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a courtyard ● granada

photo/garzon

To the north of the city of Granada, lies the picturesque "suburb on a hill", the Moorish quarter of the Albaizin, aptly called by a celebrated historian "Recreation for the Souls".*

Under the Moors, this was the wealthiest and most industrious quarter of the town. Its downfall commenced with the reconquest by the Spaniards, when its richest inhabitants returned to Africa, their descendants still keeping carefully the keys of the houses their ancestors occupied in Granada.

Here were, once upon a time, the sumptuous dwellings of the Arab millionaires of Granada, and tradition has with difficulty bequeathed to us but hazy ideas of their beauty; such as that built by Mohamed Ben Said Ben Jasper, in A.D. 1136, with marble of different colours and joinery ceilings of precious woods, with gold and mother-of-pearl incrustations.

Here to-day, worn out and dilapidated, are houses dating before the capture of the city, with traces of the purest Arabian style, others in Moresco style, built by captive Moors under the influence of the Gothic and Renaissance Schools after the conquest.

The plan of the Granadine house, closely follows that of its counterpart at Damascus.

At Damascus according to Le Brun the entrance as a rule is down a narrow vaulted passage with a large courtyard at the end, more like a garden than anything else, paved with marble, with a fountain in the centre, surrounded by willows, orange-trees, pomegranates and citrons, whose perfume fill the house. Round the courtyard are situated the various pavilions used as apartments, and which contain marvellous luxury. It is impossible to give an idea of the striking artesonado ceilings, of protruding beams and coloured panelling, where artists have wrought the most wonderful arabesques on cedar and sycamore.

The main body, which is two storeys high, is divided into three portions; there is in the centre portion a fountain of carved and chased marble, bubbling with fresh clear water; the furniture as a rule consists of a large divan or couch, upholstered in silk, embroidered in silver and gold, and extends all round the room, with a number of small tables and cushions, with mother-of-pearl incrustations.

The walls contain niches paved with marble and lined with persian bricks and tiles, where china porcelain, silver plate and coffee services in the filagree work are kept; besides pipes, censers, and so forth. It is to these charmed nests, full of freshness and perfumes, and where silence is undisturbed except for the noise made by the water falling on the marble basins, that the Arab retires; surrounded by his women, and enveloped by the smoke from his pipe, allows his imagination to run away with him, and fancies himself carried to Mahomets Paradise. Judging by the remains of the houses inhabited by the Granada Moors, there must have been but slight difference between them and those occupied by the Moslems of Damascus.

First the "Ustuvan" or Hall; then the Courtyard or "Saha," full of blossoming trees, with its marble fountain or pool in the centre, and surrounded by the porches and galleries leading to the lower apartments; over these the corridors, through which access is had to the upper rooms, which are lighted by neat skylights or "Chansigas."

Moresco art, though influenced in its details by the Gothic and Renaissance schools after the Spanish occupation, followed the same plan in the construction of private dwellings and it is thus that the houses built by Moresco masons have few if any windows looking into the street. In fact, the only detail of note, is the wide projecting eaves; these consist of horizontal double beams,



la casa del chapiz

photo/garzon.

either carved with the scallop, or with sinkings on their soffits and richly decorated, the excess weight of the cantilever being supported by simple wrought brackets. The entrance to the porch is through a pointed, almost ogive archway, and one finds oneself almost immediately in the courtyard, which has a pool in the centre, fed from a marble fountain at one end, or from underground pipes. At the narrower ends of the court, which is as a rule rectangular in shape, there are galleries or porches with three arches, resting on marble columns; the middle arch is wider and rounder than the lateral ones, and is ornamented with stars, rosettes and other plaster work.

There are generally in these bowers, "Alahanie" or niches, ornamented with arches and flat ceilings of carved wood to resemble Artesonados; these I learnt were primarily receptacles for scents and flowers, and a necessary adjunct to the Harem. An archway, nearly always profusely decorated, and opening in the back wall of the bower, leads

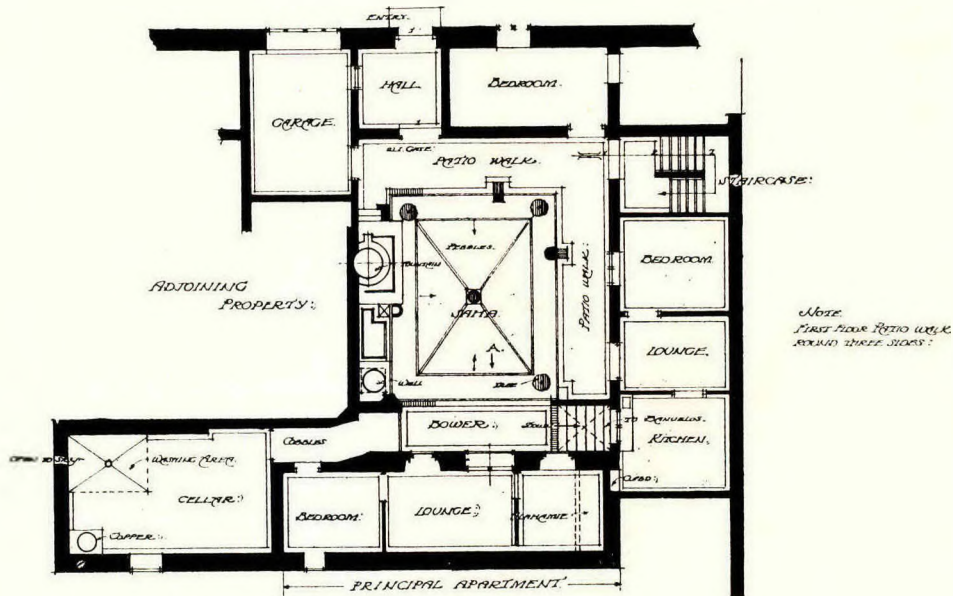
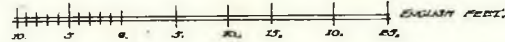
into the lower rooms, at whose extremities are alcoves or "Alahamies" separated by large arches from the Central Apartments.

The ceilings* which are of great beauty and in infinite variety are panelled and painted in pure Arabian style.

The upper storey is on the same lines as the rooms on the ground floor; the upper Patio gallery being executed throughout in wood with a broad handrail (for the reception of flower pots), and intricate carved balusters of turned wood; the roofs are supported on posts of varying shape; these are cleverly detailed, and converted at the top and base from circular to octagonal and then to square, by ingenious carving and stalactites; brackets carved in Gothic or Renaissance fashion surmount them, thus betraying the influence of Christian Art and domination in the buildings, raised by the Morescos, subsequent to the conquest.

The ceilings of these upper Patio galleries were evidently of surpassing beauty; a system of beams with dividing ribs between,

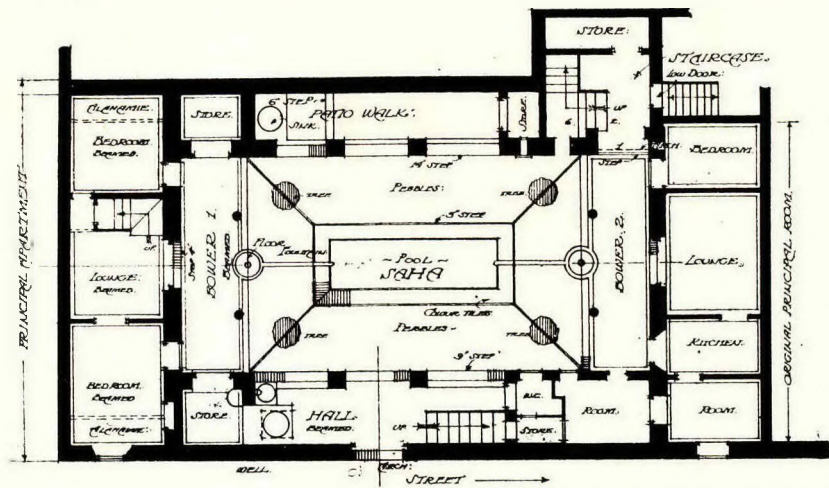
TWO TYPICAL HOUSE PLANS.



