND ELASTICITY

Manufactured by The Paraffine Paint Co., San Francisco

PROCURABLE FROM

C. W. CHAMPION - - - BLOEMFONTEIN
MITCHELL, COTTS & CO. - - CAPE TOWN
HIRSCH, LOUBSER & CO., LTD. - JOHANNESBURG
WM. COTTS & COY. - - - DURBAN
A. MOSENTHAL & CO., - - - PORT ELIZABETH
MOSENTHAL & CO. - - - EAST LONDON
ANGLO-AFRICAN TRADING CO. - SALISBURY, GWELO AND BULAWAYO

Steel Ceilings and Art Metal Works

The use of Chevers' Art Metal for **Ceilings and Walls** does away with the risk of dampness or cracking incidental to the use of plaster or wood; takes a low rate of insurance, because fire-proof; inexpensive to buy; easily fixed; improves the acoustic properties of rooms and halls; offers possibilities in pattern combinations and decorative treatment unattained by any other material. CATALOGUES FREE!

JESSE C. CHEVERS
MANUFACTURER :: :: :: CAPE TOWN
55, LOOP STREET P.O. BOX 529

P.O. Box 236, Jeppes. Telephone 1383.

E. L. Whitehorn
Registered Sanitary Plumber
City of London Guilds. Transvaal University College.
Licensed by the Municipality.
240, MAIN STREET, JEPPESTOWN.
SPECIAL ATTENTION TO JOBBING WORK.
Good Work at Reasonable Charges. Baths, Tanks, Dust Bins.

JARRAH Hardwood.

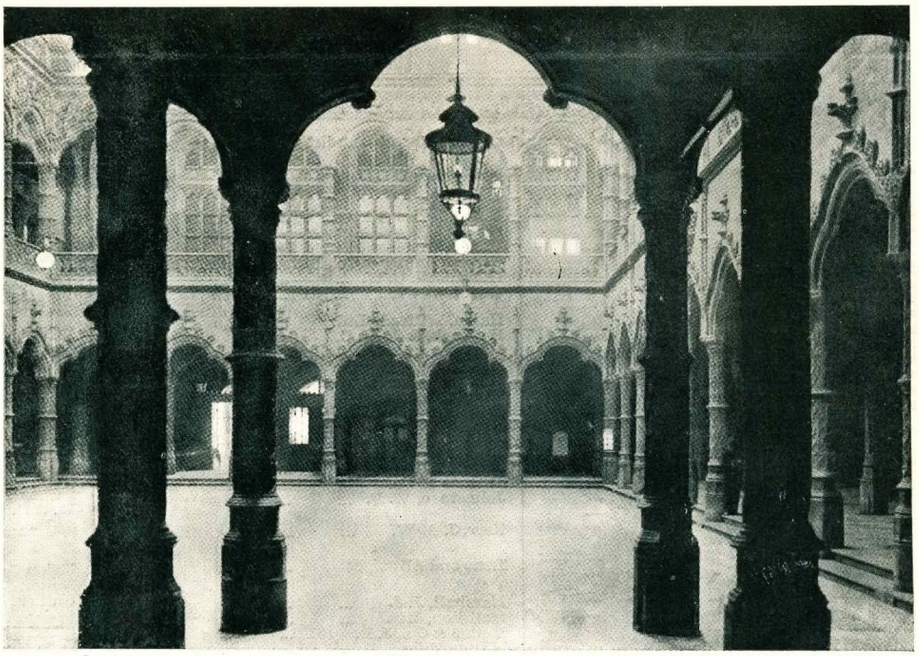
For all Building and Engineering Purposes

Does not rot. Impervious to Damp. No Paint required. Fire Resisting. 50% Stronger than Softwood. Saving in cost by using smaller scantlings, equalling in strength and durability larger sections in weaker Timbers.

A Large Stock of selected and seasoned Jarrah Flooring has been specially imported.

FOR PRICE LISTS AND FURTHER PARTICULARS

Apply to



Antwerp Exchange (Jarrah Flooring.)

Millars' West Australian Hardwoods Co., Ltd.

P.O. Box 430, CAPETOWN. P.O. Box 691 DURBAN. or P.O. Box 1518, JOHANNESBURG.

THE COST OF COMFORT.



GIANT INSULATING PAPER

(Made in England)

WHEN USED AS AN UNDER-LINING TO ROOFS AND WALLS OF CORRUGATED IRON ENSURES A COOL DWELLING IN A HOT SUMMER. IS A SAFEGUARD AGAINST LEAKS, DRAUGHTS, &c. FOR OLD OR NEW HOUSES IS EQUALLY SUITABLE.

PRICES - from 2d. to 5d. per sq. yard

WRITE TO

S. SYKES & CO., LTD.,

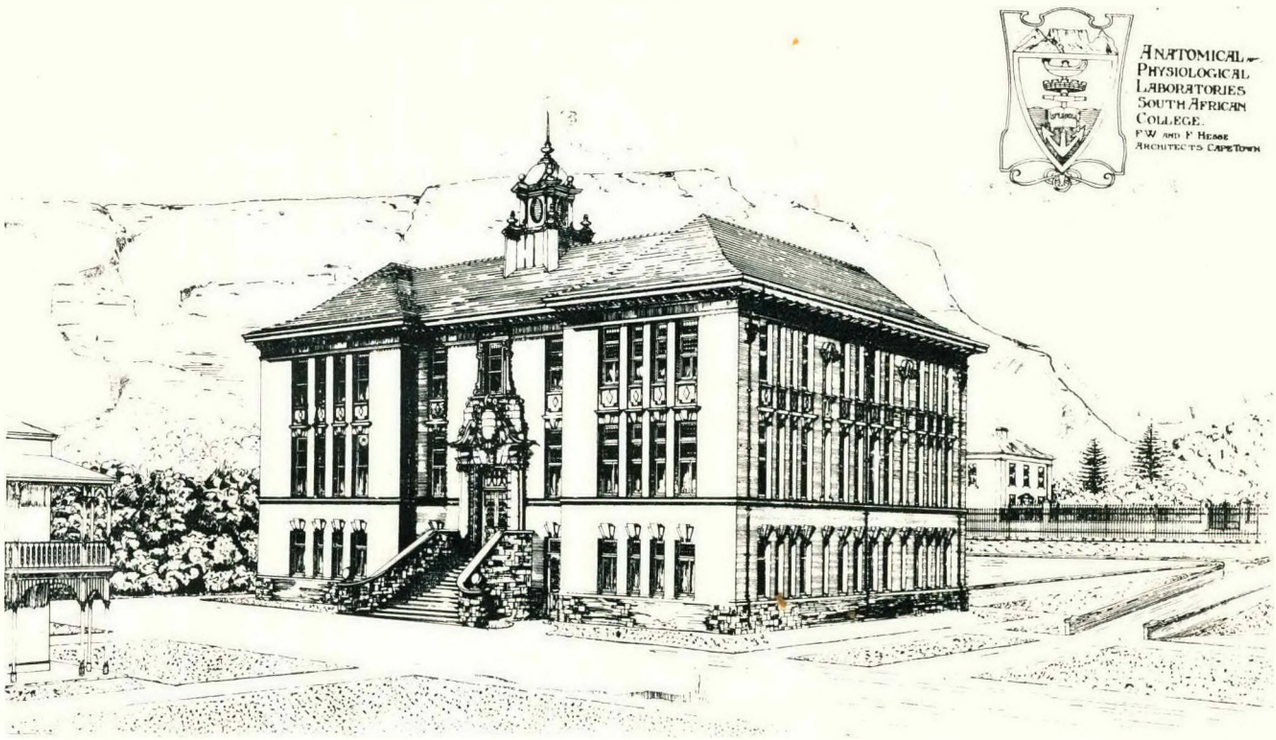
P.O. Box 2303,

JOHANNESBURG

For Pamphlets, Samples and Prices.

Agents in all parts of South Africa. Large stocks carried.

NEW ANATOMICAL AND PHYSIOLOGICAL LABORATORIES AT THE SOUTH AFRICAN COLLEGE, CAPE TOWN.



ABOUT 18 months ago the Council of the South African College invited Architects to submit designs for the New Anatomical and Physiological Laboratories.

Some twelve designs were sent in, and, after some discussion, the design under the motto "Physics" was selected. On opening the letter it was found that the successful Architects were Messrs. F. W. & F. Hesse, of Cape Town. The Building consists of three stories, viz.: the Basement, or Sub-Ground Floor, the Ground Floor, and the First Floor.

BASEMENT.—The front of the Building faces the College Grounds and the back Orange Street.

At this side of the College the ground is about 11 feet below Orange Street, and it was therefore necessary to have a ramp from the street, terminating in a covered top lighted court for the reception of the vehicle containing the body or bodies. From this court, access is obtained to the body receiving room, which room again forms an access to the preparation and tank rooms. A lift is in close proximity to the preparation and tank rooms, and a short flight of steps leads from the preparation room to the prosector's room on the ground floor.

The lighting for these rooms is obtained from the area, making these rooms free from outside observation. Other rooms on this floor are the Rontgen Rays Room, Physiology and Mechanical Room, Experimental Laboratory and the necessary Store Rooms.

GROUND FLOOR.—Contains the Anatomical Section, and is approached by two short flights of steps, one flight outside the Building and a shorter flight inside the vestibule entrance.

The stairs to the Basement and First Floor are placed centrally and opposite the main entrance. A space for cloaks and a Professor's Room are placed on each side of the Entrance Vestibule. A large Dissecting Room is designed on this floor, which is the principal room in the building. There is also a smaller Dissecting Room for female students, a Demonstration Room, Prosector's Room, Lecture Theatre (facing Orange Street), Research Room, Bone and Model Room, etc.

FIRST FLOOR.—Contains Physiological Section. The planning of this floor is practically similar to the Ground Floor, and contains a Lecture Theatre, Professor's Room, Research Room, Histology and Experimental Room, Balance Room, etc.

GENERALLY.—The building has a stone plinth of cream colour and a stone main entrance in white Camp's Bay stone. The walls are of brick and plastered. All floors are of reinforced concrete, and the roofs are covered with Broxley tiles.

Last year tenders were asked for, and the lowest tender was accepted, being Mr. J. Z. Drake, of Cape Town, for nearly £14,000. The successful tenderers for the fittings, which are all in teak, were Messrs. A. B. Reid & Co., of Cape Town.

The Building is nearing completion, and is expected to be opened this month.

CONTENTS.

	Page
New Anatomical and Physiological Laboratory, Cape Town (Illustrated)	v.
EDITORIAL COMMENTS	
Architectural Politics	1
Scale of Charges	1
Cognate Subjects	1
Visits of Inspection	1
Society of Architects' Examinations	1
Boksburg Town Hall	2
South African Architect Honoured	2
Association Affairs	2
Association New Rooms	2
A Welcome	2
PERSONALIA	2
LEADING ARTICLES	
Our Anniversary Number	3
The Master Builders' Congress	3
Our Competitions	4
COMPETITIONS	Page
June Subject	4
No. 9 Winner (Design)	4-5
ARCHITECTS' VISIT TO UNION BUILDINGS (Illustrated)	6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11
MR. DUNCAN MACDONALD SINCLAIR (Portrait)	12
OBITER DICTA	12
ARCHITECTURE IN THE CAPE	
Institute Council's Report	13-14
HOPES AND FEARS FOR ARCHITECTURE	
Extracts from paper read before Architectural Association by Mr. F. C. Eden	xii.
REALITY IN MODERN ARCHITECTURE ...	xiv.
CORRESPONDENCE	
Competitions for Students	xx.

SPECIALISTS
in
HEATING

HOT WATER FOR THE VILLA
HOT WATER FOR THE MANSION
HOT WATER FOR THE LARGEST BUILDINGS AND PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS

Prepared by Expert Heating Engineer.

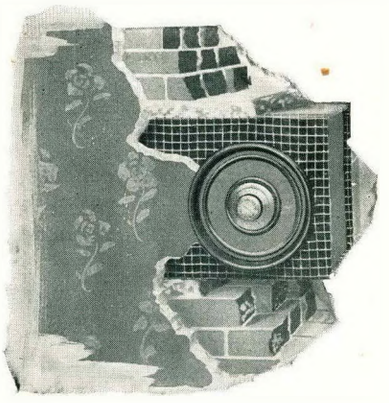
Sanitary Appliances and Special Building Lines

J. S. HANCOCK & Co.

Cor. SMAL & PRESIDENT STREETS,

P.O. Box 1920. Telegrams: "Specialists" 'Phone 2444

JOHANNESBURG.



A GOOD RENT GETTER.

The **STEEL WALL SAFE** is very attractive, giving an added value to apartment buildings or any dwelling that is to be let, sold, or used privately. Being a convenient and secure receptacle for Jewellery, Silverware, and Valuable Papers it fills a modern need.
Made in three sizes—£4 15 0, £5 5 0, £5 15 0.

BLACKHURST & CO.

:: Builders' Hardware Merchants. ::
P.O. Box 375.
Telephone 251.
President Street, Cor. Loveday St.,
—— JOHANNESBURG. ——

SOLE AGENTS FOR MILLER-MONITOR RANGES

Institute of South African Architects.

Association of Transvaal Architects.

(INCORPORATED UNDER THE ARCHITECTS' PRIVATE ACT, 1909).

THE COUNCIL, 1912:

President: H. G. VEALE.

Vice-Presidents: WALTER REID, F.R.I.B.A., W. H. STUCKE, A.R.I.B.A.

Members of Council: A. W. HOSKINGS, A.R.I.B.A. R. HOWDEN, A.R.V.I.A., M.S.A. H. BAKER, F.R.I.B.A., P. EAGLE, IVOR LEWIS, M.S.A., M. J. HARRIS, M.S.A., D. M. SINCLAIR, M.S.A., J. W. NICOLAY, M.S.A., E. H. WAUGH, M.S.A.

Registrar: CECIL ALDER, LIC. R.I.B.A.

Transvaal Institute of Architects.

COUNCIL, 1911-12.

President: H. G. VEALE.

Vice-Presidents: A. W. HOSKINGS, A.R.I.B.A.; R. HOWDEN, A.R.V.I.A., M.S.A.

Hon. Secretary: M. J. HARRIS, M.S.A.

Hon. Treasurer: D. M. SINCLAIR, M.S.A.

Council: J. F. BEARDWOOD, M.S.A., G. A. H. DICKSON, F.R.I.B.A., W. REID, F.R.I.B.A., F. V. STOKES, F.S.I., P. E. TREEBY, E. J. WELLMAN, M.S.A.

