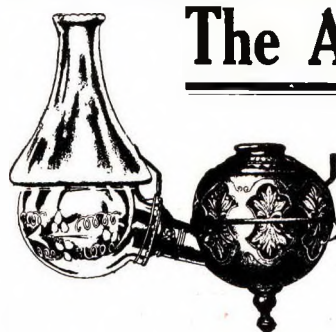


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jeopardise the entire neighbourhood as well as itself. At the same time, the higher type of building, especially when it runs into an inordinately high structure, should not be permitted to jeopardise the safety of life and limb within its own confines.

An Educational Propaganda

As a practical phase of the general topic it is well to note the valuable work which the board of underwriters and your association are doing in promulgating data with reference to fire protection. In relation to this a suggestion has been made by an eminent architect that this work is too technical in its nature to reach the generality of architects and owners who naturally should, and under certain conditions would, make use of the provisions. At present the information with regard to the simpler forms of fire protection is contained in large pamphlets from which it is to be with difficulty extracted, and moreover the information is generally so put that it is not quite clear to any but engineers and architects who have had special practice along those lines. The few architects in the larger cities who pay any special attention to this subject, of course, keep up to the mark by special correspondence, consultation with insurance engineers and constant reference to the Board of Fire Underwriters in specific cases; but the great majority of the architects of the country know absolutely nothing about the simplest matters of fire protection methods.

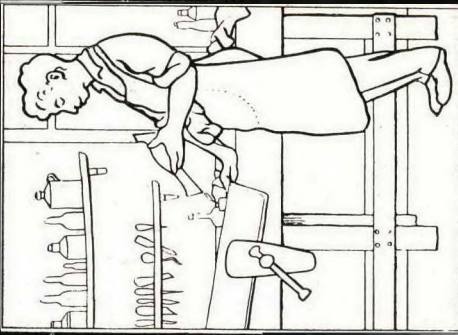
A word as to certain specific architectural functions must be uttered, especially as it concerns a matter in which unenlightened and arbitrary rulings make or

break. The architect is for ever struggling to encompass beauty, to endow all his forms with grace and charm; otherwise he is no architect. In this he is not aided by the underwriters' rules, which tend more and more to make the objects to which they apply more crude and ungainly. This is especially so in the matter of frames and sash and the proportions of windows. So, too, with fire doors, and their appliances; and so with many matters. In many instances the matters might be adjusted by a commission, were its rulings not to be negated immediately by another commission. These suggestions are not uttered in a carping spirit, but to indicate that equity between man and man should be conserved, equity between associations and capital also. The ethical element will enter into the operations of even a Board of Fire Underwriters and the æsthetic element will not down where the true architect is concerned; and so it must be apparent that questions of business ethics and personal fair dealing and questions affecting public taste, inhere in the problems of the protection and the insurance engineer and the powerful association they in general so wisely represent.

An educational propaganda can best be carried on by a series of primer-like leaflets of uniform size, mailed regularly, perhaps once a month, to every architect in the National directory, and to every builder, forming, in due course, a portfolio of technical sheets which can be replaced from time to time as they become obsolete.


Continued on page xxiv.

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


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
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Boxes.




Barrels.