GROUND FLOOR PLAN OF MOORISH HOUSE

AT NO 9 VICTORIA HILL:

FOR ELEVATION OF STAIRCASE SEE PHOTO NO. 1



GROUND FLOOR PLAN OF MOORISH HOUSE

AT NO 14 GOLD OVEN STREET:

FOR ELEVATION D. OF COURT SEE PHOTO NO. 1
FOR ELEVATION C. OF ARCH SEE DRG. NO. 1

Henry C. Tully, ARCHT.
MAINT. ET DEL. 1912-13.

defined at once a network of panels, on which the Moresco workman, painted his elaborate designs. By a process of primary colours and excessive repetition the general effect was at first sight astounding; yet on closer analysis the system followed in building up, is seen to be extraordinarily simple.

In alternation to the panelled ceiling, the beautiful Moorish knotted pattern as executed in the principal apartment, was often adopted. In number six Varela Street, I found fragments of these precious and historical relics. Here a veneer of wood about three inches wide, is secured to the underside of the roof beams, and arranged to form an intricate Arab geometrical pattern; on the soffit of this, three sinkings or channels are cut—these are painted with a repeat pattern in each, generally the blue chevron or petal or circle on a cerulean blue background—the openings where the ribs cross one another, being filled in, with separate carved stars or rosettes in stronger colours; the entire ceiling is enclosed by a simple cavetto mould, with the curved portion in bright orange, the top member being painted to match the dark beams above; below this is a beautiful stucco frieze about two feet deep, often with Cufic and Arabic inscriptions.

One of the most characteristic features of the Arab House, and of Moorish construction, is the tank or well. You will find them amidst

heaps of debris, that were once the sumptuous abode of illustrious defenders of Islam, and now dens inhabited by reptiles, with the broad leaves of the figtree and yellow flower growing wildly among them.

They were constructed of brick; a barrel vault somewhat slanting following the elegant horseshoe archway, with steps leading down to the water. Their depth and cavern-like appearance contribute to an aesthetic sense of beauty, that instantly reminds one of the East; of patriarchal customs; of idylls, full of peace and freshness, which Gessner and Goethe have so ably reproduced.

The Albaizin, flooded by the sun, with its villas loaded with flowers, its picturesque Moorish wells; its Arabian houses, its narrow streets crooked and deserted; its Mosques converted into Christian Churches; its relics in the museums of distant monasteries, and its incomparable air, and its African warmth and romantic landscapes, subjugate the senses, by the very power of their mighty environment.

If a house crumbled down it never rose again; time with its implacable hand has steadily wiped away the splendours of the Moorish regime.

To-day there is an air of majestic abandonment—perfumed only by the aroma of the carnation, and the honeysuckle, that grow in the grounds of deserted Huertas.

p.w.d. the ideal client



norman eaton

Mr. Gerard Moerdijk's recent attack on the work of the P.W.D. was received by his professional colleagues with mixed feelings. It was felt that the force of what might have been strong, convincing criticism lost much of its weight by reason of certain elements upon which he based his methods of attack. His attack, though it may have been justified, was destructive without eventually supplying any constructive alternative to that which he destroyed.

Mr. Moerdijk probably felt no more strongly than did many of his profession how inadequately the problems presented by the two

schemes he criticised (e.g., the New Cape-town Hospital and the New Johannesburg Post Office) had been met, but rather than completely upheave both the offending works and their authors and leave us with nothing but the ruins, should he not have tried, first to discover why the requirements of these and other large Public schemes had been inadequately met and then suggested how a better method of approaching the problems they involved could have been attained.

Mr. Moerdijk has done much in the interests of his profession. He was mainly responsible for the formation of a "Panel" of Architects

to assist in carrying out certain Provincial work for the Government. His efforts have been greatly appreciated and it is hoped that his future assistance, in the building up of what has, by reason of almost completely changing conditions, become essentially a young man's profession, will be no less appreciable and that he will in no way devalue these services by associating with them the smallest degree of either fanaticism or egotism.

The Capetown Hospital and the Johannesburg Post Office schemes seem to deserve most of the criticism they got, but it must be remembered that the conditions under which they were produced were not conducive to an ideal handling of the problem any more than a Government monopoly of Sculpture would be conducive to the production of masterpieces in the Sculpture Art.

With its necessarily rigid rules—based on conditions which no longer obtain—and its inflexible organisation, there must always be lacking in the P.W.D. the incentive or the opportunity to experiment. This alone, with the rapidly changing methods and requirements of to-day, is enough to cause the failure of any organisation.

Experiment again, is the outcome of enlightened individual effort restrained within certain limits of control only. Sound economics embracing both practical and intellectual utilitarianism should fix the entire limits of this control.

It can also be clearly seen that within the narrow walls of the P.W.D. there cannot exist the wide choice which lies between the farflung boundaries of the outside profession and that enlistment of the best, keenest and most enlightened forces in the services of the Public's practical and intellectual needs must necessarily be restricted. There "can" exist, however, that central financial control which is at once the basis of and the restraining influence behind any worth while problem.

Through forces of circumstance quite beyond its control the P.W.D. has ceased to function as a useful architectural unit. To attack it because of its obvious debilities would seem to serve no more useful purpose than to attack an aged leader on the grounds of his senility. To acknowledge his past services, reward him justly and replace him worthily would seem to be the more reason-

able course. That which is inevitable can be neither credited nor debited to the honour of any man.

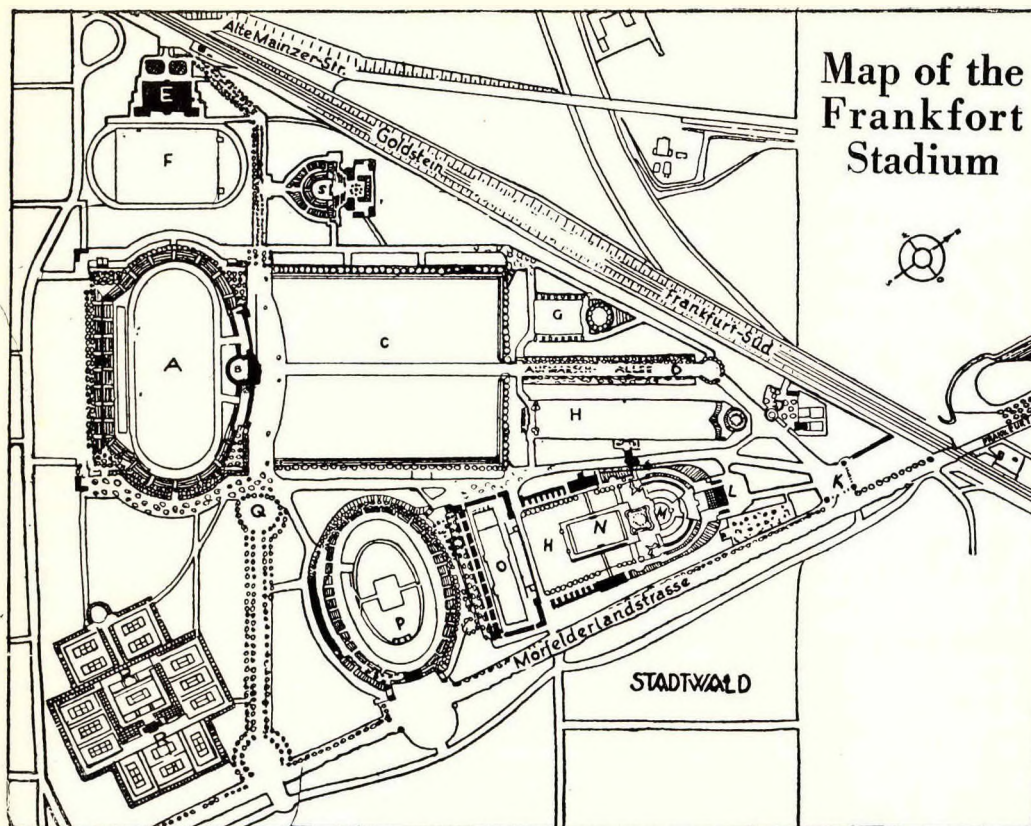
The P.W.D., in the days before the private profession became a definite force in this country; at a time, in fact, when it held in its ranks practically all the young and virile brains of the profession, did inestimable service in the promotion and maintenance of an exceedingly high standard of architectural industry throughout the Union. For this there must always be gratitude—but not to the extent of allowing its much declined usefulness to dominate over and even suppress (were it possible) the younger and more virile forces that are everywhere awakening in answer to the impatient call of new-born and unsatisfied conditions.