Secretary: C. ALDER, LIC. R.I.B.A., Box 5606, Johannesburg.

Natal Institute of Architects.

President: C. W. METHVEN, F.R.S.E., M.I.C.E., F.R.I.B.A.

Vice-President: S. G. HUDSON, F.R.I.B.A.

Hon. Secretary and Treasurer: W. C. E. ROBARTS.

Council: F. J. ING, M. HOLMES, THOMAS READ, J. J. H. LUBKE, G. T. HURST, J. D. ANDERSON.

The Cape Institute of Architects.

President: ARTHUR H. REID, F.R.I.B.A.

Vice-President: JOHN PARKER, F.R.I.B.A.

Hon. Secretary and Treasurer: E. AUSTIN COOKE.

Auditor: W. G. FAGG, LIC. R.I.B.A.

Council: *(Fellows)*—W. J. DELBRIDGE, A.R.I.B.A., F. K. KENDALL, A.R.I.B.A., ALEX. FORSYTH, C. H. SMITH, A.R.I.B.A.; *(Associates)*—J. MORRIS, LIC. R.I.B.A., F. R. E. SLADDIN.

The Society of Architects [Incorporated 1895]. South African Branch.

President: E. H. WAUGH, A.R.I.B.A., M.S.A.

Hon. Secretary: D IVOR LEWIS, M.S.A. **Hon. Treasurer:** M. J. HARRIS, M.S.A.

Committee: G. W. NICOLAY, M.S.A., J. F. BEARDWOOD, M.S.A., G. S. BURT ANDREWS, M.INST. C.E., C. H. STOTT (the two latter are *ex-officio*)

What is your greatest trouble in

HOUSE CLEANING?

DUST?

A **MAGIC** will remove it.

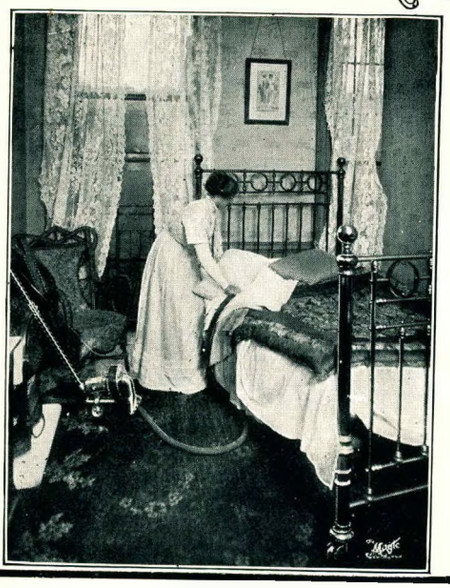
The **Magic** Suction Cleaner

Cleaning down is necessary. Why not use a

MAGIC!

It carries the dust away, and, no going over the work half-a-dozen times.

It costs a ½d. an hour to run and a child can use it.



You can use the **MAGIC** for Polished Floors, Linoleum, Carpets, Walls, Upholstered Furniture, Pillows, Mattresses, Curtains, Picture Frames, Books, Stairs, Pianos, Clothes Brush and a hundred and one other things.

J. A. W. KERR

ELECTRICAL ENGINEER,

Temple Court Corner

Off ELOFF & JEPPE STS.,

JOHANNESBURG

Box 312. ***'Phone 3588***



P.O. Box 2569. Telephone Nos. 43 and 2816. Tel. Address: "TRACTION."

PROUDFOOT & CO.

General and Mining Contractors and Quarrymen. :: JOHANNESBURG.

¶ All descriptions of Cartage, Steam Transport, General and Mining Contracting Work at prices which defy competition. ¶ Foundation Stone supplied from Quarries. Prices on application. ¶ **BUILDERS' WORK A SPECIALITY.** ¶ Estimates Free for every description of Earthworks, Roadmaking, Pipelaying, Dams, &c. ¶ **REINFORCED CONCRETE SPECIALISTS.** ¶ Prompt attention given to all orders. ¶ Prices Right. ¶ Largest plant of its kind in South Africa.

HEAD OFFICE: - - LANG STREET AND SYDNEY ROAD, JUDITH PAARL.

'Phone **43**. Mayfair Branch: 'Phone **2816.**

STABLES: Lang Street and Sydney Road, and 93, Kimberley Road, Judith Paarl. Corner Tenth Avenue and Hanover Street, Mayfair.

The
African Architect
THE JOURNAL OF THE ASSOCIATION OF TRANSVAAL ARCHITECTS.

VOL. II. No. 1.] JUNE, 1912. [10/6 PER ANNUM POST FREE.

EDITORIAL COMMENTS

Architectural Politics.

The April meeting of the Transvaal Institute of Architects was held on the eve of our going to press with our last issue, and, as a consequence, the interesting paper of Mr. M. J. Harris, M.S.A., on "Architects and the Corporate Sense" was not commented on by us at the time. We may say now that Mr. Harris's essay was an excursion into what has sometimes been called "architectural politics," in which he endeavoured to reduce to academic argument many of the vexed questions with which the practice of architecture is beset.

Scales of Charges.

For instance, it is a moot point as to whether any legislative body will ever be induced to legalise the customary scale of charges, or, as Mr. Harris put it, "the minimum fees compatible with honourable practice." The plea that artists and professional men, referred to as the seers and prophets of our day, are entitled to such legislative protection as a safeguard in their stand against that commercial tendency of this age which threatens ere long to put all alike "In the market place, bidding against one another in values of intellect and of worth of soul," is a picturesque phrasing of what seems to us plain common sense. For many other brightly illustrated references to such matters as competitions, town planning, professional education, and the duties of Press and public, the paper is well worth study.

Cognate Subjects.

By somewhat of a coincidence, in the same week as the delivery of Mr. Harris's essay a paper on cognate subjects was read to the Society of Architects in London by Mr. C. McArthur Butler, F.C.I.S., secretary of the society. We propose to reproduce Mr. Butler's paper in a future issue. There is, however, a difference in the treatment of the two papers arising out of local conditions which is interesting. Mr. Harris's paper was apparently drafted with some view to arousing general popular interest and sympathy, and having an eye to the pending Architects Act of Union, while Mr. Butler's paper represented a careful collation of authorities and precedents, intended mainly for perusal within the profession, with many definite and practical suggestions which will be of great value in this country. By-the-way, Mr. Harris's paper does not once contain the seemingly dread words "Union Act"—surely, considering the nature of his subject, somewhat of an exploit!

Visits of Inspection.

Nothing can be more conducive to imparting both pleasure and instruction than visits by architects to important building undertakings. It is, therefore, pleasing to note that recently the members of the Cape Institute of Architects were shown over the works of the Adderley Street Pier by the engineer-in-charge, Mr. R. A. Piercy, who explained the reinforced concrete construction to the seventeen visitors who availed themselves of the opportunity of seeing what can be done in this material. An interesting report is also given in this issue of a visit of inspection paid to the Union Buildings at Pretoria by the Johannesburg architects.

The Society of Architects' Examinations.

We would call special attention to these examinations, which are to qualify for membership of the Society of Architects, the president of the South African branch of which is Mr. E. H. Waugh, A.R.I.B.A., M.S.A., and of which Mr. D. Ivor Lewis, M.S.A., is the hon secretary. The examinations are to be held on June 25th, 26th, and 27th, 1912, and in December, 1912, in Johannesburg, and at any other centres in South Africa at which candidates may present themselves. Forms of application and syllabus can be obtained from Mr. D. Ivor Lewis, hon. secretary, P.O. Box 667, Johannesburg, and also from Mr. C. H. Stott, architect, P.O. Box 7, Pietermaritzburg. We are informed that the applications

must be sent to the secretary in Johannesburg, and not to England, otherwise much confusion, necessitating delay, will take place.

Boksburg Town Hall.

It is hoped that the Boksburg Municipality will carry out immediately the work of erection of the new Town Hall and Municipal Offices there. The position at the present time seems to be this, that the Council is waiting for Parliament's permission to borrow at a special rate for municipal building purposes. The Ratepayers' Association has passed a vote in favour of the tramway scheme and the Town Hall going ahead, and we shall, therefore, be glad to see the winning design proceeded with. It is all a matter of form getting the money on loan from Parliament.

South African Architect Honoured.

We are pleased to note that Mr Orlando Middleton, A.R.I.B.A., of Port Elizabeth, has a drawing of the Stewart Memorial Tower, Alice, C.C., of which he is the architect, hung in the architectural room of the Royal Academy.

Association Affairs.

We hear that a meeting of the Association of Transvaal Architects' Council will be called soon to discuss the proposed Union Registration Act. The question of reducing the subscription, we are also informed, is likely to come up for discussion. A special examination will probably be held this month for architects applying for membership of the Association.

The Association's New Rooms.

The Association's room at second floor, Winchester House, has been furnished with club chairs, writing tables, etc., and it is the wish of the Council that the members should use the same in time as an architectural club. Many pictures have been promised by leading architects, and in time the Council hopes to get a reference library, so adding to the comfort and usefulness of the room.

A Welcome.

All students or assistants of architects will be specially welcomed to use the room, and the files of various architectural journals are on hand. The Institute of Architects and Society of Architects, London (South African branch), will, in all probability, be holding their meetings in the room, so centralising all architectural bodies and working for an uniform policy of co-operation and advancement of the science of architecture.

HEATING INSTALLATIONS.

Now that the cold snap is upon us it would be well to call on that progressive firm of specialists, Messrs. J. L. Hancock and Co., who have for some time had the services of a special heating engineer, and at present they are busily engaged on several heating installations, amongst which is included that at the Barnato High School for Girls. They have also the sole agency for the Edwards' patent, which supplies hot water in the ordinary household at half the cost of the usual installation. One of the great advantages is that it may be fitted to the existing stove.

PERSONALIA.

Messrs. Gibson and Robertson, architects, have opened offices in Sauer's Buildings, where they will carry on practice in future. They have also an office in Bulawayo.

* * * *

Mr. Herbert Baker, F.R.I.B.A., during the last month paid a visit to Cape Town, and has now returned.

* * * *

We hear that Mr. R. Howden is returning to the Rand in the middle of this month after his trip to New Zealand and Australia.

* * * *

Mr. G. Pearse, Johannesburg, has successfully passed his final examination for the R.I.B.A.

* * * *

Professor Stewart H. Capper, M.A., F.S.A., R.C.A., A.R.I.B.A., the Director of the School of Architecture at Manchester University, who is recovering from a serious riding accident followed by pneumonia, has been ordered to take a long rest, and under medical advice has resigned the Chair of Architecture in the University.

* * * *

The editor and proprietor of "The African Architect," Mr. Jas. T. Brown, sails on the "Balmoral Castle" on June 5th on a three months' trip to England.

GOVERNMENT'S LIABILITY.

An interesting discussion ensued at a recent meeting of the Bulawayo Town Council in reference to the liability of the Government to pay rates on Government buildings inside municipal areas. It appears that the law is very vague on the subject, and that the impossibility of distinguishing between administrative buildings and those used solely for the commercial side of the company makes the matter very difficult for the municipalities. However, the Government has at last been induced to make a grant in lieu of rates of £260 to the Salisbury Municipality, and the Council will now approach them, pointing out that they enjoy all the benefits of good roads, lighting, etc., and that they should at any rate place Bulawayo on the same footing as Salisbury, and make some contribution in respect of the many valuable premises owned by them in the town.

LEAD WOOD.

According to a writer in the "Florists' Exchange," "lead wood," which is metallic lead cut in fine shreds about the thickness of ordinary twine, is an excellent material to use for stopping leaks in pipes. The lead wood is caulked in by means of an ordinary chisel, and may be employed when the water is on or off.

The African Architect

ORGAN OF THE ASSOCIATION OF TRANSVAAL ARCHITECTS.

JUNE, 1912.

"THE AFRICAN ARCHITECT"

is published monthly. Price 1s. per copy. Annual subscription 10s. 6d., payable in advance to "THE AFRICAN ARCHITECT," P.O. Box 4651, Johannesburg. Telephone No. 2767.

Head Offices: 17 and 18, PROVIDENT BUILDINGS, Fox Street Johannesburg.

London Offices:— "TECHNICAL JOURNALS, LTD.," Caxton House, Westminster.

European Advertising Agents: Messrs. HASTINGS BROS., LTD. King's Chambers, Portugal Street, Kingway, London, W.C.

SPECIAL ARTICLES on general subjects of interest to the architectural profession, and photographs, are cordially invited from our readers. Where payment is expected this should be distinctly stated. Special care will be taken of MS., but the Editor will in no case guarantee its return.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.—The columns of "The African Architect" are open at all times for expression of the opinions of our readers, but the Editor disclaims responsibility for the views of correspondents. All letters must be signed with the name of the correspondent, not necessarily for publication, but in evidence of *bona fide*, and addressed "EDITOR, 'The African Architect,' Box 4651, Johannesburg."

BUSINESS ANNOUNCEMENTS.—All communications on business matters should be addressed to "THE BUSINESS MANAGER, 'The African Architect,' Rooms 17 and 18, Provident Buildings, Fox Street, Johannesburg."

"The African Architect" is on sale at Chicken's News Agency, Pritchard Street, Johannesburg.

RENEWAL OF SUBSCRIPTIONS.—Subscribers are reminded that the first year's volume has been completed, and renewals should be forwarded without delay to this office. Post Free, 10 6 per annum.

OUR ANNIVERSARY NUMBER

"The African Architect" has, in the publication of this issue, reached its first anniversary, and we have received many congratulations, amongst the most notable being the following letter of appreciation which speaks for itself:—

Dear Mr. Editor—"I learn that you have now completed one year's publication of the 'African Architect,' and I would like to take the opportunity of congratu ating you on the high character of the publication, and also the great consideration you have given to all matters which Architects individually and collectively have placed before you for publication. Trusting you will go on the prosperous path you have taken, and assuring you of our continued support,"—I am, yours faithfully—H. G. VEALE, President Association of Transvaal Architects, and President Transvaal Institute of Architects.

Johannesburg, May 15th, 1912.

We are much indebted for the assistance and co-operation of Mr. Veale, and his colleagues, during the past year; and, at the same time, we feel that we have good reason to be gratified at the success of "The African Architect," in which we have endeavoured to carry out the objects and the policy outlined in our introductory issue. From the beginning we have consistently striven to maintain the highest interests of the architectural profession in this country, and intend to continue unfailingly to follow this ambition and policy. We must admit, also, that it is mainly through the ready support of the architects themselves, many of whom have contributed valuable articles to our columns, that much of the success of "The African Architect" is due, and, which is most gratifying to us. We have reason to believe that this substantial interest on the part of our architectural friends and writers will continue and grow in the future.