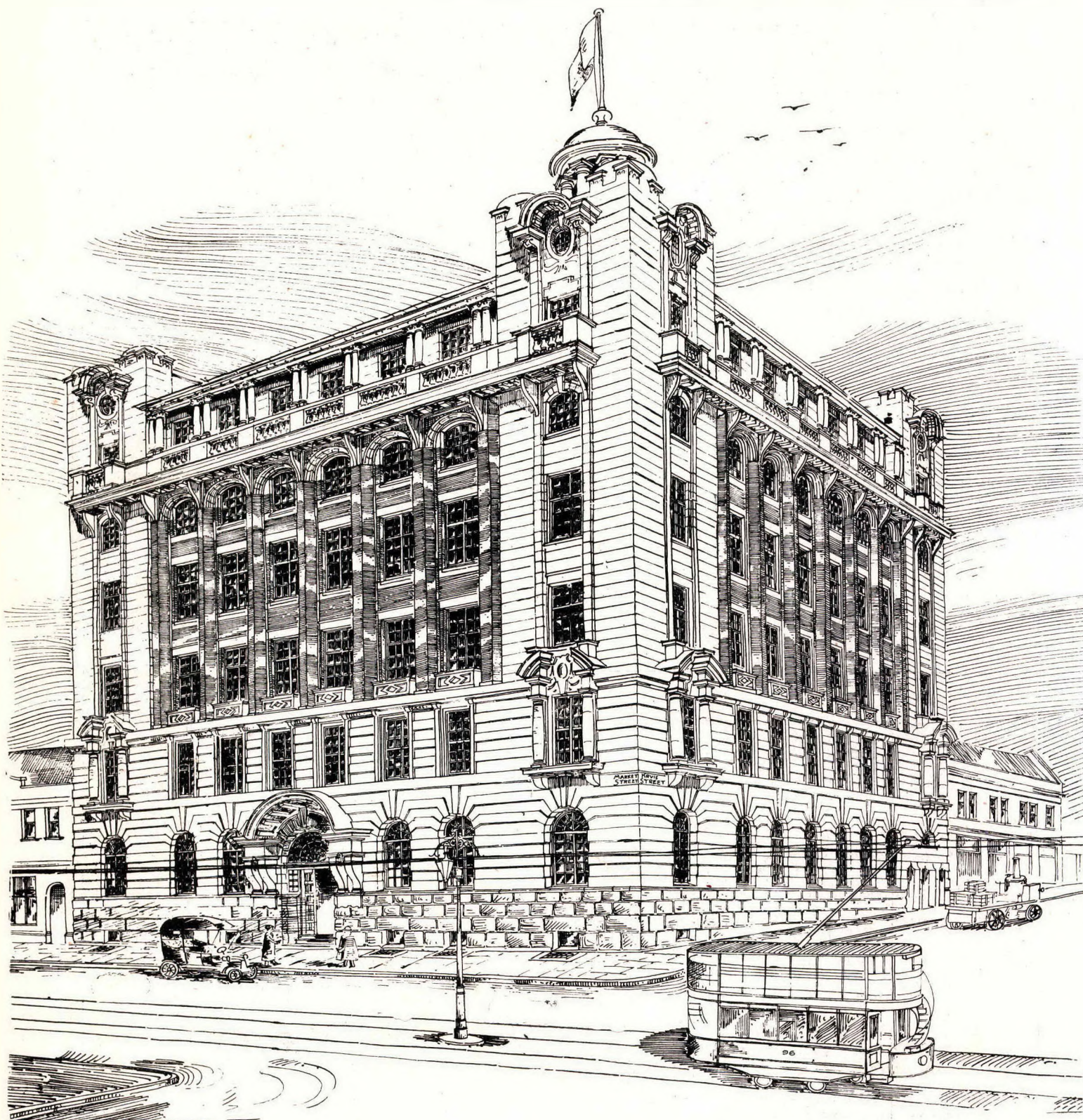


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Ethics and Aesthetics.

It is not infrequent in actual practice that the means adopted or appliances installed under specific recommendation of one official of the Board of Underwriters have been summarily rejected by another official, and there is no redress. Remove and reinstall, or up go the rates or no rates will be considered. This is rather trying to the architect who has done his work conscientiously, and it forces a situation rather difficult of explanation to a client who naturally cannot comprehend the case and quite naturally conceives his architect to be at fault. Discretionary power on the part of public commissions is being considered and recommended as a panacea for modern legislative ills, and should be, where the drastic enforcement of non-elastic laws operates at the same time against private interest and public good. But on whom can such arbitrary power safely be conferred in the case of the general government? The Board of Underwriters has not to consider that question, for it need not be governed by drastic laws, but in all justice and logic may make the particular method suit the particular case.