In view of this it would seem natural that the P.W.D., suiting itself to changing circumstances, should become purely an administrative body. It should exist only for the promotion, assessment and financing of Government schemes which would be competed for by members of the private profession throughout the country. It would, in other words, assume the functions of an "Ideal Client," seeking the best brains in its service, encouraging and finally rewarding them.

With its vast experience of Architectural affairs the P.W.D. should be in an incomparable position to outline its requirements, approve their most satisfactory embodiment in a scheme, and in the end make just payment for the services it has employed.

The benefit to both the Public and the Profession is obvious. While the former would gain through the acquisition of a far better—and incidentally far more economical—solution to its truly problematic requirements, since these solutions would arise out of keen competition amongst the best authorities the country can produce, the latter would do so by reason of the added sense of stability and encouragement which would result from relations with a sound, sympathetic body of employers.

Under conditions such as these it seems inevitable that the very best must be drawn from the practical as well as the intellectual architectural resources of this country; stagnation would cease and worthy contributions would be made to the economics and the art of present times.



(a) arena, (b) grandstands and main building, (c) fete and playgrounds, (d) main avenue, (e) gymnasium, (f) practice ground, (g) dancing and small playground, (h) sun and airbath, (i) yard, (k) main entrance, (l) terrace restaurant (m) sand pits, (n) pool for non-swimmers, (o) swimming pool, (p) velodrome, (q) entrance for motor cars, (r) tennis courts, (s) open air theatre, (t) tram lines.

the stadium at frankfurt • aubrey nunn

A factor of the utmost importance to the German Nation generally is the rapidly growing appreciation of the value of fresh air. Open air sports and games, swimming baths and sun bathing are taking hold to an amazing degree. Not that this is entirely a new feature by any means, but the universal popularity of all forms of outdoor exercise is most marked and is having a notable effect upon the physique of the people.

Children in the suburbs or playing in the sandpits provided in all Housing Schemes can be seen during the hot weather dressed in the scantiest of bathing costumes, their bodies burnt brown, the light part of them being their marvellous flaxen hair.

How many children change for gymnasium or physical exercises in this country? In Germany they all do. Changing rooms and showers are provided and made use of and in

schools I visited I found children doing their physical jerks in the playground, wearing only a bathing suit. And what's more, so was the teacher in charge. The fact is, of course, that open air life is proclaimed officially. German doctors are not alone in their appreciation of the value of sunlight, but they have the Municipalities and Government to support them.

A good example of what the Germans are doing in the design of such public amenities as swimming baths, sports grounds, etc., is the Stadium at Frankfurt.

Over the entrance to the Stadium are the words that Philostratos wrote above the entrance of his Stadium in Greece, "Enter and become men who know how to fight."

The main entrance of the Stadium forms the point of a large triangle enclosing an area of one hundred and four acres. Previously

it was the site of military rifle ranges. On entering and turning to the right we are on the central axis of the Stadium leading in a straight line of three hundred and sixty-five yards up to the Main Building, which is situated between the Arena and the great playgrounds in such a way that the main avenue is focussed in the central part of the building. Fronting two ways this building is four hundred feet long and contains on the ground floor a medical department, an ambulance station, dressing rooms, shower baths, and implement rooms. On the first floor are offices of the Administration of the Stadium Company, rooms for those taking part in courses and a Lecture Hall. The arena with tiers rising around a running track five hundred metres long is large enough to accommodate forty thousand spectators.

A short distance from the arena is the gymnasium. This building, the headquarters of the coaching and practising department, enables gymnastics, etc., to be carried out successfully all the year round by making them independent of weather and seasons. It has a gallery which is used as a running track with a floor covering of cork linoleum. The floor of the hall is a parquet floor with the exception of an area of eleven metres by twenty-five metres at the one end, which is filled with saw dust and enables jumpers, weight putters and gymnasts to train at any time. The rooms around the hall are dressing rooms, shower baths, bathrooms and rooms for implements of all kinds. There are also special departments for medical supervision of sportsmen and for artificial sunlight treatment to make up the lack of sunshine in the winter time.

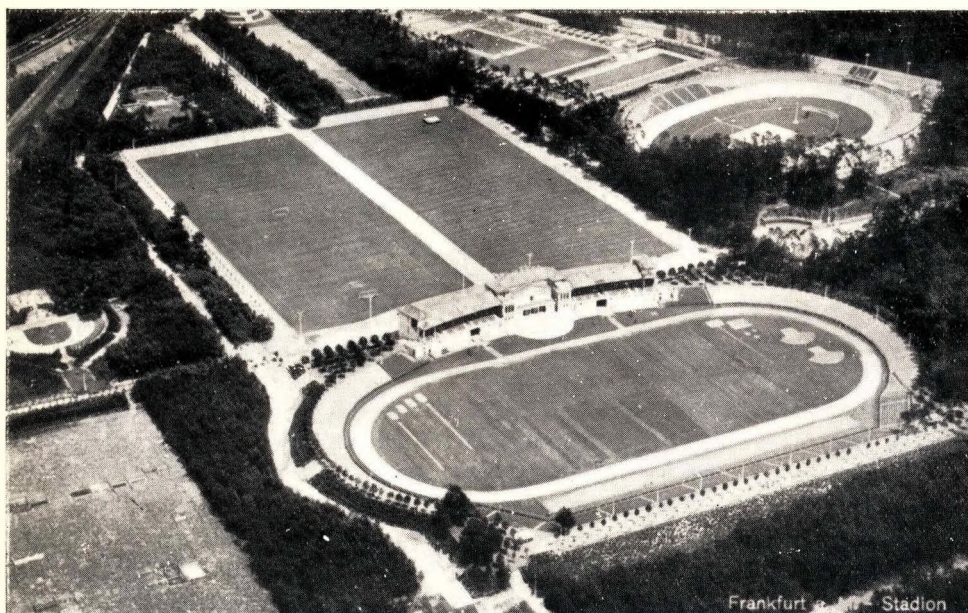
In front of the gymnasium there is a playground surrounded by a four hundred metre track which is solely used for training purposes.

Just a little distance from the playground is a little open air theatre in natural surroundings and is not used for purposes of sport but serves for art, education and religion. It holds one thousand two hundred people.

On an axis through the gymnasium and the arena and a fair distance from the arena are twelve hard courts and two lawn courts grouped around a central court with terraces for holding two thousand five hundred spectators. A little cafe is provided and in the same building dressing rooms, showers and bathrooms for the tennis players. Not far from this tennis section a cycling track of four hundred metres is constructed for racing cyclists, cyclists behind pacemakers and motorcycling. The track is divided into two parts. The inner track four metres wide is for cyclists and the outer one, six metres wide and banked at its steepest part at an angle of about fifty degrees, is the track for cyclists behind pacemakers and for motor cyclists. On this track a speed of eighty-eight miles per hour has been reached by motor cyclists. The inner square serves for ball games on cycles, show cycling and boxing, etc. Two tunnels lead into the inner space of the Velodrome from under the grandstand. The building forming the Grand Stand contains also a restaurant and lodgings for persons coming from other places to take part in events on special occasions. The seating accommodation round the Velodrome is at least twenty thousand.