* * * *

THE MASTER BUILDERS' CONGRESS

The eighth Annual Congress of the National Federation of Building Trade Employers in South Africa, which was held at Port Elizabeth during April will be read with interest by the architectural profession in this country. This year a new departure was made by the builders in the matter of representation, inasmuch as, by courtesy of the President and Executive Council, the architectural profession was represented by Mr. William J. McWilliams, of Messrs. Jones and McWilliams, Port Elizabeth. Evidently Mr. McWilliams is well known throughout the various Provinces, inasmuch as he was unanimously elected by the Cape Institute, the Association of Transvaal Architects, and the Society of Architects, South African branch. The nominee for the architects put in a very considerable amount of time in attending the Congress, and his views on certain important subjects, such as conditions of contract and the supplying of quantities, were listened to with the greatest attention by the master builders of South Africa. The proceedings, which are reported at great length in the official organ of the Federation, reflected many points which, in our opinion, can best be adjusted by a round-table conference of the parties concerned. So far as we can see, not one of the points under discussion is unsurmountable. The principal question under discussion was the efforts that are being made by the Federation to secure a universal conditions of contract for use in South Africa. At the moment, different conditions prevail in the Transvaal, Natal, and the Cape Colony, while, again, the Public Works Department of the Union has a set of conditions of contract which they use exclusively. It was agreed that the latter should be the basis upon which the builders would build up their set of conditions, and steps are now being taken to secure this end. It goes without saying that the task is not going to be easily overcome, and we should strongly advise the Builders' Federation not to limit their efforts in securing such alterations from the Public Works Department as will make these conditions more ideal, but that the Institutes of Architects in the different Provinces should also be handed copies thereof with a view to securing that all-round uniformity which is eminently desirable from all points of the necessary requirements. It is only by taking each other into confidence that a universal system can be secured, and the sooner that is done the better will it be for all parties concerned.

In connection with the points raised by the Quantity Surveyors' Institute of South Africa with reference to the proposed Architects Registration Bill, we should advise similar steps being taken. It is probable that the resolutions passed by the Builders' Federation will be the subject of discussion at future meetings of the various Institutes, and doubtless that calm and logical attention which has hitherto been bestowed by the Councils of each Institute will be applied to those points which have been raised by the National Federation of Building Trade Employers in South Africa.

* * * *

OUR COMPETITIONS

The subject for our students competition No. 10 is somewhat of a departure from the accepted and stereotyped lines. Mr. M. J. Harris, who set the subject, justifies it on the ground that the office equipment of a young architect may constitute in the eyes of his prospective client an indication of ability, or otherwise, in design; that, beyond this, the everyday surroundings of an architect's work are not always as well devised to their purpose as one should under all circumstances expect. The subject, therefore, of a combination writing and drawing desk fitting for an architect's private study will, we hope, attract some capable young students to submit designs.

STEEL IN CONCRETE.

In these days of steel and concrete construction work, structural engineers are frequently asked what the fate of the buildings will be when the steel beams have rusted away. The best answer to that is found in the report of the surveyor of St. Paul's Cathedral, who recently caused an opening to be made in the concrete of the dome in order that the condition of the great chain which binds it to its base might be disclosed. This chain has been imbedded in concrete for more than two hundred years, and it was found to be as bright and perfect as when new. The reason why steel encased in concrete is prevented from rusting is that the oxide of iron chemically combines with the cement, forming a covering of ferrite of calcium, which is a good protective agent.

ST. JAMES'S, ALPERTON.

The Bishop of London consecrated the new Church of St. James's, Alperton, on Easter Eve, this being his first public appearance since his return home from the consecration of Khartoum Cathedral. The new church, which lies between Wembley and Perivale, provides accommodation for seven hundred and fifty persons, and consists of nave and aisles, a morning chapel being upon the south side of the chancel. The church is built of brick, with red dressings and Casterton stone externally; Farleigh stone being used internally, with plastered walls. The roofs are covered with hand-made tiles. A narthex extends over the west front. The cost is about £7,800. The architect is Mr. William A. Pite, F.R.I.B.A.

"AFRICAN ARCHITECT" COMPETITIONS

No. 10.

These competitions are established to encourage young students in the architectural profession.

JUNE SUBJECT.

A combination writing and drawing desk fitting, in oak, for an architect's private study.

The writing slab to be not more than six feet in length, the underside to carry shallow drawers or other receptacles for double elephant drawing paper placed flat, and for T-square and smaller drawing instruments; the whole to be carried by two pedestals or bases (one each side of knee space) containing drawers or cupboards for stationery and files, etc. Over the writing slab, a cabinet to be designed to contain drawers for foolscap size papers, upright recesses for foolscap size account books, a date-box, a disappearing slide or tray carrying the inkstand, and a draw-out slab to form a stand-up drawing desk or slope not smaller than five feet by two feet six inches. This drawing slope can be designed to fold or slide, or both, but provision must be made for its being steady when extended. Designs must show due regard for comfortable proportions, easy workability of moving parts, devices for the orderly disposal of the numerous small sundries of the office desk (e.g., nibs, paper fasteners, pins, rubber bands, etc.), and provision for a handy arrangement of the various kinds of stationery commonly used by architects.

Drawings required: Isometric view, plans, and sections to one inch scale, and any sketch details (the latter not necessarily to scale) or written particulars necessary to explain the design.

Designs to be in before June 20th to enable decision of judge to be announced in July issue.

Judge: Mr. M. J. Harris, M.S.A. (Lond.).

General Conditions for the Competitors.

1. All designs to be forwarded to the Editor of "The African Architect," 17 and 18, Provident Buildings, Fox Street, Johannesburg. P.O. Box 4651.

2. There must be at least three entries in each subject.

3. There is no entrance fee. A sealed envelope, with the competitor's name therein, must accompany each design attached thereto, no names or nom-de-plume to appear on either envelope or design.

4. In every case, though "The African Architect" reserves the right of publication, designs sent in will be the property of the competitor.

5. Designs must be sufficiently prepaid for return postage.

The competitive designs will be submitted to the gentleman above mentioned, whose decision shall be final.

Owing to non-fulfilment of the rules in No. 8 competition, no award is given.

The winner of No. 9 competition is Mr. James D. Hossack, of Pretoria, and we have pleasure in reproducing his designs in this issue.

The Assessor's Report.

The following is the report of Mr. Walter Reid, F.R.I.B.A., who acted as assessor in this competition:

"I have considered the five sets of designs submitted by students in your May competition for municipal offices for a small South African town, and

return you herewith unopened envelopes containing the authors' names. Design numbered four is the only one with sufficient merit in it to warrant serious consideration. It contains several defects, as will be seen from a perusal of the subjoined list; nevertheless it must be placed first in order of merit.

The general conception is not bad, the main apartments being well lighted and cross-ventilated."

List of Defects.

Mr. Reid points out the following defects in the winning design, No. 4:—

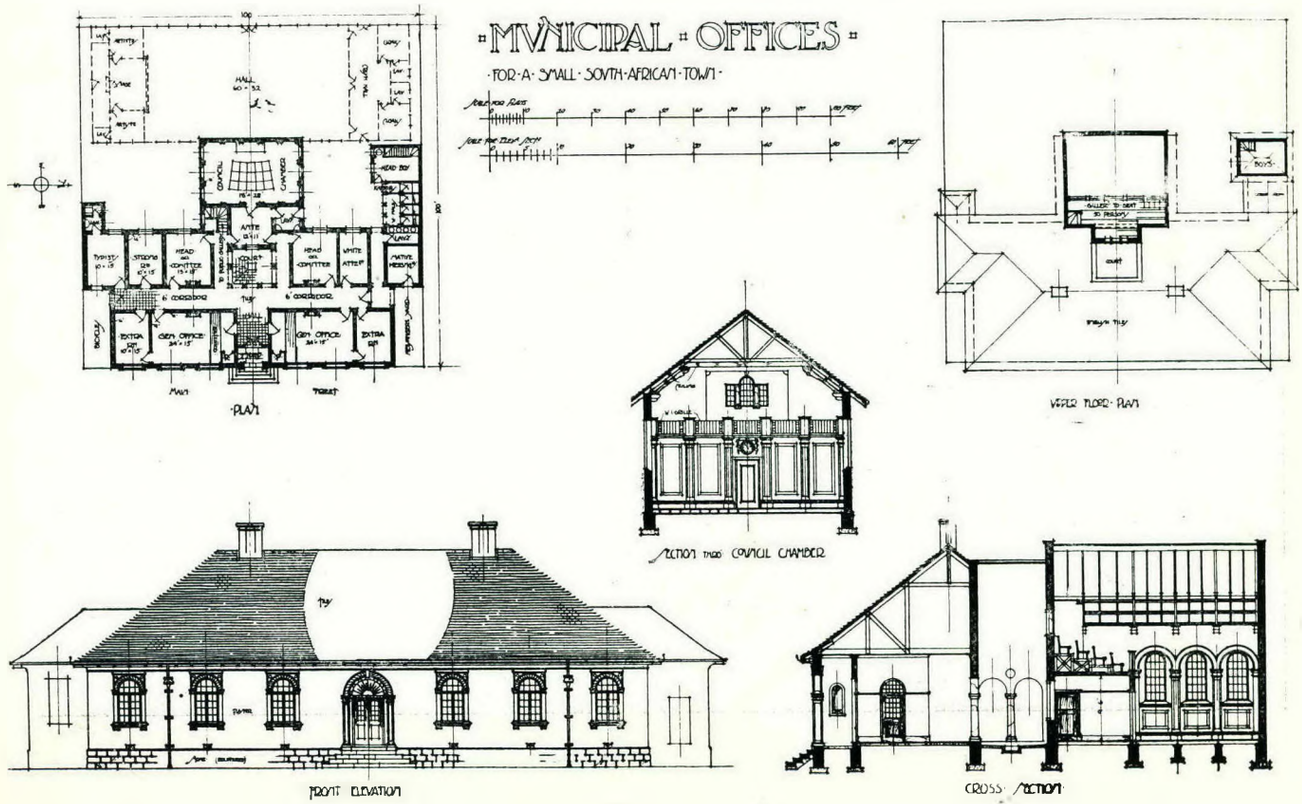
Rhineland feet not reduced to English feet, and so best advantage not taken of size of site. No closets for councillors and heads of departments. No entrance to council chamber except through anteroom. No entrance to yard on south side from the municipal office portion. No ventilating lobby between typist office and the ladies' sanitary accommodation. This sanitary accommodation should be accessible for ladies other than typists without going through the typists' office. Fireplace should have been provided in council chamber. Firewalls should have been shown to south and north boundaries instead of overhanging eaves, as indicated, an infringement of the Municipal regulations. The public space to general offices could be used to greater advantage by placing the doors to same in west instead of north walls. The space allotted for staircase to gallery in council chamber is insufficient for the purpose, and proper headroom is not provided. The approach from messengers' yard to yard on north side could be rearranged with advantage to the general conception in many ways, and so as to provide cross-ventilation and better lighting to the closets and lavatories. The extra three feet four inches in size of site would have been used for the purpose on this side, and the closet tubs could have been removed without going through the interior passage. Only those occupying the front row of seats in the gallery could see what was going on in the council chamber. This could have been avoided by introducing the gallery at the end of the council chamber (its proper place) instead of the side. To carry this suggestion into effect would involve a radical alteration in the design. In its present situation, the gallery is tucked away in a neat and clever way.

DUTCH ARCHITECTURE.

At the last meeting of the Birmingham Architectural Association, the vice-president (Mr. G. Salway Nicol) read a paper on the association's visit to Holland. The great charm of Dutch buildings, he said, is due to the fact that they are such a complete expression of the character and ideals of the people. Their domestic work particularly has much to teach us in the simple and direct way they obtain their effects. For their more important buildings, such as the "Studhuis" at Middleburg, they generally employed a phase of the Gothic style directly inspired by similar buildings in Belgium, but at the same time the detail is full of native feeling. The Abbey buildings at Middleburg, and the Town Hall and church at Vecre were shown by many sketches made by the members, and the great influence of Dutch work in England in the seventeenth century was pointed out.

Design for Municipal Offices for a small South African Town.

Competition No. 9.—Winner, Mr. J. D. Hossack, of Pretoria.



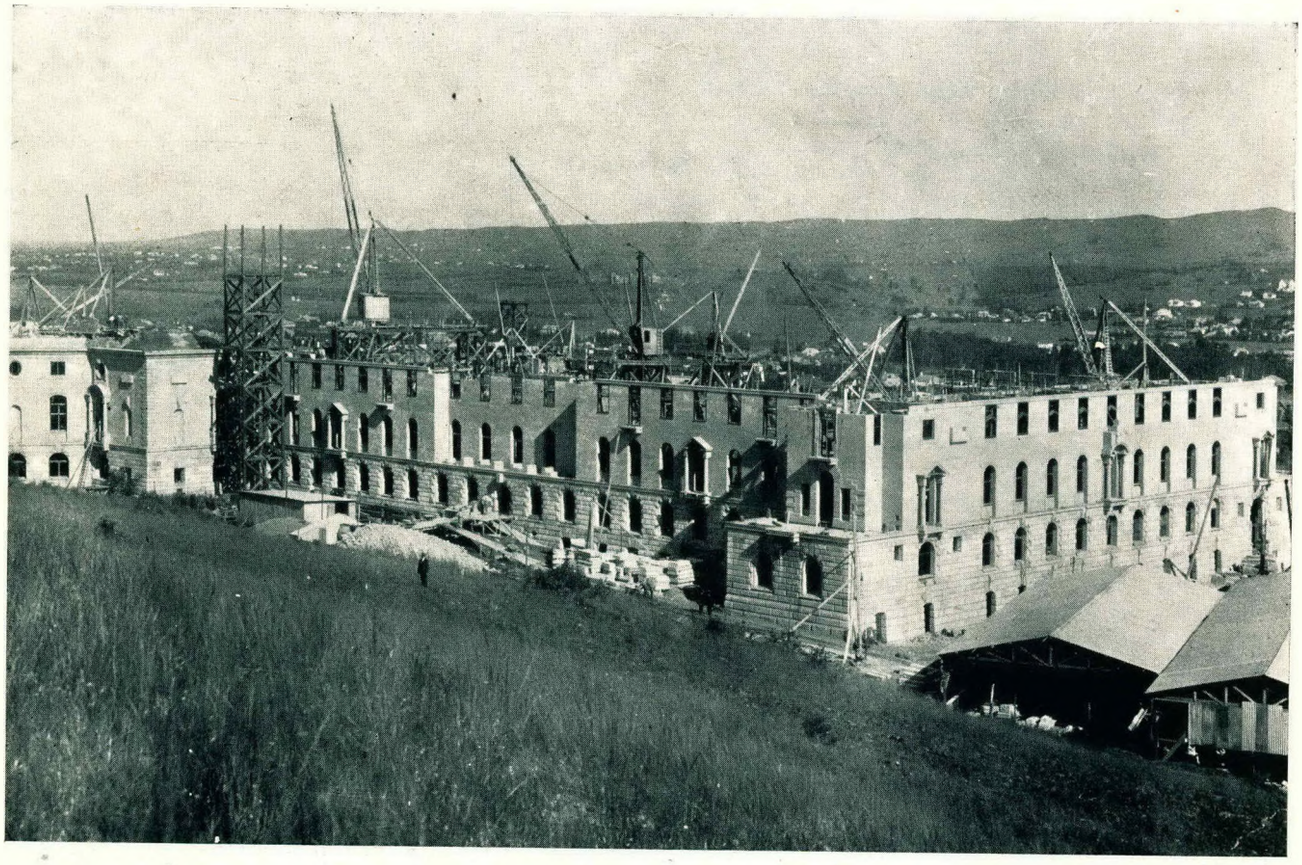
ARCHITECTS' VISIT TO UNION BUILDINGS

An Interesting Inspection. Description of Building in present condition of Constructions, with Illustrations. Luncheon Speeches fully reported by our own Representative.