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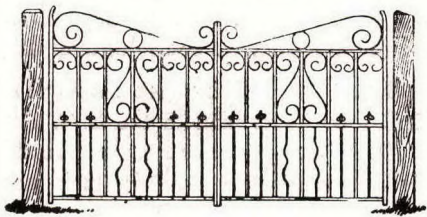
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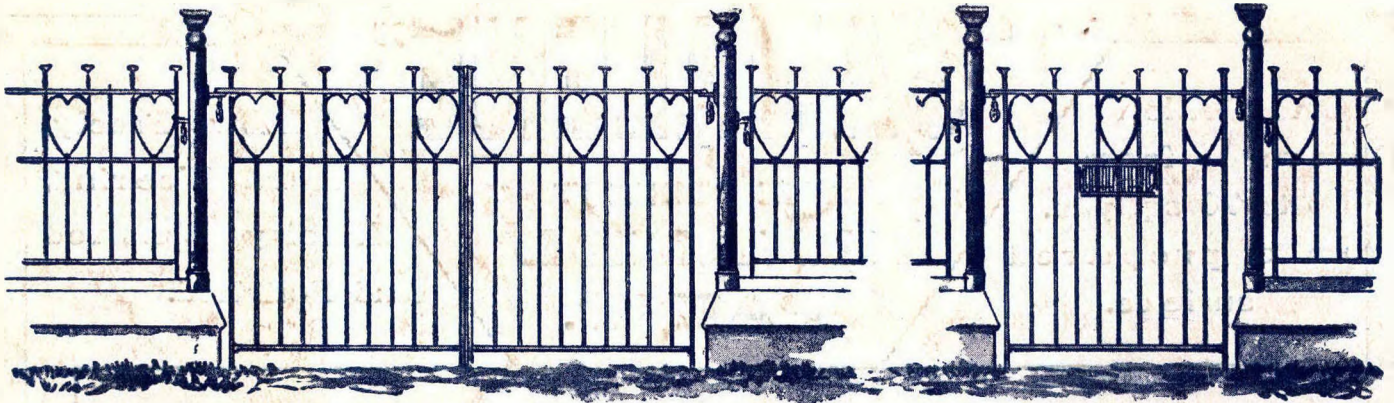
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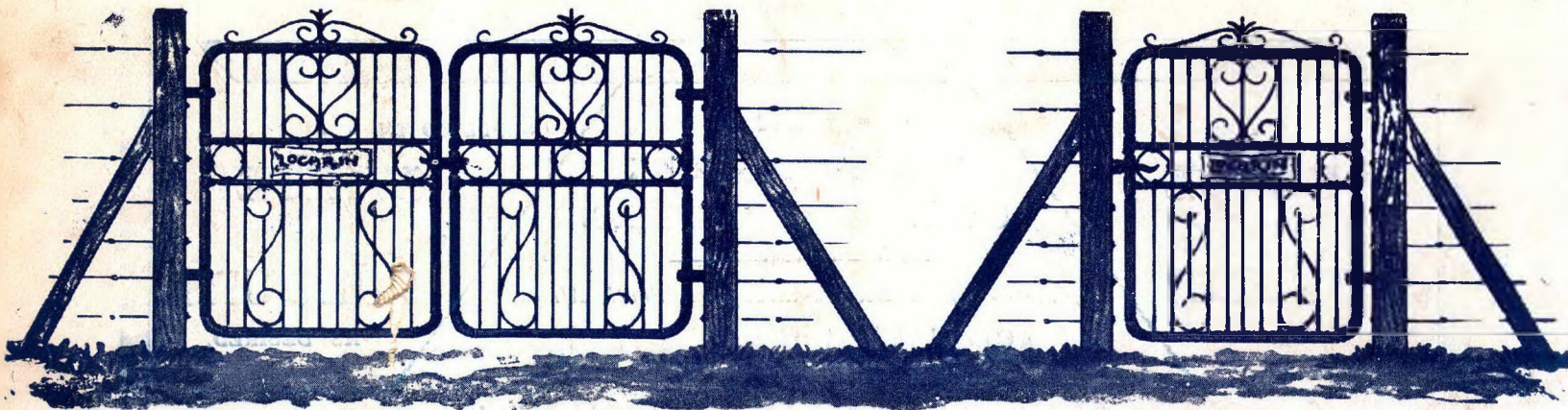
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