Opposite to this area is a marvellous swimming bath and diving pool. The swimming pool is one hundred metres long by twenty-two metres broad and the diving pool is eighteen metres broad. In swimming contests the competitors start from the eight





frankfurt

numbered blocks on the bridge that separates the swimming pool and diving pool. Diving is practised from five different heights, i.e., from one, three, five, seven and ten metres. The depth of the pool is four point seven metres and that of the swimming pool from one point eight metres to two point five metres. The water is renewed continually and mechanically filtered. According to the weather the water is warmed up to an average of twenty degrees centigrade. Below the water line there is a row of electric lights, like the bull's eyes of ships by means of which the water can be lit up from below. The terrace rising on one side of the bath has seating accommodation for six thousand spectators.

Adjacent to the competitive swimming pool another pool is constructed for non-swimmers and sunbathers. This pool with a depth of only thirty centimetres which increases to one point twenty metres in the centre is where children and non-swimmers can disport themselves without the least danger. Around the pool are large lawns where people can sun

themselves. On either side of the pool are the dressing boxes situated amongst the fine pine trees. For the smaller children there is a sand pit.

Everything is provided for the comfort of the guests. There are hairdressers shops and massage establishments for both women and men. Refreshments of every kind can be had at a restaurant which overlooks the sand pits and non-swimmers pool.

The Stadium owes its existence to the repeated demands and petitions of the Frankfurt gymnastic and sporting societies. The carrying out of such a huge scheme could, however, never have been contemplated if, in the post-war years, the number of unemployed at Frankfurt, including a large percentage of business and bank clerks, had not necessitated some employment for all these people who were anxious to work.

The citizens claimed rightly that, if in any way possible, work rather than the dole should be given. Thus the Stadium owes its existence to special measures which helped people to tide over very difficult times.

This place is simply vast. It took me over an hour to walk down the Nevsky Prospect this afternoon—a dead straight street (leading from the square where this hotel is to the river Neva) so it must be over three miles long.

My general first impressions are:—

The city reminds one vaguely of Paris.

The streets are well laid out and the buildings imposing, though nearly all of stucco and not stone. All buildings are colour washed, yellow and white, lilac, orange, brick red and pale blue, so that the effect is gay. Also domes and spires are newly gilt.

Crowds of people, especially in trams.

Pre-war and possibly older cars.

Everyone seems happy though not well clothed or shod.

Everyone looks dirty, unshaven and tattered, even the architects. A delegation of these came to meet us and looked more like foremen bricklayers, etc.—the most important wore a blue suit and tackies!

But there is no doubt that everyone is pleased with the way things are going on, and judging from the drawings I have seen they have every reason to be. Stadiums, entertainment parks, homes of rest and culture, hospitals, kindergartens are going up all over the place.

My disappointments so far are:—

New buildings in modern style look shabby so soon. Some only one year old look very decrepit.

There is absolutely no attempt to ventilate any of the new buildings. One kindergarten I went into had the outer windows puttied up (All windows are double). Sometimes a pane about a foot square is made to open in both windows.

In the dining room of this hotel only one part of the window about three feet square opens, and this only in one window out of the five or six in the room. The atmosphere is always beyond description.

Workmanship is naturally poor, but I expected this. But instead of painting the

new buildings in bright colours like the old ones they are nearly all grey, and so of course look rather dreary and not as good as in photographs.

Food.—There is not overmuch, and what there is is very indifferent. Breakfast (at 9.30) consists of two doubtful eggs lightly boiled—no egg spoons—the fashion is to cut off the top and pour them into the mouth!! A sort of sweet bun about four inches square and a pat of butter half the size of a match-box and coffee (two helpings). The bread is sour and not always fresh, so I don't eat much of it. No meal till 4.15 (I now eat prunes, raisins and chocolate at midday), when one is given some extremely unpleasant tasteless soup, a plate of meat (either rissole or fried fillet of veal) and either macaroni or a dreadful concoction of rye like fowl's food. This is followed by ice cream. The actual nourishment is a fraction of what has to be consumed, and there are no green vegetables or fruit whatsoever.

The next meal is at 10.15 (it never gets dark at night, you can read a book at one or two!). Last night we just had fish (full of tiny bones) and some potato, no butter or bun, and tea.

The drinking water is treated with chlorine or something and has an awful taste of Milton, so I can't bear even the smell of it. Even the tea tastes of it. We are given one bottle of mineral water a day, stuff like soda water.

I was so thirsty the other night I had to buy some, and had to pay two rubles (six shillings)!! Beer is two and sixpence a bottle.

I couldn't understand how the people could afford the food. There is nothing under three rubles on the menu (about nine shillings), yet you see quite a poor looking man fork out wads of money. Even ice cream in the streets costs one and six pence, and postage six pence. But when you realise that the average workman gets forty-five pounds per month it is simply a matter of proportion. When the English navy who gets about eight

pounds to ten pounds monthly hears of this wage no wonder he gets discontented, but he is not told that living is accordingly more expensive.

I have a huge room with bathroom, hot and cold (entirely cold except once a week when the boiler works). It is clean and comfortable. The hotel is an old building modernized—and the decoration is very modern and intriguing.

We go about in brand new Lincoln cars, and have a very good interpreter.

One of the architects—Jansen—speaks English, and it seems likely that he will be able to fix me up if I want to do anything about staying on in this place, but, of course, I shall wait till I have been to Moscow—there are no foreign architects here.

In spite of the things I have mentioned I would be thrilled to help here, there is such enthusiasm and such opportunity.

The old Palaces have been turned into wonderful museums filled with priceless treasures taken from private houses. The collection of pictures is superb and the furniture too marvellous for description. Everything is well laid out and looked after. The interiors of the state apartments beat Versailles into a cocked hat.

We spent all yesterday morning there, then we were shown models and designs of new buildings. One thing was outstanding—a Stadium seating one hundred thousand. With miles of surroundings all laid out. There was a huge model of this, beautifully made.

Women were inking in drawings and some were actually doing the designs. They looked like chambermaids one would expect to find in a hotel at Hankey for instance, yet they were turning out the most magnificent drawings!

The work was being done in a huge Museum building, from which all the exhibits had been transferred to the Palace. You could hardly move for trestle tables, but only one window was open in the whole place which was as big I should say as the Priory Chapel five times elongated.

We saw a “Home of Culture” with a huge theatre incorporated seating over two thousand (built in 1926).

The most interesting thing I have seen today is the Anti-Religious Museum—formerly

the Cathedral. Next to St. Peters, Rome, it is the largest church building in the world. It was designed by the French architect Montferrant, and is rather like St. Peters. Inside it is vast, with brilliant malachite columns, and two lapis lazuli columns quite twenty feet high, all mouldings of cast brass and wall of marble inside and out. From the centre of the dome (three hundred feet above the floor) hung a thin wire with a brass weight and pointer as big as a football. This hangs over a slightly concave dial marked in degrees, about eighty feet in diameter. Every couple of hours the weight is pulled to the outside of the dial and released and continues to swing in long slow even movements, gradually moving its axis round, so that finally it swings East and West instead of North and South. This is proof that the earth revolves, and there is a working model showing the principle speeded up. By this means various things in the Bible are disproved. But the whole apparatus is so simple and yet so remarkable that it made a great impression on me. All round the church are well designed three dimensional posters showing such things as the Church sanctioning and blessing war, taking money from the poor, and so on, also a whole collection of Gods, from Bhudda to Fiji effigies, and exhibitions of costly robes and vestments worth thousands of pounds.