On Saturday, the 27th April, a large party of members of the Association of Transvaal Architects visited Pretoria at the invitation of the Union Department of Public Works, the main object being to inspect the new Union Buildings at Meintjes Kop in their present condition of construction. The party, under the direction of Mr. H. G. Veale, the President, was met at the Pretoria Station by members of the Public Works Department, headed by Mr. P. Eagle, Chief Architect, P.W.D.; Mr. H. Adams, Quantity Surveyor, P.W.D., and a number of local architects.

A brief visit was first made to the new Railway Station, of which Messrs. Prentice and Mackie were the contractors, and the various waiting rooms, refreshment rooms, with their beautiful equipment and handsome marble walls, were thoroughly inspected, as well as the construction of the booking office, and the commodious vestibule with its fine, massive columns.

From the station the party was conveyed by special tram to inspect the lay-out of Church Square, which proved most interesting, and thence the party proceeded by special car to the Union Buildings. where they were met by Mr. Herbert Baker, F.R.I.B.A., the architect; Mr. M. C. A. Meischke, the contractor for the eastern and western blocks; and Mr. Mackie, of Messrs. Prentice and Mackie, contractors for the amphitheatre block.



WEST BLOCK, LOOKING S.-E. FROM KOPJE.

Inspection of Union Buildings.

The workshops were first inspected, under the guidance of Mr. Meischke, who explained the working of the most up-to-date machinery employed in the turning of granite columns, red Warmbath stone columns, and balustrades. This machinery is all worked by electricity, and is the most modern used in the world.

The carpenters' shop next claimed attention, and the many new machines, all worked electrically, for producing all the teak joinery required for the building were found of much interest. It should be explained that all the window frames, doors, etc., in the building are made of teak.

How the Site was Chosen.

Climbing up to the amphitheatre of the building, the party was addressed by Mr. Baker, who briefly explained the reasons for choosing the site of the Union Buildings. He pointed out that its height was suitable and commanding, and the site provided a good foundation of rock. It was also on a level with Government House and those in the suburbs, and about halfway between the business part of the town. The site originally had formed a sort of natural amphitheatre, and the idea was to place the building round it with the blocks on each side. A terrace was also provided where a large crowd of people could be received on great occasions, such as the reception of the Governor. The plans, however, explained themselves, and he invited them to view the building itself. (Applause.)

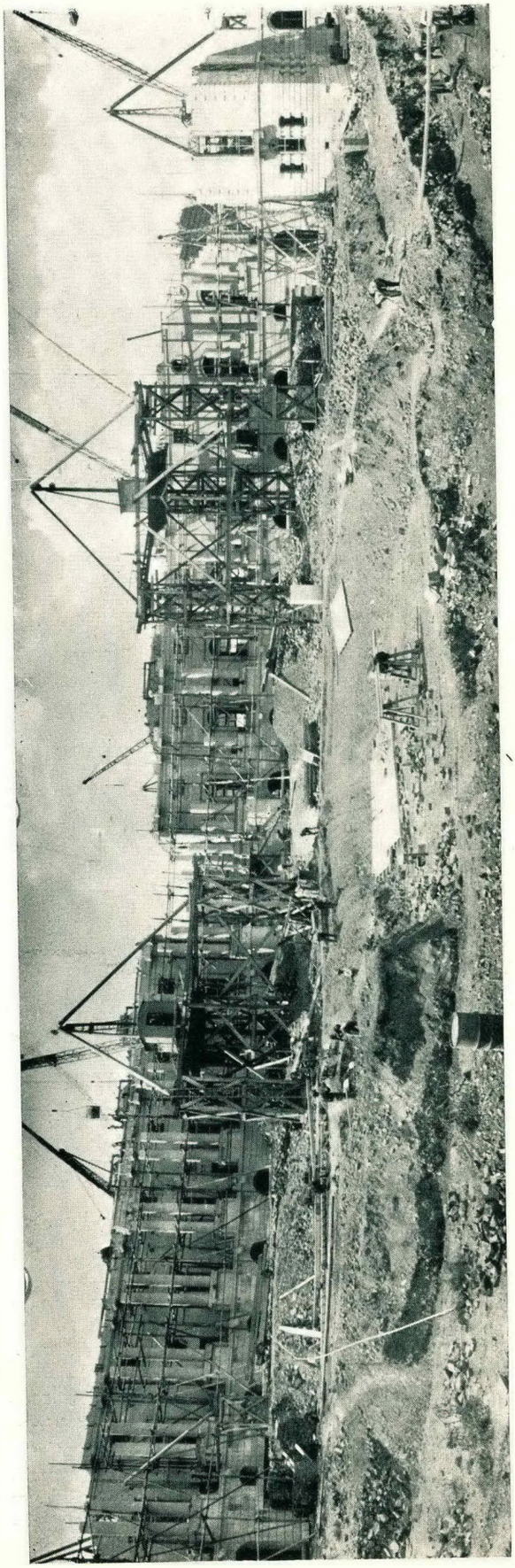
The contractors' workshops, where the machinery is employed in turning out the stone work for each of the wings, were then visited, after which the party was conducted through the building, minutely inspecting every detail ,and being informed on every point of interest by Mr. Baker, Mr. Meischke, and Mr. Eagle.

Description of the Building.

A description of the magnificent building in its present condition of construction may well be given here. Approaching the building from the south, or town, side, the visitor is struck with the enormous extent of the works, and with the amount already completed in the comparatively short time since building operations commenced on Meintjes Kop (twenty months).

The amphitheatre, whose wide and impressive sweep links up the eastern and western blocks, is now roof high, and on the side facing the kop the roof itself is being constructed. The columns of the colonnade are complete on one side, and almost so on the other, and the layout in the curve is now well in hand. One sees the pond, which runs along the whole front of the amphitheatre block, will be spanned by two bridges, and the further features of the grounds in this portion are being begun. The western block is only a few feet from the roof level—in some portions the final cornice has been set.

The eastern block is less advanced, but has now reached that stage that will soon enable it to show up as imposingly as its western companion. Passing through the building and up the slopes of the kop, the value and the nature of the site impress themselves powerfully upon one. The repose of greatness seems to hover round the building, and all the surroundings are considered, and are now being treated to

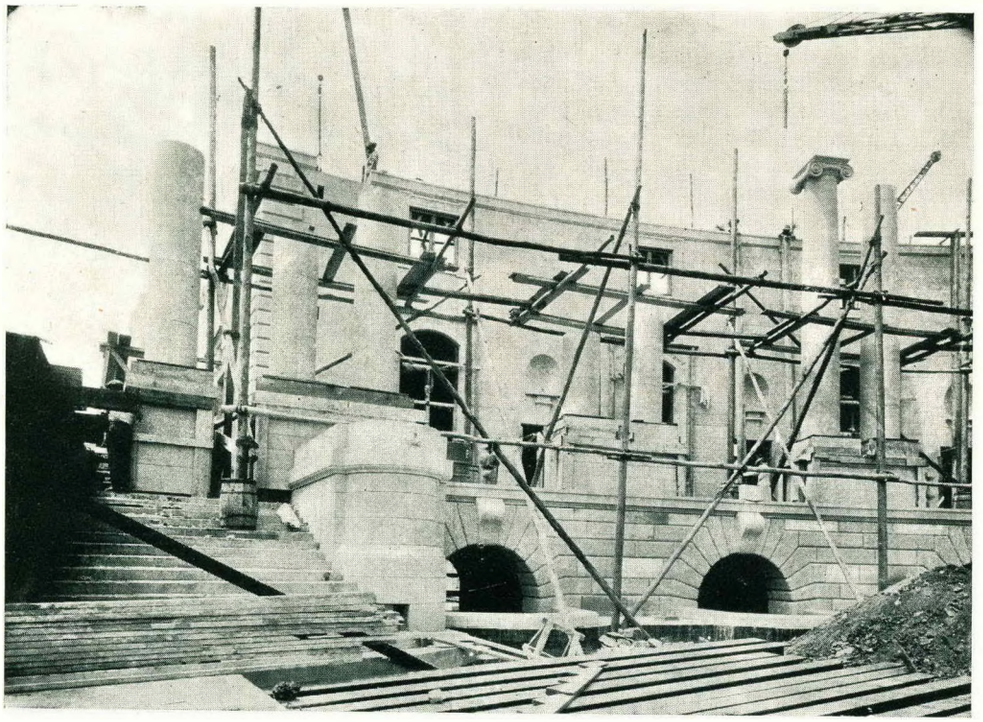


AMPHITHEATRE, LOOKING NORTH.

harmonise and blend in the finished and complete scheme, a striking proof of the foresight, wide conception, and courage of the designing architect.

The grounds extend right down to Church Street, and avenues and lawns are contemplated here, and much preparatory work has been done ; elsewhere on the site large numbers of trees have been planted, which come as rather a surprise to the visitor unaware of the enormous necessities and labours of the undertaking. This site work does not form part of the contract, but is being carried out by the Public Works Department with the help of unskilled white labour, and the size of the already completed portions and the type of work is a happy augury in a country where the possibilities of unskilled white labour are only beginning to be understood.

One leaves the building impressed—vastly impressed ; and with a feeling of gratitude to the men who conceived the great idea.



ENTRANCE STEPS TO AMPHITHEATRE.

Speeches at the Luncheon.

After the inspection, luncheon was served in the Records Room, ground floor, of the western block, when Mr. M. C. A. Meischke presided, in the absence of Mr. Baker, who had unavoidably to leave for Johannesburg. Supporting Mr. Meischke were the following gentlemen : Messrs. H. G. Veale, President of the Association ; W. Reid, Vice-president ; P. Eagle, P.W.D.; H. A. Adams, P.W.D.; H. Siemerink, P.W.D.; M. J. Harris (Johannesburg) ; J. Waterson (Johannesburg) ; F. W. Knightley (Pretoria) ; Ivor Lewis, Secretary, Society of Architects, South African Branch ; and Francis Black (Pretoria). Amongst others present were : Messrs. D. S. Mackie (of Messrs. Prentice and Mackie), F. W. Jamieson (Town Engineer), Burt Andrews (Town Engineer, Johannesburg), F. Stephens, J. J. Kirkness, W. E. Puntis, D. M. Sinclair (Hon. Secretary, Transvaal Institute of Architects), T. Moore (quantity surveyor), J. Wilson, J. Strong, A. S. Clelland, A. W. Lucas, J. Lockwood Hall, F. Hickman, C. Meischke, jun., T. Cowin, H. Marony, De Witt, Kroll, Poole, Soff, MacIntosh, Aburrow, Terry, Lindhorst, Frandorfer, Avery, Murdoch, Ritchie, Kraan, Hooper, Burton, Cairns, Paynter, Smidt, Forrest, Crombie, Kennard, and Marshall.

After an excellent meal, the toasts of the King, the Governor-General, and the Prime Minister were given from the chair, and loyally pledged.

The Chairman then apologised for the absence of Mr. Baker, who, he explained, had been compelled to leave as he was proceeding to Cape Town. Mr. Baker, however, had asked him to say that he hoped when the building was more advanced that the architects would accept an invitation to again inspect it. (Applause.) Mr. Meischke went on to say that the Government was to be congratulated upon having such grand ideas as to construct a building for South Africa of the magnitude of the Union Buildings, and they were also to be congratulated on having a man like Mr. Baker to carry out these ideas in the construction of such a magnificent building, which was to commemorate the Union of South Africa. (Hear, hear.) What this country wanted was education, and when a party from any association visited different places, whether it was to inspect a mine, a factory, or a building, it was done for an educational purpose. They all knew, he proceeded to say, that amongst architects and contractors there was a certain jealousy. (Cries of "No.") Well, if not amongst architects, certainly amongst contractors. (Laughter.) He was pleased to see from the reception of his remarks that there was no jealousy

amongst them on this occasion. (Hear, hear.) That made his subject all the easier, and he might tell them now that the architects were always welcome to inspect the Union Buildings from the sub-basement to the top of the tower. (Applause.) Everyone connected with the building welcomed criticism, because in that way they could gather useful points. A close relationship existed between the architect and the builder always, but the relationship between the architects and the quantity surveyors was not so well established. He knew there were many architects amongst them who took out quantities, and all of them would like to take them out. (Laughter.) He thought, however, that they should specialise, the architect to do the designing and the quantity surveyor to do the business part. It was better that the architects should be designers only and that they should have nothing to do with money. (Laughter.) That should be left to the contractors. (Loud laughter.) He pointed out that in such a building as they had inspected it would be impossible for the architect to be architect and quantity surveyor at the same time. This should also be the case in smaller buildings. As he was neither an architect nor a quantity surveyor, he would not deal further with the subject, but would express the hope that in the future the relationship of architect and quantity surveyor would be better established. (Applause.) He now proposed the health of "The Visitors," coupled with the name of Mr. Veale.

Mr. Mackie added a few words in support of the toast. He said he thought the relationship existing between builders, quantity surveyors, and architects was of a very happy order. (Hear, hear.) Personally, he thought that the Government and the architect were to be complimented on the courage they had exercised in erecting that grand structure. They had done the right thing. The Union Building was an asset to Pretoria and a guarantee to a certain extent that at least one portion of the capital would remain there. (Applause.) With reference to this building and the nature of the work, he thought the latter would bear inspection. His firm had a small portion of it, and Mr. Meischke had the major portion, but he confidently said it would bear inspection. Not only that, but the character of the work was of a very high order, and he would like to drop a hint to the architects and quantity surveyors that they could not expect the best of work to be obtained at the lowest figure. (Laughter.) These two things did not run in parallel lines, and if it was the desire of the Government and the architects to get the highest class of work, they must pay a reasonable price for it. He was just having a little of his own back. (Laughter.) He must endorse Mr. Meischke's remarks in welcoming the visitors. He was glad that the relationship between the master builders and architects had been very satisfactory, and he hoped it would be so in the future. Their surveyor friends would have to be taken into account, and there was no reason why each section should not be sorted out, and that they should work in absolute unison. (Applause.)

The toast was heartily drank.

President's Speech

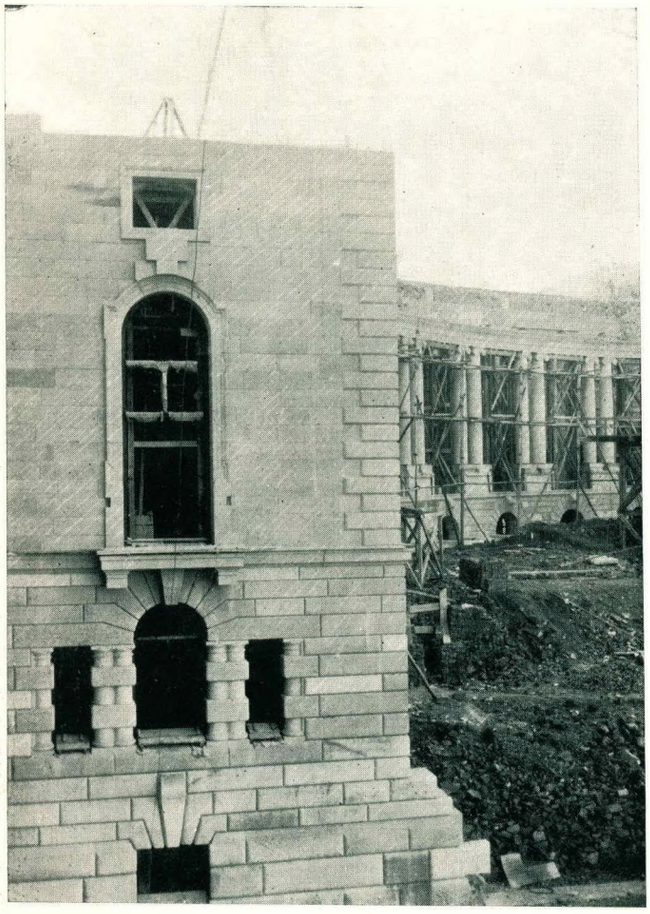
Mr. Veale, rising amidst applause, in replying, said that, on behalf of his Association, he had to thank them most heartily for the toast they had proposed and drunk, and, moreover, for the great courtesy they had extended to the architects in inviting them to visit the noble pile of buildings they were erecting for the Union Government. (Applause.) He felt the occasion of this visit of the Transvaal architects to this work was significant in so far as it showed that they took a very earnest and keen interest in the national architecture of this country, and they appreciated the opportunity of viewing, and it may possibly happen, criticising, the work. Their



WINDOW OF LIBRARY AND EXTERIOR OF READING ROOM.

criticism, he knew, they would value. (Hear, hear.) It seemed to him that what they had seen that morning pointed to a new era in the methods of erecting large buildings in the Transvaal. The modern methods of machinery and labour-saving appliances not only tended to consistent work, but the work was carried out so much more expeditiously than formerly. He ventured to congratulate their friends Messrs. Meischke and Prentice and Mackie on the character of the work they had seen, and also the businesslike manner in which that work was being carried along. (Applause.) He would also like to compliment the gentlemen of the Public Works Department who were responsible for the good conduct of the work. From

what he had seen, he knew their hands must be pretty full, and from what he knew of the men, Mr. Eagle, Mr. Adams, and others, he was convinced they were earnest in their work. (Hear, hear.) He really did not know how to express his thoughts about the conception of the scheme. Such a rare opportunity as this monumental building occurred so seldom that naturally the people responsible for its erection looked round for the very best man to whom they could entrust its design. He thought they were fortunate in being able to lay their finger on a genius resident in South Africa—a man who could fully realise the importance of the occasion and do it full justice. He thought they all acknowledged Mr. Baker's genius, and especially did they think that in the Union



8. ELEVATION, COMMITTEE ROOM, SHOWING AMPHITHEATRE IN THE BACKGROUND.

Buildings Mr. Baker had given the country a design which in years to come he hoped might be looked upon with something of reverence. (Hear, hear, and applause.) So, with all concerned working in complete harmony, they might have little doubt but that the Union Buildings would prove not only a national monument, but also an example of good South African architecture and building. He again thanked them for their hospitality and hoped to accept Mr. Meischke's kind invitation to visit the building at a later stage, when he trusted that they might have architects from the coast to join them in their inspection. (Applause.)

Architects and Quantity Surveyors.

Mr. W. Reid, in proposing the next toast, remarked that he was sure they were very much obliged to everyone who had been instrumental in bringing them over to Pretoria to inspect these monumental works. They would all agree that they must congratulate the monumental minds that conceived these ideas and the monumental hands that carried them out. (Laughter and applause.) They had a lot of clever gentlemen amongst them, and the most clever was Mr. Meischke. (A voice: "Why?") Well, they were over there to inspect everything that was good, but they also found that in Mr. Meischke's references to the architects and quantity surveyors they were put face to face with their own work. He (Mr. Meischke) was, however, reckoning without his host, and did not really know what architects and quantity surveyors came over for. Some of them had anticipated this event, and the architects had come to tell the master builders something, because they had heard what had taken place at the recent Congress of the Master Builders' Federation. He thought they would agree with him that the architects were only too pleased and happy to get rid of their responsibility and to shift that on to the quantity surveyor. He was very necessary for the architect, who had also to see that an eye was kept on the builder. If he were a wise quantity surveyor, he would see that this was done every time. He thanked them all for the entertainment provided on this occasion, and asked them to drink heartily to the health of Mr. Meischke. (Applause.)

Mr. Waterson, in supporting this toast, said he had also to express the thoughts of all those present when he saw how deeply they appreciated the opportunity Mr. Meischke had given them of inspecting the works at this stage, when they were singularly interesting to the architectural profession. They appreciated the care Mr. Meischke had taken in making their visit profitable and instructive, and his work spoke for the man. (Applause.) That work had been referred to as monumental, but it was more than that. He thought it marked a great stage in the development of the architectural work in South Africa. (Hear, hear.) Mr. Meischke had been instrumental in the construction of a building that would provide serious inspiration and pleasure for many generations to come. He doubted if in the whole world to-day there was a building quite of this magnitude as a government building being erected. (Applause.) He had some knowledge of work in Great Britain, the States, and Canada, and he did not believe that anywhere in the world to-day had a government undertaken a building of this magnitude. So that Mr. Meischke's name would go down worthily to the future generations of South Africa as the constructor not merely of the greatest South African building, but one of the greatest buildings in the white man's world. (Applause.) He hoped Mr. Meischke would live long to see the benefit and profit of his work. He hoped also that his coadjutors, Messrs. Prentice and Mackie, would also live for many years to come and be able to go there and look round and make good defects. (Laughter and applause.)

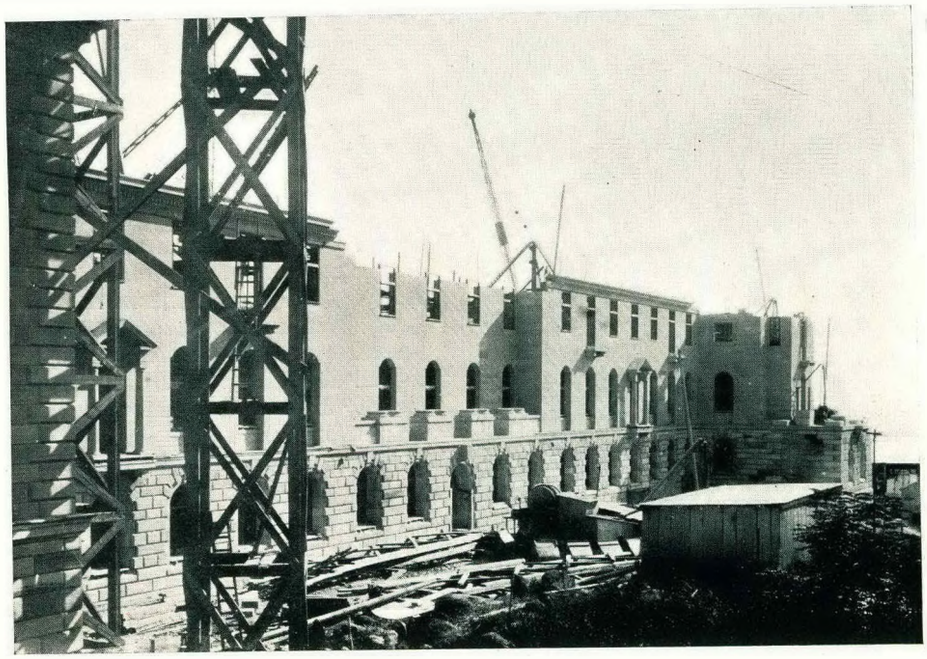
Mr. Meischke's health was drunk with great enthusiasm.

In replying, Mr. Meischke referred to the great genius of Mr. Baker, remarking that the architects ought to feel proud of him because he was a member of their profession. (Hear, hear.) He also said that when they mentioned Mr. Baker, they must not forget the architect for the Public Works Department, Mr. Eagle. (Applause.) He had found in Mr. Eagle a man of great ability, and was only sorry that he had to look after the money part of it, in which connection Mr. Adams also was concerned. He also referred to Messrs. Prentice and Mackie, remarking that while he at one time thought it impossible to have two contractors on one building, they had worked in harmony. (Hear, hear.) Referring to the Clerk of Works, he thought Mr. Mackie would agree with him that he had done more to assist the contractors than look after them. (Hear, hear.) They must also mention the foreman, who had first-class workmen to look after, and in this connection he would point out the good relationship that existed between the employers and the workmen. (Hear, hear.) He proposed the healths of Mr. Baker, Mr. Eagle, Mr. Adams, and Mr. Siemerink. (Applause.)

The toast was drunk amidst applause, and Mr. Eagle briefly replied.

Mr. M. J. Harris proposed the toast of the "Public Works Department and staff," and thanked them for their liberal hospitality. He would like to say that he believed he was voicing the general sentiment of those who came from Johannesburg when he stated that they were in every way impressed with the design of the Union Buildings. They were impressed with the fortunate circumstance that they not only had Mr. Baker's conspicuous ability to produce such an idea, but also his influence and persuasive powers to bring it home to the consciousness of legislators that such a building would be of value in the interests of the citizens of South Africa. (Applause.) Mr. Baker had not only obtained the opportunity for himself, but the manner in which he had taken advantage of it was an inspiration to the rest of them. (Applause.) The manner in which the work had been carried out, and the labour devices which Mr. Meischke had introduced, had also impressed them. Before coming to the main purport of his toast, it might not be out of place to touch upon the relationship between builders, architects, and quantity surveyors. He attached great weight to the remarks of Mr. Meischke, and it would occur to all of them that so long as they face their problems fairly and squarely, an amicable solution must be come to. (Applause.) The architects wanted a Registration Act over South Africa, and if the quantity surveyors saw their true interests they would discover an exact parallel in other professions. The medical men, for instance, had no such division. He pointed out that the quantity surveyor stood to the architect as the dental surgeon did to the medical man. (Laughter.) They had heard Mr. Meischke's testimony as to that. (Laughter.) He now came to the question of the Public Works Department. Much as they might at times find fault with the system that at present obtained, there could be little doubt that the work of the Public Works Department represented as high a pitch of efficiency as could well be obtained. (Applause.)

The toast was heartily pledged, which concluded the proceedings.



NORTH ELEVATION: WESTERN BLOCK.

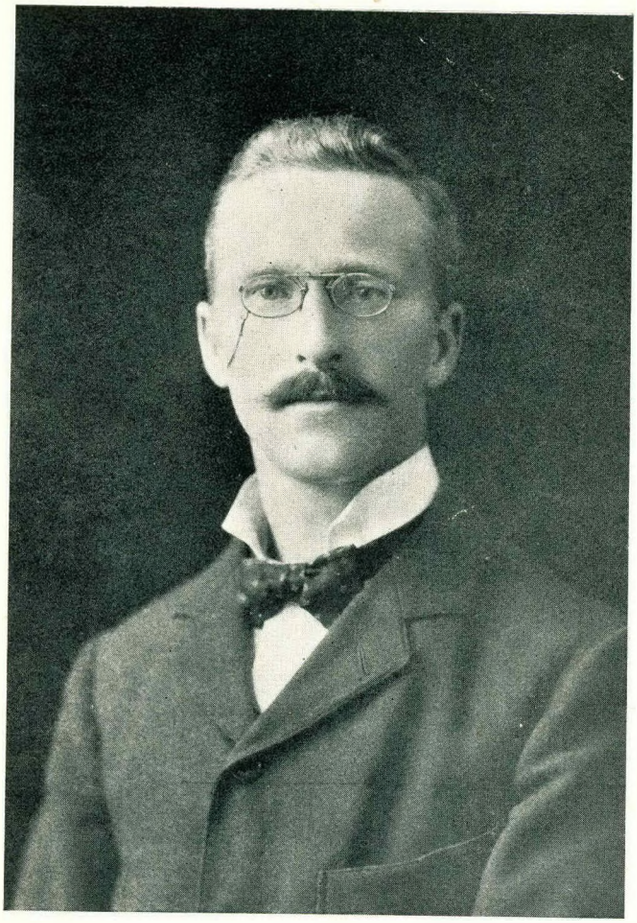
Visit to Waterkloof.

Two special 'buses were in waiting, and the party then drove to Waterkloof and the Pretoria Country Club, which proved most intersting, and a happy conclusion to an exceedingly enjoyable outing.

A curious fashion, which is said to be spreading, was lately introduced into a cemetery in Ohio—namely, carving on a gravestone an enlarged facsimile of the signature of the deceased.