I can't tell you all the things like this to be seen, but they were so strikingly displayed that no reasonable person on the face of it would maintain that the Church is a good or useful institution, but that it was a relic of bygone times too primitive to exist nowadays!

There were groups of people being shown round and told all about it, mostly grown ups, though there was also a number of children.

Cakes and lemonade were being sold, the altar serving as a display booth! Everyone though was quiet and at least all the English people removed their hats.

Coming back I looked in at a church, it was packed, Mass was in progress. I asked the reason of the interpreter, she said the Soviet don't force people to give up religion, only show them how stupid and ridiculous it is, and if they choose to go on in spite of having its absurdities exposed, it is their own lookout!! Isn't that sweet?

I walked through the less important streets, where the fact that no civic services have operated for fifteen years is sorely plain, but every other house had slings with people colourwashing or repairing plaster. The streets though are beyond imagination, huge round cobbles, agony to walk on, drains don't exist, down pipes discharge on the pavements. All this is gradually being put right.

Women drive the trams, do point duty, etc. I enquired about servants, a lot of people have them, but they are paid a high wage, and as everyone in the family works at different times it seems there is always someone in the house to do domestic work.

There seem to be two meals a day only for the workers, but they get a meal of sorts at the factory. There are huge kitchens (we

saw one) which are in the midst of the factory district and send meals out. One sends over thirty thousand meals out a day!

People work all night—especially in summer. At two a.m. the streets are just as busy as at noon. Some have a rest day every five, others every six days, so that there is always someone off duty. You see these people resting in the parks or bathing (nude) in the river. It is all very thrilling and does seem to be the right way to run a country.

I am getting used now to the poor food, odd mealtimes and dreadful inefficiency of most things, but can't believe I am actually in Russia and that it is so long since I left you. I feel very well, and don't get as tired as I thought I should, provided I have a little rest after the four o'clock meal.

leningrad

official and private architects

reprinted from the builder (london) 12 august 1932.

In this article we may be re-opening a well-debated subject, but we do so in response to repeated comment and protest from readers who view with dismay the increasing inroads into the field of legitimate private practice. The tendency to form elaborate architectural departments to deal with various departmental activities forms a model which has been copied by a good many of the multiple firms and commercial undertakings. No architect expects the job of building a post office, a public office building, a railway station or a telephone exchange. Very few have much hope of designing a school. An ever-lessening band of optimists have any hopes of a housing scheme, or any other municipal building undertaking; and a taxpayer is inclined to view the tendency with considerable equanimity, being a little bothered with the items for architects' fees, which were once familiar features in various budgets. There is a general acceptance of the idea that

they are getting an expensive job done more cheaply, and the architectural profession, being by nature modest and retiring, does very little to prove any reverse case. If governments or municipalities adopted direct labour methods in any extensive way, we might hear a very much stronger protest.

We have been reading various local country newspapers recently, and have been surprised at the number of instances in which officials have been awarded honoraria for extra services in connection with architectural work, and still more surprised at the smooth ease with which such matters are put through. Generally it is a matter of a hundred pounds or so for work of a capital value running into many thousands. The average ratepayer, if he thinks of such matters at all, compares these small sums with a percentage on the work done, and imagines his authority has carried through a remarkably astute bargain, which has saved the rates several hundreds

of pounds. To those who view these matters from such an angle, in which pounds, shillings and pence loom large, we should commend the exercise of a little common sense. Assuming that our public officials have full-time jobs, and are paid at full-time rates, it must be obvious that they can have no time to spare for anything but their jobs if these are done properly. It can only be assumed, then, that extra works of an architectural character are either done inadequately, or that the official who undertakes them is not fully occupied with his official duties. There can be no other interpretation which can apply to the circumstances, and neither is of a very satisfying character. We do not like to feel that our paid officials are overworked, nor do we like to feel that they have a soft time.

We suggest, also, that an eye should be cast upon the staffs which have been built up of recent years in the offices of the public officials. There is no doubt that there are many country places where before the war a surveyor and an assistant administered the roads and buildings, but which now possess two distinct departments, each peopled by a staff of assistants. The excess amount which these establishments cost the ratepayers is rarely reckoned by those who make a cursory examination of costs. It cannot be much exaggeration to say that were the head officials concerned only with the real business of their departments, several assistants could be discharged without crippling the work of the office. The capital sums tied up in this way must amount to a sum within which the fees of a private architect assume a very modest comparison. That is a cold and unresponsive way of looking upon the matter. But there is another point of view which must appeal to the British sense of fair play if to no other sense. Architects themselves are ratepayers, and are entitled to the same protection from municipal trading which most other trades and professions enjoy.

There is no sounder reason for establishing a municipal architectural department than for setting up municipal shops and paid official technicians in all other branches of work in which a public authority is interested. It is surely only fair that the architect-ratepayer should enjoy the full extent of local

practice, which is narrow enough in all conscience without further limitations. There are scales of charges approved by the profession, which govern the fees upon housing work at a figure which ensures the maximum value of trained services at the lowest consistent price. Many authorities avail themselves of this scale; but many others prefer to absorb these matters with the routine of official departments. We do not suggest that these authorities are being saddled with badly designed or badly supervised buildings; in fact, we know many municipal schemes which would do credit to any architect. But we do declare with every confidence that those authorities are not obtaining cheap architecture. They are, on the contrary, paying very dearly in endless establishment charges for work which would be covered by an inclusive fee if done by a private practitioner. We do urge upon our local authorities and upon the ratepayers concerned that it is high time that this matter were given more earnest consideration, so that a profession which is neither grasping nor dishonourable may get fair play, while serving the cause of public economy equally well at least.

Another consideration which has had some notice in our correspondence columns is the matter of private work done by public officials. This is a matter upon which there seems complete agreement on all sides, and we make our comment only because so many people talk about it without doing anything. Generally speaking there are two grades of offence under this head. In the one, we have the officials who conduct a private practice with the knowledge and consent of the authority they serve; while in the other we have the larger though pettier offender who does so against orders and under conditions of secrecy, and anyone who has knowledge of fact upon this point owes a public duty to report it and insist on disciplinary action. Such men secure themselves under the safe aegis of public service and compete on advantageous terms with the very people who provide their living. Little more need be said.

As regards the other section who act within the law, we are convinced that this is unfair practice which should be stopped. Those who are aware of such cases should do all in

their power to call attention to the injustices the system involves and press for the rights of private ratepayers to be respected. For there is a double injustice in such a practice. Not only is the senior official practitioner competing with the private architect from behind the comfortable ramparts of a secure income out of public funds, but he starts with the handicap in his favour, of being the man "in the know," who can secure approval of projected works far more easily and certainly than can the private architect. There is not the slightest doubt that a considerable section of the building public employs the official purely on those grounds, and would be unlikely to go to him without that special inducement, whether real or imagined.

We feel sure that if architects combined with determination to set this wrong right, they could get a sympathetic hearing, and that that hearing would convert to their point of view many people who have not previously thought about the merits of the case at all. The Englishman is invariably a sportsman, and generally a firm believer in justice as a principle. Organised resistance along these lines has been occasional and fitful, and we commend to the Institute authorities, and to the allied societies, a more concentrated and wholehearted campaign against irregularities persisting under an official blessing. A great deal can be done by united action, but individual protest is a voice crying in the wilderness.

south african timber for architectural purposes.

by nils b. eckbo, m.f.

concluded from august issue

The imports of finished joinery plus the amount made from imported wood is very great and capable of reduction if the local woods could be used more extensively for the superior class of joinery.

Building Timbers.