MR. DUNCAN MACDONALD SINCLAIR

Mr. Duncan Macdonald Sinclair is a son of the late Mr. Dugald Sinclair, of Port Elizabeth, Cape Colony, and was born in 1877 at Romford, Essex, England. He came to Port Elizabeth, C.C., in 1880, but returned to England in 1887 to study for his profession, and was articled to Messrs. Langham and Cole, architects and quantity surveyors, Ramsgate and Broadstairs, Kent. Mr. Sinclair returned to South



Africa (Johannesburg) in 1896, and became assistant to Messrs. Philip and Leslie, Messrs. Carter and McIntosh, and Mr. J. B. Nicholson, architects, Johannesburg. He was afterwards partner for three years with Mr. W. M. Philip, and was consulting architect for the Rand Club for two years. Some of the buildings designed by him are the Trades Hall, Loveday House, Belfast Warehouse Company's building, Don Buildings, and various others, including residences. It should be noted that he served in the 1st Battalion Railway Pioneer Regiment for two years and three months during the war, and received the King's and Queen's medals and five bars. At the present time he is honorary secretary of the Railway Pioneer Regiment. Mr. Sinclair is a member of the Incorporated Society of Architects, London; a council member and honorary treasurer of the Transvaal Institute of Architects; and also a council member of the Association of Transvaal Architects. In each of these institutions he takes a most active interest, and is an energetic and enthusiastic official.

OBITER DICTA.

ART JUDICIALLY DEFINED.

Mr. Justice Darling (to Mr. Jellicoe): If you know anything of art, as I dare say you do, you would know that anything that is pretty is not artistic; if it is ugly it is artistic, and if it is absolutely nauseous it is very artistic indeed. (Laughter.)—High Court of Justice, March 21st, 1912.

EXPECTANT GENIUS.

There is no reason why our cities, towns, and villages, especially London, should not have things dignified and beautiful and well placed; for many of our architects, sculptors, painters, and designers, who are the joy and envy of other nations, are anxiously waiting to give the best of their genius, if called upon to do so.—Sir George Frampton, R.A., in the "Journal of the Imperial Arts League."

TOO MANY CRITICS.

I am a little sceptical about the new "London Society." It is to make every Londoner a critic, but it cannot insure that any two critics will agree. As things are now, the learned are content to dispute about Renaissance architecture, but with all London interested in the matter, there would be a movement to pull down St. Paul's Cathedral, a counter-movement to defend it, and consequent riots on Ludgate Hill.—"The World."

ARCHITECTURAL STUDY.

One deplores the falling-off of the acquisition of archæological knowledge and interest amongst younger architects. The great impulse given to the study of our ancient buildings, more especially churches, during the wave of church restoration in the latter half of the last century, acted in the most impelling manner in producing amongst architects many scholarly exponents of mediæval art throughout the country. The decline of this wave of restoration, and the revived appreciation of Classic and Renaissance traditions, had decreased the flow of study amongst architects as well as among the clergy who had done so much in the past to instil a love for the study of the beautiful buildings under their care. It may be hoped, however, that the newer interest may widen the whole sphere of art, and produce even more enthusiastic exponents of the historical study of architecture. . . . To advance the training of our younger brethren, one would suggest, in addition to classes, lectures and visits to buildings under trained guides.—From presidential address by Mr. James Jerman, F.R.I.B.A., to Devon and Exeter Architectural Society.

AN IMPORTANT COMPETITION.

Mr. Leonard Stokes, president of the Royal Institute of British Architects, has arrived at Winnipeg to examine the competitive plans for the new legislative buildings. The competition having been open to architects in any part of the British Empire, plans have been received from a number of Old Country architects.

Architecture in the Cape.

THE INSTITUTE COUNCIL'S REPORT.

ARCHITECTURAL COMPETITIONS.

The General Annual Meeting was held in Cape Town on April 18th, 1912, when the following officers for the ensuing year were elected: President, Arthur H. Reid, F.R.I.B.A.; vice-president, John Parker, F.R.I.B.A.; members of Council (Fellows), W. J. Delbridge, A.R.I.B.A., F. K. Kendall, A.R.I.B.A., Alex. Forsyth, C. H. Smith, A.R.I.B.A.; (Associates), J. Morris, Licentiate R.I.B.A., F. R. E. Sladdin; hon. secretary and treasurer, E. Austin Cooke; auditor, W. G. Fagg, Licentiate R.I.B.A.

The following were elected as Fellows: Thomas Davidson, Smithfield, O.F.S.; H. G. E. de la Cornillère, Bloemfontein, O.F.S.; F. A. O. Jaffray, Bethlehem, O.F.S.; W. Black, F.R.I.B.A., Cape Town.

The President presented the prize gained by Mr. F. W. Glennie for the best set of measured drawings of the Old Wine Cellar, Groot Constantia, and commended the work of Mr. T. Forsyth.

Yearly Report.

The following is Council's Report for the period from October 18th, 1910, to April, 1912:—

The following meetings have been held: General meetings of members, 9; Council meetings, 35. The attendance of members of Council has been as follows: A. H. Reid (president), possible 35, attended 35; E. Austin Cooke (hon. secretary), 35, 35; F. K. Kendall, 35, 27; J. Morris, 29, 26; A. Forsyth, 35, 19; F. R. E. Sladdin, 29, 17; J. Parker (vice-president), 35, 11; W. Adamson (resigned), 22, 7; C. H. Smith (on leave), —, 5.

HOME.—It was considered advisable that the Institute should have a home of its own, so an office in the South African Association Buildings, 6, Church Square, has been taken, partly furnished, and the hon. secretary installed therein.

LIBRARY.—The collection of architectural books presented to the Institutes by the trustees of the late T. H. Hitchin is available for reference at the office—other books are being added, and attention is drawn to Rule 21 which provides that all town members shall either contribute an original paper or subscribe £2 2s. to the library. The Council thank Mr. A. G. Howard for the gift of "Grammar of Ornament," by Owen Jones.

EDUCATION.—INSTITUTE PRIZE.—The Institute has established a yearly prize of the value of £3 3s. for the best set of measured drawings, to be competed for by students, and the first subject set was the Old Wine Cellar at Groot Constantia. The Council regret that only two sets were sent in, which are now exhibited in the room. That by Mr. F. W. Glennie is awarded the prize, and the Council wish to express their appreciation of the set sent in by Mr. T. Forsyth as being very creditable for so young a student.

BAKER SCHOLARSHIP.—The drawings submitted by the two competitors for the Baker Scholarship were obtained and exhibited in the City Hall, and elicited a considerable amount of interest, His Worship the Mayor performing the opening ceremony. It should be remembered that this scholarship of £250 is offered every second year to South African students, to enable the holder to study for a year in Europe, thus providing a golden opportunity to serious-minded students. The Council would like to see a greater interest taken by students in the means provided for their advancement.

OBITUARY.—It is with sincere regret that the Council have to report the death of Mr. George Ransome, F.R.I.B.A., who was one of the earliest members of the Institute.

MEMBERSHIP.—During the period under review we have lost four members: Messrs. G. Ransome, deceased; D. Gordon, resigned, gone to British Columbia; and F. Masey and T. Sladdin, both resigned, and now in Rhodesia. Six new members have been elected, making our present number thirty-three.

MASTER BUILDERS.—The Council have corresponded and conferred with the Master Builders' Association with a view to minimising the irregularity of builders preparing plans, but with little result so far.

PUBLIC COMPETITIONS.—Every occasion has been taken to try to improve the conditions of competitions, the promoters being written to and "suggestions" sent, with little result however, as generally we know nothing about a competition until it is advertised, and then it is too late to alter matters. In the case of Robertson Boarding Establishment, the work asked for, at our instigation, was limited to the plan of each floor, one elevation and one section, all to one-sixteenth scale, and no perspective.

In the competition for public slaughterhouses, at the invitation of the City Council our Council

nominated three architects, one of whom, our president, was selected to act with Mr. R. W. Menmui, A.M.I.C.E., as joint assessor.

Members would help in the matter if they would notify the hon. secretary of any competition likely to be brought forward.

TOWN PLANNING.—A conference on town planning was held under the auspices of our Institute, at which representatives from the following bodies attended: Society of Artists, National Society, Publicity Association, Society of Engineers, Government Surveyors, Municipal Engineers, Master Builders' Association, Cape Town Council, etc., when, after considerable discussion, it was decided that it was better not to form a new society, but to strengthen the Publicity Association by sending delegates from the Institute to that body, and at the next meeting of the Council Messrs. A. H. Reid, Kendall, and Morris were appointed to watch the interests of our profession in town planning and technical matters as members of the advertising and attractions committee.

ROYAL SANITARY CONGRESS.—Delegates from the Council attended the first Royal Sanitary Institute Congress held in Cape Town in November, 1911.

PRESS.—The Council thank the "African Architect" and the local Press for their notices and all assistance rendered.

ARCHITECTS REGISTRATION ACT.—In December, 1910, a conference was held in Cape Town, under the auspices of the Cape Institute, with the idea of federating the three Institutes of the Transvaal, Natal, and the Cape, but it was decided that instead of federating, all should unite in endeavouring to get an Act on the lines of the Transvaal Registration Act passed for the whole Union. A committee was nominated which met on successive days and drew up a draft of the proposed Act, which was printed, and copies sent to the various institutes and societies interested. A considerable amount of correspondence has passed between our Council and the various bodies interested, each offering amendments, and those proposed by the Society of Architects are now being considered by the Transvaal and Natal Institutes. Although the time taken by this interchange of views has been considerable, the Council would point out that no real delay has occurred, as had our Bill been ready it would have been crowded out by press of Parliamentary business.

The finance of the proposed Bill is a matter for serious consideration as, although no opposition is expected, the expenses incurred will necessarily be heavy. A levy of £2 2s. per member has been made on all members of the Cape and Natal Institutes, and subscriptions asked from non-members in the three Provinces of Cape, Natal, and Orange Free State, from which £136 7s. has been received (others have promised but have not yet paid), the local branch of the Society of Architects promised £40 from their own funds and £100 from the Society itself in London, a total of £276 7s., an amount which it is feared will not be sufficient, and the Council hope that all architects who have not done so will contribute.

PAPERS.—Papers have been read by Mr. A. H. Reid on "Town Planning," Mr. F. K. Kendall on "Competitions," and Mr. J. Morris on "Colour in Architecture." Mr. M. B. Torstenson came prepared with "Some Examples of Mediæval Timber Structures in Norway," but the attendance was so small that it was not read.

A syllabus of papers to be read this session is being prepared and the Council hope that members will make a point of attending and discuussing the various subjects.

Annual Subscription.

It was resolved, on the motion of Mr. Parker, that "it be a recommendation to the Council to consider the advisability of raising the annual subscription."

Architectural Compstitions.

Mr. Reid delivered his presidential address, which we gave in an abbreviated form in our last issue. The following remarks regarding competitions were omitted, and should be read as following paragraph on page 219 headed "Right Prevails in Due Course":

Now in saying this I am not digressing from the subject of competitions, but leading up to the exposure of some of the amazing proposals that the class of person above referred to makes to a self-respecting profession. Here are some advertisements which have appeared recently in our local newspapers, and I ask you what can one do but try to save these good people from themselves? I have no doubt that many such proposals as these are suggested by interested persons with the object of keeping professional men out of the competition and securing the work for themselves. In the following cases they will, I fear, succeed, but at all events the benefits of competition will not be secured by the committees, as architects of any standing will naturally save their time and brains and decline to compete. Here is No. 1:

> "The Church Council of the . . . . , having decided to erect a new church building, call for plans, to be in by April 6th next. The accepted plan, with bill of quantities, will be bought after agreement."

No. 2 runs:

> "Drafts accompanying tenders for the execution thereof are hereby invited for the erection of a cruciform church at . . . . , with floor space for six hundred seats, four galleries exclusive. The building is to be constructed of stone. Payment will be made for the accepted draft or sketch plan. The Kerkeraad reserves the right to accept any tender."

No. 3 runs:

> "Plans and specifications are invited for a new church at . . . . , to seat at least eight hundred adults. Architects are requested to enclose, along with their plans, a rough estimate of the building built with machine bricks. The committee does not bind itself to accept any plan or to award a premium."

No. 4 runs:

> "Plans and specifications are invited for a church at . . . . , to seat twelve hundred adults (more or less). Architects are requested to enclose, along with their plans, a rough estimate of the building built (a) with machine bricks, (b) with sandstone, etc.

Continued on Page x.

Britain's Best!

ONCE USED, ALWAYS SPECIFIED.

"DECOLITE"

FIREPROOF FLOORING

THE FLOORING OF THE AGE.

¶ Quickly applied in plastic form to any hard surface. ¶ When laid, a "DECOLITE" floor by its attractive appearance commands attention. ¶ Mahogany in colour, it is impervious and hygienic. ¶ Easy, elastic and comfortable to the tread. ¶ In fact "DECOLITE" IS THE LAST WORD IN FLOORINGS, and moreover is MODERATE IN COST.

"GLADIATOR" FIREPROOF BUILDING SHEETS

GREAT STRENGTH

FOUR LIGHT WEIGHT  LOW COST **POINTS**

EQUABLE TEMPERATURE ASSURED

¶ Obtainable in sheets from 40 ins. square to 12 ft. x 4 ft.; from 1/8 in. to 1 in. thick, and in three colours: Grey, Blue and Red. ¶ The "GLADIATOR" fireproof sheets are peculiarly adaptable for Walls, Ceilings, Partitions, Bungalows and Buildings—portable or permanent—Sheds, Flat Roofs, etc., etc. ¶ They are Damp, Sound and Vermin-proof. ¶ Lie quite flat. ¶ Will not warp or crack. ¶ Are easily sawn or nailed, and can be painted or papered.

"GLADIATOR" FIREPROOF ROOFING TILES

ARE ABSOLUTELY WEATHER PROOF, AND PRACTICALLY INDESTRUCTIBLE.

¶ Average weight about 20 lbs. per square yard laid, *i.e.* six times lighter than red clay tiles. ¶ Colours: Terra-cotta, Grey and Blue. ¶ Sizes: from 6 ins. to 24 ins., in all shapes. ¶ They are of first-class finish and conduct 70 per cent. less sun heat than corrugated iron. ¶ They constitute, when properly laid, a roofing which never leaks or gives any trouble, and, in fact, improves with age.

FOR FURTHER DATA, OR TO INSPECT SAMPLES, APPLY

20, COMMERCIAL ROAD,
DURBAN.
P.O. Box 139.
'Phone 445.

UNITED ASBESTOS AGENCY, LIMITED,

GROUND FLOOR, CENTRAL HOUSE,
SIMMONDS STREET,
JOHANNESBURG.
P.O. Box 2642. 'Phone 345.

29, STRAND STREET,
CAPE TOWN.
P.O. Box 1451.
'Phone 722.

"The architect whose plan is accepted will be awarded a premium of £35. The plan to become the sole property of the Kerkeraad. The committee does not bind itself to accept any plan."

No. 5 runs:

"To architects and contractors.

"The Kerkeraad of the church of . . . . . hereby call for plans and specifications for the building of a new church on the site of the old one.

"Architects and contractors intending to tender for the same are invited to visit (at their own expense), to inspect the site and obtain all necessary information, etc.

"The building committee will not be liable for unsuccessful plans and specifications, etc."

It may be remarked that the town which contains these simple folk is situated nine miles from the nearest railway station, which is five hundred and seventy miles from Cape Town. The visit would entail an absence of at least six days from office and cost in fares and expenses, say, at least £15. The total distance to be covered being, say, one thousand one hundred and sixty miles. Now can anything more absurd be imagined? How different would the result have been had the committee applied to the Council of the Cape Institute of Architects for advice regarding the conduct of their competitions. They would have received the printed "suggestions" for the guidance of promoters of competitions, and had reliable advice in a friendly way, with nothing to pay and no obligation to follow the advice given. Of course, when these advertisements appeared, the Council immediately approached the promoters, and sent them the Institute's "suggestions," but they are always told it is too late, though, considering the importance of the matter, one would have thought it worth while to cancel the advertisement and start afresh.

In one case some of the "suggestions" were adopted, and among them appears: "Re assessor. The Rev. . . . . has consented to act as such. He has acted as assessor at . . . . , to the entire satisfaction of all concerned. Messrs. . . . . , the successful architects, expressed their entire confidence in his judgment."

In another case: "The Rev. . . . . has declined to act as assessor, but has consented to be adviser, which the committee thought was the same thing." In the latter case the plan selected was very faulty in construction, and the galleries would be veritable death-traps in case of a panic. The rev. gentleman may be the best predikant in the Union, but if the plan mentioned was selected on his advice, it is evident that his knowledge of planning and construction is very limited. Probably there will be some result to our efforts in time, and when our Registration Act is passed, the provincial or district committees provided for will be in more intimate touch with the country than our existing centralised institutes can possibly be.

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

Messrs. JAMES WILSON & SON,

PLASTER CRAFTSMEN,

Sherwell Street, Doornfontein,

Beg to advise their friends and clients that their new and enlarged premises are nearing completion. On an early date the newly Manufactured Goods will be on view, of which due notification will be made. Meanwhile any enquiries can be directed to P.O. Box 2387, Johannesburg. 'Phone No. 2438.

THE Neuchatel Asphalte Co. of S.A., Ltd.

Val de Travers Asphalte, Maiella Asphalte, Amsterdam Bitumen, Amsterdam Epure, Bitumen Sheeting, Damp Course, Asphalte Paving, Damp Coursing, Launder Lining Street Contractors.

Works: 185, Main Street. Offices: 55, Sauer's Buildings, Loveday Street, Johannesburg.

Telegrams: "Roofing." P.O. Box 4170. Telephone 1325.

PRETORIA

Portland Cement

GUARANTEED HIGH GRADE

Information available on application to the HEAD OFFICE P.O. Box 405 PRETORIA

or to the Johannesburg Agents

Messrs. BAERECKE & KLEUDGEN

P.O. Box 1164 or

307-314 Consolidated Building Fox & Harrison Sts.

P.O. Box 494. P.O. Box 494.

GEORGE HINGLE

(LATE HINGLE & STOTT),

Plasterer and Architectural Modeller,

PRETORIA.

Workshop : : : : : Riviera.

Plumber, Sheet Metal Worker

AND

Sanitary Engineer.

P.O. Box 3949.

GEO. COKE

ALL ESTIMATES FREE.

Satisfaction Guaranteed.

Workshop: 72, JUTA STREET.

'Phone 0000. BRAAMFONTEIN.

C. W. GIOVANETTI,

Paperhanger, Decorator, Signwriter, Glazier, etc.,

PRETORIA,

for Wall Papers, Paints, Oils, Varnishes, Muralo, etc. Plate and Sheet Glass.

The Trade Supplied.

124, CHURCH ST., PRETORIA.

P.O.Box 781. Telephone 387

Telephone: Works. 159. P.O. Box 740

Telegraphic Address: "Foundation."

W. R. DEY,

BUILDER & CONTRACTOR,

BLOED STREET,

CORNER OF ST. ANDRIES STREET

PRETORIA.

HOPES AND FEARS FOR ARCHITECTURE

EXTRACTS FROM A PAPER READ BEFORE THE ARCHITECTURAL ASSOCIATION BY MR. F. C. EDEN.

[CONTINUED.]

Treatment of Wall-face.

Some, again, are sorely puzzled over the proper treatment of the wall-face. One will employ acid to dissolve the matrix and expose the aggregate, another will tap the surface to remove the aggregate and emphasise the matrix. A third, following a counsel of despair, cloaks his skeleton with stone, brick, or faience, which does not seem a great advance upon the Tower Bridge type.

To the man whose tastes are calculating and scientific reinforced concrete makes an irresistible appeal; whereas, in the view of the laudator temporis acti, an ounce of tradition, that is to say, experience methodised by the knowledge that comes with centuries of practice, will always outweigh a ton of professional theorising. Though, I dare say, he will be glad enough to use it on occasion, however shamefacedly, to help a lame dog over a stile or cut some Gordian knot of construction.

The Shop Front.

Just as the church and the castle may be taken as typical mediæval aspirations, so we may safely select as the building most representative of the spirit of this industrial age the shop front. It has been dinned into us from our architectural cradles as a prime axiom of criticism that every edifice must be expressive of its purpose and use. What the requirements of an up-to-date shop may be an up-to-date shopkeeper may be trusted to know. In the din and rattle of commercial activity it is doubtless necessary to yell like a virago on a doorstep in order to be heard; and so the shopman declares for the largest possible area of glass for the advertisement of his wares; and threatens the building owner with an appreciably lowered rental for every post and pier beyond the engineer's minimum.

What, then, is to happen when the conditions imposed are vulgar, sordid, or unworthy? Simply this: if the axiom above stated is to hold good, the architecture will have to follow suit; and then the strangest result ensues. To save his art from shipwreck, the skilled architect throws overboard its first principles, and his design becomes an inexpressive or lying mask. But such conditions do not hamper the careless practitioner. He complies with them willingly enough, and so his work is actually more characteristic and expressive than that of his conscientious brother.

The Block of Flats.

Or we may consider another class of building common enough in large towns—the block of flats, or the oddly named "model dwellings." Here conditions which imply several storeys of approximately equal height, subdivided into suites of small rooms, produce of necessity frontages in which the proportion of solids to voids is much the same as in a sieve. Add to this the necessity of building cheaply enough to show a fair percentage upon capital invested, and I ask you whether architecture so conditioned can be monumental.



MINTON TILES.

MINTON HOLLINS AND COMPANY.

BY SPECIAL APPOINTMENT :: TO HIS MAJESTY ::

Original and Sole Makers of Milton Tiles.

Revised and Reduced Prices.

Head Office:
PATENT TILE WORKS,
STOKE-UPON-TRENT, ENGLAND.

London Office:
109, GREAT PORTLAND ST., W.

Sole Agent for South Africa:
MR. VICTOR S. WELSFORD,
P.O. BOX 883 — DURBAN.

A Rosier View.

But it is possible to take a rosier view. "The true artist," it is said, "unhesitatingly accepts the conditions imposed upon him, whatever they may be, and is often able to turn the stumbling-block in his path into a stepping-stone to higher things." It was in this spirit that a lecturer not long since twitted architects with overmuch clinging to the past. He maintained with spirit that architecture must be living, and in order to live must find its poetry in the life and its inspiration in the opportunities of the present; and surely never were opportunities so many, so splendid, or so various as now. To make his meaning clear, he was obliging enough to enumerate some of the occasions upon which the divine afflatus may be trusted to inspire the erection of poems in (I suppose) reinforced concrete. Are we not building every day, he cried, hotels, railway stations, asylums, baths and washhouses, and abattoirs?

What of Town Planning?

And now what of town planning? Is the movement which has by this time gained considerable momentum likely to communicate any forward impetus to your art? The cottage heresy is indicative of a sickness which has long afflicted British architecture, and that is pettiness. By this I mean not only the material malady, timidity of scale—so noticeable in our larger buildings—but the more serious spiritual disorder, smallness of idea. Have we any ground for hope, based on the experiments at Port Sunlight, Golder's Green, Letchworth, and Gidea Park, that when the designer has to think in acres instead of poles and in streets and squares instead of single houses, his ideas will be braced to a large scope, or will they peter out in a mere multiplication of diminutive and unrelated units?

Modern notions of hygiene and traffic facilities incline to the spacious boulevard—icy and wind-swept in winter, dusty and scorching in summer, and wide enough to enable the greatest possible number of steam-lorries to rattle your windows and jar your nerves in the shortest possible time. But where, I ask, is the lover of good things wont to linger in his search for beauty and historic interest? Among the straight, unhaunted streets of Mannheim, Karlsruhe, and Turin, or among the memories and surprises of Toledo, Siena, and Bruges? And as to what constitutes the ideal town, some of us may be inclined to think that the opinions of the painter and the poet are at least as valuable as those of the inspector of nuisances and the sewage farmer.

Knowledge of the Past.

When all deductions have been made for the evils to which architecture has to submit in allowing the dictates of fashion or in compliance with requirements of ever-increasing complexity and uselessness, we may, I think, claim to have made real progress in one, and that a most important, particular, since it covers nearly the whole ground—namely, sympathetic and, as far as possible, traditional treatment of material, involving as it does both texture and colour. We have realised that architectural, like other beauty, is only skin deep.

Improvements in taste and feeling have been brought to pass not by the invention of new materials and methods, but by increased knowledge of the past. The further we are enabled to enter into that rich

John Wright & Sons

ARCHITECTURAL MODELLERS.

¶ Manufacturers of Granolithic Slab Paving, Granolithic Steps and Stairs, Polished Concrete Columns, Caps and Bases, Coping, Window Sills and Heads, Granite Cement Slabs for Worn Steps. All kinds of Architects' Designs executed.

Factories : ZUURFONTEIN, TRANSVAAL.
SOUTH COAST JUNCTION, NATAL.

heritage, the clearer will it become to us that "in its contact with the ages the wisdom of the ancients has come down to us absolutely unimpaired."

ON REALITY IN MODERN ARCHITECTURE

It is a melancholy commonplace, says "The Architects' and Builders' Journal," that the public, of England at least, care nothing for architecture. The indifference is partly because architecture is a symbolical art and not an imitative one, and a public not nationally artistic cannot take the trouble to consider symbolical meaning; a picture or a statue is (or they think so) an imitation of something in nature, and they can compare it with the original; but architecture is not an imitation of anything, and its good or bad quality is a matter of reasoning, which is too much trouble. So they prefer to compare it with other and older architecture, which seems to have acquired an authority something like that of nature; and modern architecture is good or bad, to them, according as it conforms to these accepted models.

No Keen Interest.

But among the people who do think, and who have a little more penetration than this, there is a feeling, sometimes plainly expressed, that architecture is not a very real art nowadays; certainly not as it was when the cathedrals were built, and that it is impossible to get up a very keen interest in it; and there are certainly some architects who feel the same; possibly there are a good many. One gets rather a curious light on the subject in comparing the meetings of the Institution of Civil Engineers with those of the Institute of Architects. The engineers' meetings are nearly always crowded, and the papers read are evidently followed with close attention. The Institute meetings to consider purely architectural subjects are too often but listless and poorly attended. The only subjects which seem certain to command a full meeting and animated discussion at the Institute are those wretched disputes about professional politics, which are not architecture at all.

Forms of Architecture.

There is a more eager interest in purely architectural subjects shown at the meetings of the Architectural Association, though in its ranks also there seems to be a good deal of difference of opinion as to what architecture, for the present day, really means; and an effort to define what it means, or what is wanted to give it its true meaning, is what runs through the interesting opening address of Professor Pite, delivered recently. The gist of it may be taken to be that we do not pay sufficient regard to construction as the basis of architecture. He points out that a knowledge of the forms of architecture and a knowledge of building construction are separately studied, as the basis of examination and for subsequent practice, and that a good deal of the superficiality of modern architecture arises from this divorce between construction and design. We have already said that we think the requirement, in the Architectural Association School, of designs for buildings in this or that style, is a mistake. It may be a good test, no doubt, of acquaintance with an historic style, but it rather goes off the right track of architectural designing. Instead of asking a student to design a church (for instance) in the Byzantine style, ask him simply to design a church, and to consider, in doing so, how it would be best planned and constructed, and then how to give expression in design to such plan and construction. This would be much more in accordance with the general tendency of Professor Pite's address, and possibly therefore the point may have serious consideration.

Nature and Character.

Professor Pite says much as to the importance of the architect taking an interest in the nature and character of the materials used in building, as a means of giving reality to architecture. Quite true, but we think that there is something more behind than that, to make modern architecture a reality; and also feel rather a doubt as to the meaning of some of Professor Pite's arguments. He says: "The study of materials is primary to the architect, then the study of construction and purpose, followed by such æsthetic considerations as have not been evolved in their progress through an artistic mind."

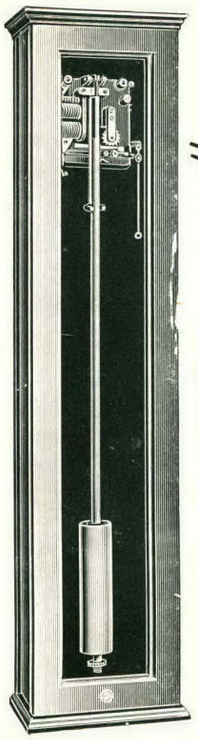
THE SOCIETY OF ARCHITECTS.

FOUNDED 1884. INCORPORATED 1893.

The above Society will hold an Examination to qualify for Membership, on the 25th, 26th and 27th of June, 1912, and in December, 1912, in Johannesburg, and at any other centres in South Africa at which candidates may present themselves.

Forms of Application and Syllabus may be obtained from the undersigned, and also from Mr. C. H. Stott, Architect, P.O. Box 7, Pietermaritzburg.

D. IVOR LEWIS,
HON. SECRETARY,
P.O. Box 667,
Johannesburg.



Transmitter or Master Clock.