The pines and cypresses of this country are still too young to be of great immediate importance, but a beginning has been made in the Cape with the introduction of scantlings, joists, rafters and other rough building timbers of small size. They give satisfaction when properly seasoned and while they may be slightly tougher to work they are difficult to distinguish from the ordinary run of imported pine in appearance. It is of importance to note in this connection that in spite of the fast growth and immature years of the local *Insignis*, it is as strong as the slow grown Baltic pine of much greater age from the northern hemisphere. It should not be inferred by this that the fast growth produces

stronger wood as this is not the case with pines, but the reason is that *Insignis* (*Pinus insignis*) is naturally a stronger species of pine than Baltic (*Pinus sylvestris*).

During the interval before our pines become sufficiently large to produce deals there will be a very great amount of small timber that will have to be thinned out. It is with this material we are mostly concerned at the present and for some years to come.

It has already been suggested to use small round poles instead of squared timber when ever possible and I think there may be many cases when it may be possible to use poles sawn longitudinally through the middle giving one flat side or sawn twice so as to produce two parallel flat sides. While not suitable for rafters on edge on account of their waney edges they could be used for wall plates when the uneven edge would be immaterial. You may think of purposes where the rough edge may even be an advantage from an artistic point of view.

In any case you would do a great service by keeping the position in mind and placing some of this material when opportunity offers. The imports of over thirteen million cubic feet annually indicate possibilities that should prove sound.

Safeguard against white ants.

In connection with building timbers generally, you have no doubt had experience with white ants or termites attacking wall plates, floor joists and other timbers within reach of these destructive agents.

Reports reach me periodically of floors giving signs of caving in and the usual remedy is then to take them up, destroy termite nests, replace the damaged timbers with new ones and hope for the best. Brush treatments of the timbers with carbolinum and other oils are often resorted to as a protective measure but this is not very satisfactory because the termites often find entrance to the interior of the wood through small cracks that may open up after the superficial coating has been applied.

A far superior method is to submerge the planks in a hot solution (190°F.) of three per cent. Zinc chloride and one per cent. Arsenious oxide for one hour. During this period the preservative penetrates sufficiently deep to give permanent protection and the cost of this treatment should not exceed sixpence per cubic foot. This would add but little to the total expense of erection and it seems warranted to me in view of the security obtained.

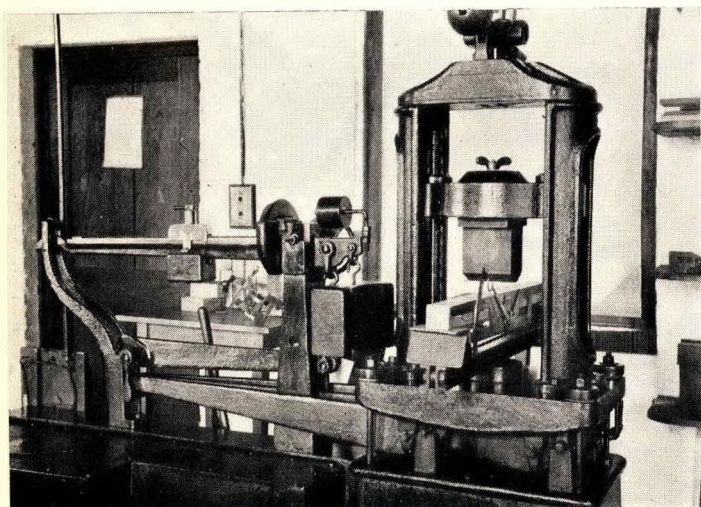


The necessary equipment could easily be installed in any timber yard and with the necessary encouragement from the architects, I think the progressive timber merchants would soon take steps to produce termite proof foundation timbers.

Flooring and ceiling.

There is over three million cubic feet of flooring and ceiling boards imported to this country at a cost approaching £300,000 annually. The bulk of this is made from Baltic pine, some from Oregon fir, a little pitch pine and occasional lots of hardwoods. Our own pines are making their debut on a modest scale for these purposes in the Cape where several sawmillers deal with them. It is the thin edge of the wedge that will be felt more and more as the years pass and there is no reason to believe that there will be unsurmountable difficulties in the way of marketing softwood flooring and ceiling.

It is to hardwood flooring I am particularly anxious to draw your attention. Other countries use large quantities of oak, maple and birch for this purpose, not only in public buildings but in the better type of dwellings as well. In this country the maple flooring is used to a very limited extent for ball-rooms; Rhodesian and Portuguese woods have been used on a small scale for block flooring and it is only lately that the locally grown Wit Sering, which is a beautiful wood, has been used for parquette floors.



Hardwood flooring is invariably manufactured in narrow widths from one and a quarter inch to two and a quarter inch wide by two feet to six feet in length and three-eighths inch to three-quarter inch in thickness. These small dimensions often baffle the contractor who is not used to laying hardwood floors but he soon discovers that end-matched flooring strips, that is strips with tongue and groove all around, can be laid with a minimum of cross cutting because there is no need for joints to be arranged above joists as is the case with softwood flooring. This is a very great advantage that makes the length of the strips almost immaterial, in fact a parquette effect can be obtained without the drawback of having to use a solid concrete subfloor.

The advantages of a well finished hardwood floor are: a vastly superior appearance, incomparable wearing qualities, a close jointed surface easily maintained as spick and span as a table top without the perpetual polishing required for the ordinary floor. Furthermore it takes hardwood to reflect the beauty of milady's choice rugs, her pet furniture and other appointments.

When it comes to suitable hardwoods, this country is in an extraordinarily fortunate position. Karri has already been successfully introduced. It wears like maple and has the advantage of a warm brown colour. Selected Saligna is lighter in colour and not so hard but very attractive. There are: the ordinary blue gum, viminalis, tallowwood and others, that yield extremely hard flooring of a colour not dissimilar to maple. Red gum with its deep reddish brown and the blackish brown of the Sugar gum are colours that give particularly rich effects in parquetry.

The Yellowwoods make a very clean looking floor. Although not so hard as the gums, they wear exceptionally smoothly and would certainly make superior flooring when as carefully seasoned as the others. There are many of the woods formerly used for wagon making that fill the requirements of good flooring, there is Wilde Sering that has already gained a good reputation for parquetry, there is Black ironwood that does not belie its name and many others.

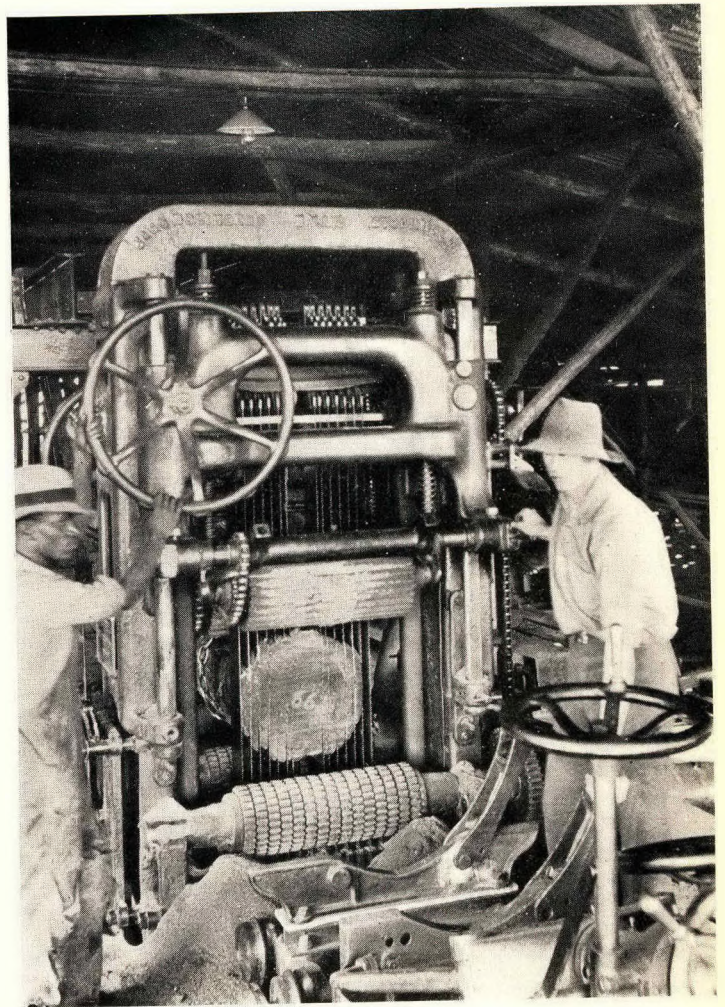
It seems to me that there are a great number of nice old prominent buildings that would take a new lease on life with the old

floors replaced or covered with neat hardwood strips. There are new public buildings where the heavy traffic simply demands hardwood as a matter of good judgment and numerous private dwellings where superior floors would only be in correct keeping with the rest of the appointments. The possible future market for hardwood flooring strips or parquette blocks appear to me particularly promising.