Connecting Wires.



Simple and Accurate

IF TIME IS MONEY

THEN IT IS

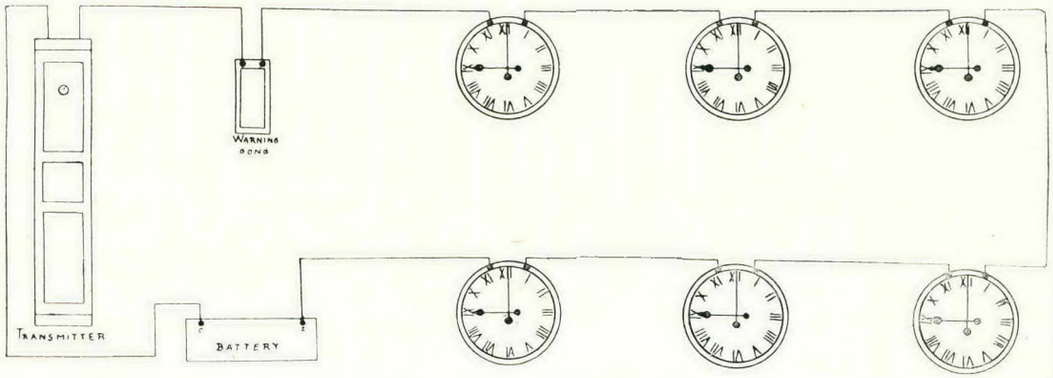
Well Worth Keeping

:: *GENT'S* ::

is the

Perfect Electric System

Driven by Ordinary Dry Cells.



A simple arrangement for Warehouses, Workshops, Municipal and Public Buildings. Only ordinary Dry Cells necessary.

Come and inspect them in operation in our Stores and Offices.

Complete Installations of **GENT'S ELECTRIC CLOCKS** can be seen in full operation, amongst other places at Cape Town Railway Station; Durban Town Hall; New General Post Office (69 faces) Pretoria; P. W D. Offices, Pretoria; New Railway Station, Pretoria; and at MESSRS. JENKINS & CO.'S OFFICES, MAIN STREET, JOHANNESBURG.

Also Agents for:

THE UNITED LIMMER ASPHALTE CO., LTD., of London.
LA BREA ASPHALTE CO., LTD., Birmingham.
"FERRODOR" and "RAPIDAL" PAINTS for outdoor and indoor use.
EXPANDED STEEL CONCRETE REINFORCEMENT.
Used extensively by the South African Government.
EXPANDED METAL LATHING for Plaster Constructions.
Used extensively by the South African Government.
Write for our 300 Page Illustrated Publication on Concrete Reinforcement.
SILICATE COTTON (SLAG WOOL), Sound Deadening and Insulating.
"URALITE" ASBESTOS CEILINGS and PARTITIONS.
"ROK" (British Made) DAMPCOURSE and ROOFING.

JENKINS & CO.

DURBAN. JOHANNESBURG. CAPE TOWN.

How did that "not" get in there? Where are the æsthetic considerations to come from if they have not been evolved by an artistic mind? We almost thought that "not" was a printer's error, but the remainder of the sentence seems to imply that it was intentional: "The impressiveness which is architectural, in the Temple of the Sphinx, has its main sources in these three primary streams; they here combine in a building that owes nothing to what is æsthetic considerations. Dignity, fitness, and security are expressed alike by the material, construction, and arrangement."

Temple of the Sphinx.

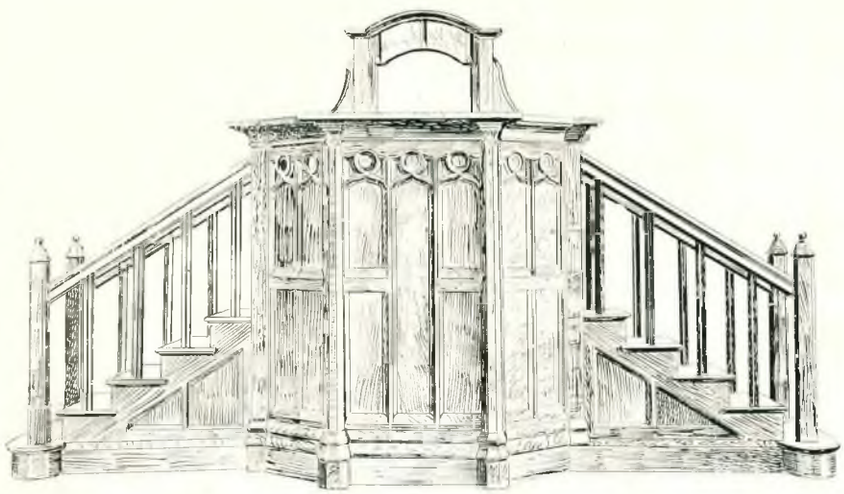
Considering that the Temple of the Sphinx (which, by the way, in spite of its proximity, has nothing to do with the Sphinx) is merely a row of square stone uprights supporting a roof of stone lintels, and has beyond that no architectural expression at all, we presume the "not" was after all intentional; but we fail to see where any æsthetic comes into it at all, except in the fact that the pillars are in a continuous row and equally spaced, which is almost a necessity for convenience of construction. It is not so much architecture, as building reduced to its most primitive elements, and illustrates only the two first of the qualities named in the quotation, the third (that of æsthetic) being absent. This primitive interior may, it is true, be regarded as the germ of the halls with their massive and closely packed columns, which gave such mysterious grandeur to the temples of the great Egyptian age. But if these latter had contained nothing but the crude square columns of the Temple of the Sphinx, instead of the two orders of cylindrical columns with their carefully profiled and contrasted capitals, would they have been impressive? Assuredly not; and that is where the æsthetic element comes in.

Character of Material.

Although the doctrine of giving primary attention to construction and the character of material is a most wholesome one, there is, as we have suggested, something more required behind that, to give reality to modern architecture. What is needed is the personal interest of the architect in the endeavour to make a building the best and most natural expression, in plan and section, of the purpose for which it is intended, in place of merely making it what will be accepted as such according to present prevalent taste. There is too little of that direct attempt to express an architectural problem as its conditions imply, too much of merely doing what is expected according to habitual standards. Architectural competitions have an unfortunate influence in this respect. An architect once showed us some sketches of a building which was to be competed for, showing a most original and effective treatment of plan and design, which amounted to a new architectural idea, without involving any inconvenience in practical working. "But," he said, "I shall not work out that idea for the competition; it would be useless. Competitions are always won by designs that keep the beaten track." Anyone who has paid much attention to the results of competitions must recognise the truth of that. They are always decided in favour of what may be called (and are no doubt considered) "safe"

W. & G. SCOTT, Ltd.

P.O. Box 247 **CAPETOWN**



Kiln Dried Seasoned Timber ::

Specialities:
DOORS,
WINDOWS,
AND
FITTINGS to Architects' Designs

Telegraphic Address "CYLINDER." P.O. Box 937 Telephone 1756

REID & KNUCKEY

CONTRACTING ENGINEERS, BUILDERS.

Office and Works :—

CORNER OF VOORHOUT & ANDRIES STREETS,

TROYEVILLE.

P.O. Box 1805. TELEPHONE 4417

J. C. BITCON,

Builder and Contractor, Shop and Office Fitter.

ESTIMATES FREE. JOBBING WORK A SPECIALITY

Office and Workshop : 236, Commissioner St., Johannesburg.

THE BRICK AND POTTERIES

COMPANY, LIMITED.

Manufacturers of

All kinds of Moulded and Machine-made Bricks, Pressed Facing Bricks, Stable and Gutter Tiles, etc. Fire Bricks and Furnace Requisites.

Works : HERONMERE DAM, RACE COURSE ROAD,

P.O. Box 155. Telephone 776.

JOHANNESBURG.

Town Office : TRUST BUILDINGS. Telephone 35.

M. J. ADAMS & Co.,

BUILDERS AND CONTRACTORS,

39-40, GREEN'S BUILDINGS, COMMISSIONER STREET, JOHANNESBURG. 'PHONE 2758. P.O. Box 3535.

Works and Office: CITY DEEP. P.O. Box 3643. 'Phone 1993.

W. SCHROEDER, Ltd.,

BRICK MANUFACTURERS,

Stock Bricks and Pressed Bricks.

Large Stocks always on hand.

Johannesburg Representative :—

W. CASSERE,

5, Chorlton Chambers, Harrison Street.

Telephone 2503.

MOODIE & DRENNAN,

Painters & Decorators.

P.O. Box 1321, PRETORIA.

Workshops and Offices : VERMEULEN STREET.

Private Residences:

Mr. MOODIE—78, Beatrix Street.
Mr. DRENNAN—Pretoria Street, Hatfield.

P.O. Box 4458. ESTABLISHED 1903. Telephone 1286

R. CONNELL,

(REGISTERED.)

SANITARY AND GENERAL PLUMBER

Jobbing attended to. *Tanks to order, etc.*

1, KRUIS STREET, JOHANNESBURG

Jas. B. Meikle & Co.,

Cabinetmakers, Upholsterers & Window Blind Makers

Sun Blinds, Venetian Blinds, and Spring Roller Blinds for Houses and Shops.

Quotations on Application. Satisfaction Guaranteed

Cor. PRITCHARD & SIMMONDS STREETS,

JOHANNESBURG.

P.O. Box 3586. Established 1893.

designs; anything out of the beaten track is liable to be passed over as an eccentricity. We see the same kind of influence, in a slightly different manner, in the architecture of "Garden Cities." Custom has settled that garden cities are to be "picturesque," and that the picturesque means high roofs and small windows, and prizes are awarded accordingly; to the best plans which also include the required elements of the "picturesque," though the upper rooms may be cut up most inconveniently by the vagaries of the roofs. A design which merely sought to get the best result independently of the factitious picturesque would not have a chance; and so the whole thing becomes an unreality.

Hurry in Designing.

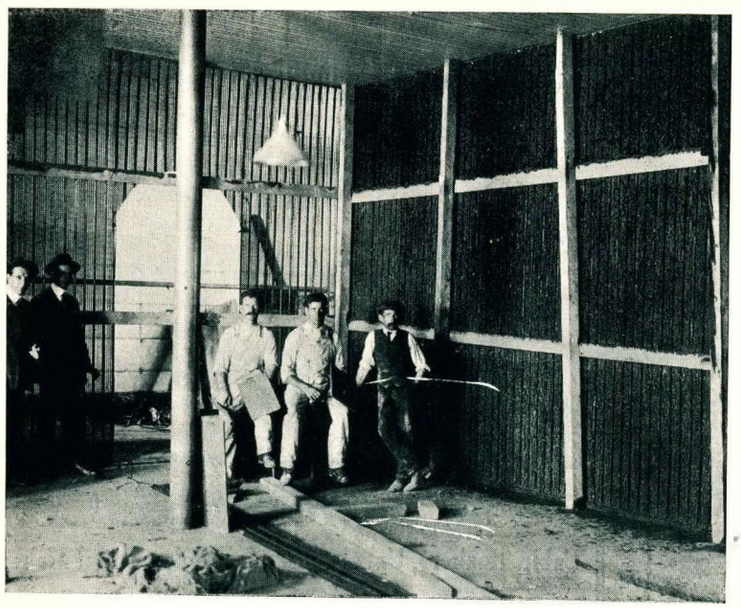
The hurry in which many classes of buildings are now required to be designed and built is another condition most inimical to anything like genuine architecture. In America, as we were told not long ago by an American architect, this condition of hurry has risen to an almost impossible climax. Drawings for a large building are wanted in a week, and if the architect is not ready to supply them he is told that someone else will. Under such circumstances nothing is possible but to mechanically apply a series of ready-made architectural features, or (which might be better) to build plain walls; but that alternative the client will not allow; he must have the usual "handsome building." In England we have not come to quite such a rush as this, but still the demand for a building in the shortest possible time is becoming more and more insistent, and leads to an acceptance of architectural commonplaces because there is no time to evolve anything else. In the case of theatres, which might furnish so much opportunity for fine architecture, any such thing has become an impossibility. There is not a theatre in London worth looking at as architecture; all that is required is that it should have the usual conventional architectural features, and should be ready to open by the advertised day. Commercialism rules everything; and commercialism is fatal to architecture.

Good Architecture.

The great desideratum is that the public should learn to care about and really want good architecture. In the meantime, architects who are fortunate enough to be given time to consider and mature an architectural scheme should endeavour to begin by considering what is the arrangement of plan and section which most fully expresses the purpose of the building, and display it with the architectural detail which really interests themselves, which they design because they enjoy it, and not merely because it is what is usual and is expected. In that way we should have more of reality in our modern architecture.

AN ARCHITECTURAL EXHIBITION.

The Allied Artists' Association, 67-9, Chancery Lane, London, W.C., announce that they desire to make architecture a salient feature of their fifth annual London Salon, which will be held next July in the great arena of the Royal Albert Hall. The exhibits may consist of plans, models, drawings, or photographs of elevations.



HY-RIB PARTITION, 12ft. HIGH. FINISHED THICKNESS, 2½in.

The photo shows a partition made with Hy-Rib in Johannesburg. The partition shewn has been plastered one side, after the plaster has set, the temporary struts and runners are removed and the other side is plastered. These partitions are fire-proof, they do not need special beams to support them, they save space being 2½in.—3in. thick. They are being used in most of the recent buildings.

KAHN-BARS. **HY-RIB.**

RIB BARS.

General Fire Appliances

Limited

SOLE AGENT IN TRAVSVAAL AND O.F.S. FOR

The Trussed Concrete Steel Co., Ltd.,

REINFORCED CONCRETE SPECIALISTS,

119, Marshall Street, Johannesburg.

P.O. Box 1158. Telegrams: "ZONATURA." 'Phone 502.

Designs submitted for all classes of Reinforced Concrete Work at shortest notice.

HY-RIB and KAHN-BAR CATALOGUES FREE ON APPLICATION.

SOLE AGENTS FOR

THE GAMEWELL FIRE ALARM.

Large Stocks of Fire Apparatus on hand.
Valves, Hose, Chemical Extinguishers, &c.
Write for particulars

Journal of the SA Architectural Institute

PUBLISHER:

University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg

LEGAL NOTICE:

Disclaimer and Terms of Use: Provided that you maintain all copyright and other notices contained therein, you may download material (one machine readable copy and one print copy per page) for your personal and/or educational non-commercial use only.

The University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, is not responsible for any errors or omissions and excludes any and all liability for any errors in or omissions from the information on the Library website.