Conclusions.

It has been endeavoured in the foregoing pages to make it clear that this country has considerable areas of indigenous forests and very large plantations producing wood at a much faster rate than is possible in most other countries.

From a tree growing point of view we are unquestionably in a very favourable position deserving a full measure of optimism and although a large quantity of wood is actually



grown each year it is still very far short of the total timber requirements, eliminating all danger of over production. Up to this point our position appears most satisfactory but when it comes to utilization of our resources there is room for improvement. To meet this intensive studies have been carried out in connection with the physical and mechanical properties of the many woods, their conversion, seasoning and chemical preservation.

While this experimental work was successful up to a point it soon became necessary to demonstrate the value of the work on a more convincing scale and it is for this reason that the Forest Products Institute, Pretoria West, was suitably equipped. A fairly large quantity of preserved poles is prepared as already indicated and fully seasoned sawn timber is produced for sale to Government Departments or the public at large.

It has been possible since the inception of the Institute to introduce a considerable number of woods hitherto more or less unknown into several of the most prominent buildings of the country and the generous response to our activities, largely due to the keen interest taken by many members of the architectural profession, has made it necessary to work our plant to as full capacity as is possible with the funds available.

When sufficient demand has been developed it is hoped that private capital will be forthcoming for production on commercial lines that is so essential to make forestry in this country a really big success.

1. This country imports annually twenty-three million cubic feet of timber at a value of almost £3,000,000 that is used for high class purposes.
2. The total area of forests and plantations approaches two million acres, producing in the aggregate large quantities of timber that are used almost entirely for such low priced commodities as mining props and fuel.
3. Experimental preservation, conversion and seasoning have proven that the local timbers can be used for superior purposes.
4. The demand for materials produced by the Forest Products Division is increasing very quickly not only for public buildings but for private undertakings as well due in a large measure to the keen interest taken in this matter by the architectural profession.
5. When sufficient demand has been developed it is hoped that private capital will be forthcoming for production on commercial lines, that is so essential to make forestry in this country successful.

correspondence

The Editor,

The South African Architectural Record,
Mr. Hanson is unnecessarily pedantic and involved in his dissertation on the relationship of thought processes to the machine. If he had merely stated that the level of the material conditions of any society determine the spiritual and cultural life of that society, he would have been much more comprehensible and much more to the point.

But I do not wish to criticise Mr. Hanson's manner of expression. I do however wish to criticise some of the features of the "House Saffer", which presumably is supposed to illustrate the "metaphysics of space". The design is illogical, not to say contradictory. It exhibits a false modernity. Why for in-

stance trouble to get uninterrupted window spaces, merely to obscure the view by means of irritating steel stancheons? Why internal stancheons at all, when the outside screen walls (such as there are of them) will very well serve the purpose of supporting the concrete roof? Suppose the residents of the house wish to give a party, at which there is sure to be some dancing, would not these self-same stancheons be a terrible nuisance! Again, if you make the partition between the living and breakfast rooms removable, why not do the same between the living and dining rooms? And why a semi-circular partition, which requires a segmental sideboard? And an enormous West window which will probably make the living quarters unbearably hot in summer?

These remarks are not made in any spirit of carping criticism. I, for one, welcome any departure from sterile tradition, any genuine striving to express the modern age. Houses like "House Saffer" are refreshing, and no doubt pleasant to live in. But architects (especially young architects) should beware of swinging to the other extreme. Of being supposedly "modern", but really only sensational-sensational at all costs!

L. Grinker.

The Editor,

The South African Architectural Record.

Dear Sir,

I wonder whether you could kindly help me in connection with a book I am compiling on Heraldic devices. I am anxious to include the Heraldry of all the Dominions, Colonies and various Municipalities and I should be extremely obliged if you could lend or procure for me photographs of any Coats of Arms or Heraldic devices carved on buildings or memorials in your city.

As the book will consist of examples from all parts of the world I am obliged to rely on

local assistance to obtain the necessary illustrations and am therefore very anxious to have your interest and co-operation. In the event of your inability to supply the photographs perhaps you will kindly pass this letter on to, or put me in touch with, someone who could furnish me with the sort of photographs I require.

Due acknowledgment will be made in the book of all those who kindly assist me in this way.

The photographs should be clean sharp prints taken from the actual Heraldry on the building and the full particulars written on the back with the name of the architect and sculptor (if known). All photographs will be returned when finished with.

Trusting to hear from you shortly,

Yours faithfully,

W. Aumonier.

Author of "Modern Architectural Sculpture."

From Wm. Aumonier, 84, Charlotte Street, Fitzroy Square, London, W.1.

book review.

building stones

Those of us who are engaged in the teaching of the subject of "building materials" will welcome a memoir recently issued by the Department of Mines and Industries on "The Building Stones of the Union of South Africa." It is a most valuable contribution to the subject and is obtainable from the Government Stationery Office for seven and sixpence per copy. The report has been prepared by Mr. W. Wybergh, a valued member of the staff of the Mines Department, recently retired. He has worked, under difficulties, for the last three or four years and I understand had to leave the report unfinished owing to his retirement. Had he been able to complete his work, the result would have been a standing monument to his industry, zeal and scientific acumen.

As it is the report runs into over two hundred octavo pages in addition to tabular statements. It is not, however, by the size of the report that we must judge it but by what it contains, the manner of treatment, and the general and particular conclusions at which it arrives.

It is the first serious and systematic attempt to approach the subject of rocks from the building stone aspect, although quite useful data were given in this regard as to certain Transvaal stones in the report of the Geological Survey for 1910—a report which has been, I believe, for some years out of print.

This latest report (called Memoir No. 29) will be of more value to the teacher than to the ordinary student in architecture or quan-

tity surveying, but it will form a valuable reference book for all engaged in building work from the student to the practitioner. The report is well planned and includes a good index. The first three chapters, headed respectively "The Principal Building Stones, their Distribution and Character," "The Weathering of Building Stones" and "The Testing of Building Stones," treat these aspects of the matter on general principles.

Chapter IV occupying about half the report deals with South African stones in detail. A short chapter then advises on "Choice of a Building Stone" in the light of what has been dealt with and finally there is a short description of the methods of experiment adopted for the purposes of the report.

These methods will be studied more by the geologist than by the architect as they embrace highly technical questions, but I miss one test from those named, the bacteriological one. In England some recognised authorities on stone decay have definitely satisfied themselves that bacteria in many cases assist the decay of a stone. It would be interesting to know if such a cause operates in our climate. Again, I am assailed by a certain amount of doubt as to whether the classification for quality will accord with the experience of most users of definitely named stones. It would be of great value if archi-

tecs would report their experiences as against the qualities given in the report.

What one has to remember is that stone of very different lasting qualities may be obtained in close juxtaposition and having chosen the quarry the architect's responsibility is not fulfilled until every stone from the quarry used on his work is inspected and passed.

I may have an opportunity of dealing with this matter more in detail after having studied the report more fully. I hope enough has been said to emphasize the fact that an epoch making study of building stones of this country has been well begun. There is still a large field open for continuing the good work and perhaps some aspiring student of geology will be tempted to take the furtherance of this investigation for his doctor's thesis.

It is fair to add that the conception of the idea of such a report as the one now issued is to the credit of the Union Public Works Department at whose request the Geological Survey consented to make the investigation with highly satisfactory results. I wish to offer Mr. Wybergh my best wishes for a happy retirement and to express regret that he was not retained in the service long enough to complete the task he has so ably begun.

H. Bell-John.

professional notes and news.

Central Council Notes

The Secretary,
Transvaal Provincial Institute,
Dear Sir,

re Work Done Without Remuneration.

At its recent meeting the Executive Committee (vide minutes, page 44) considered the question of practitioners doing work without remuneration or at a reduced fee.

I am to ask that your Committee will consider the recommendation of the Executive Committee that in these days of financial stringency, with especial reference to the dearth of Architectural and Quantity Surveying work, practising members who may from

time to time do work gratuitously be asked not to undertake such work, so as to provide opportunity for other Architects.

Yours faithfully,

J. S. LEWIS,

Registrar.

re Moffat & Harvey (Architects), vs. T. W. Beckett & Co., Ltd.

The judgment of a magistrate given in the Johannesburg Civil Court on Friday, October 7th, 1932, has been referred to the Institute's legal advisers. The judgment, as reported in the Johannesburg press, is to the effect that the public are not bound by the Scale of Fees laid down in the Regulations pursuant

to the Architects' and Quantity Surveyors' Private Act, No. 18 of 1927, because that Act was introduced to Parliament as a private measure.

The Institute is advised that the magistrate's judgment in this case has been given under a complete misconception of the position, and the view is confidently expressed that the judgment is not in accordance with law and will be upset by the Supreme Court. As a settlement was effected in the case under review, and as the Architects concerned were parties to that settlement, it is not possible to take the magistrate's judgment to appeal through the medium of this case. Should a further dispute arise between a member of the Institute or the Chapter, and a client, in regard to the statutory Scale of Fees, then the Institute (i.e., the Central Council) will take up the case on behalf of the member concerned and ultimately bring it to the Supreme Court, with a view to having the magistrate's judgment above quoted set aside.

The Studio proposes to publish a series of articles and illustrations on the effect of the Post War Architecture on the more important cities of the world and desires to be supplied with the necessary data and illustrations in respect of recent South African Architecture.

Members who may wish to interest themselves in this matter should send any articles and illustrations to The Studio, 44, Leicester Square, London, W.C.2.

Piercy James Eagle

Piercy Eagle was born in London in 1875, and was trained in the office of a well-known London architect. He subsequently assisted other London and Provincial architects including Mr. Ferguson of Carlisle and later was appointed to the staff of the Architect's Department of the War Office, where he was a colleague of W. Bevan who became Superintending Architect to the Transvaal Public Works Department in 1902.

In 1904 Eagle was appointed to the Transvaal Public Works Department where he soon made his personality and ability felt and rose rapidly to the position of Assistant Architect and then Architect of that department.

Shortly after Union he was made Chief Architect of the Union Public Works Department where he proved himself a man of resource and large ideas.

He was at the helm when many large schemes were conceived.

A few only of these were translated into "bricks and mortar," but some that were will certainly be looked upon as lasting monuments of the department of which Eagle was the guiding hand.

His was a very active mind and the necessary restrictions inseparable from an official appointment often made him restless and anxious for a free hand.

After the outbreak of the great war he became for a time Director of Works in South West Africa with the rank of Major, but in 1916 he joined the South African Heavy Artillery in the ranks and served in France, returning to South Africa and rejoining the Department in 1919.

In his official capacity he was concerned in the question of housing and when, in 1920, he resigned his position of Chief Architect to enter private practice, he was appointed a member of the Housing Board, in which capacity he served for seven years.

He died on 17th September, 1932.

Eagle possessed an attractive disposition and had many devoted friends. Everyone who knew him will sympathise deeply with his widow and his two sons and two daughters in their great loss.

H. Bell-John

Journal.

It is notified that the Journal is now being sent free of charge to all members of the Institute and Chapter practising in the Union and Rhodesia.

New "Conditions of Contract."

Members of the Institute and the Chapter are advised that the new Conditions of Contract for use in South Africa have now been issued by the Central Council to the Secretaries of the Provincial Institutes and the Chapter.

The new document, which is issued in two forms (in white, for "Quantity Basis" Contracts; in blue, for "Lump Sum" Contracts), replaces the documents previously used in South Africa.

This new Conditions of Contract document, which has been based upon that adopted by the R.I.B.A. in 1931, will be reconsidered at the end of twelve months' experience with it.

Membership. The following have been registered as new members of the Institute in Johannesburg : S. N. Tomkin, W. C. von Berg, H. C. Tully.

Mr. A. V. Nunn, A.R.I.B.A., has now started practice in Pretoria, at Hamilton's Chambers.

Year Book.

Members of the Institute and the Chapter will, by the time this notice appears in print, have received their copies of the latest issue of the Year Book.

A new feature in the Year Book (in regard to which much appreciation has already been expressed) is the "Brief Summary of the More Important Activities of the Central Council and its Executive Committee," recorded from the time of the first elected Central Council.

The alphabetical lists of members of the Institute and the Chapter now give the year of registration or enrolment as well as the serial number and the Province concerned.

The Act and Regulations, incorporating all amendments sanctioned to date, appear at the end of the Year Book.

The attention of members of the Institute and the Chapter is especially drawn to the Central Council notice appearing on page one of the Year Book.

The Transvaal Provincial Committee has dealt with the following matters amongst other business during the past month.

Architectural Work being done by persons in the public service. Enquiries and investigations into cases have been made and representations submitted to the Authorities with the endeavour to put a stop to this practice.

Reinforced Concrete and Structural Steel. Lengthy regulations proposed by the City Engineer's Department Johannesburg have had the careful consideration of the Bye-Laws Sub-Committee. Valuable assistance was given to the Committee by representatives of Reinforced Concrete and Structural Steel Firms who kindly attended the meetings, and the thanks of the Institute are tendered to Messrs. C. P. Lange, C. G. Churms, S. Couzin, A. S. Joffe and R. V. Shore in this connection.

Johannesburg Post Office. At the invitation of His Worship the Mayor members of the Provincial Committee were enabled to view the plans of the new Post Office, and

Mr. Cleland, Secretary of Public Works explained in detail the lay out of the various floors in the new building.

Advertising Hoardings. Application was made for a licence to erect advertisement hoardings in Wanderers Street and a protest was lodged by the Committee against the issue of such licence. Representatives of the Committee attended the Licensing Court at which this application was heard and it is satisfactory to record that the licence was not granted.

Finance. In view of the necessity to maintain the financial position of the Institute, members in arrear are urged to pay their subscriptions without further delay.

The Exhibition of Models, Hobbies, and Handcrafts.

The First South African Exhibition of Models, Hobbies and Handcrafts held in the City Hall, Johannesburg, terminated its brief but useful existence on Saturday, October 15th, at 9 p.m., after a run of only three days, during which period approximately thirty thousand adults and children viewed the interesting collection of exhibits. The organizers of the exhibition endeavoured to appeal to all tastes and as there are many amateurs, young and old, of both sexes, apart from the considerable body of professional artists, who devote their time to drawing and painting—the promoters felt the Exhibition would be incomplete without an Arts and Crafts Section. The public response fully justified their decision. The two hundred and forty pictures and the corresponding number of articles in metal, leather, embroidery, barbola, carved wood work, etc., show that there is a lot of talent in hitherto unsuspected quarters. The S.A. Institute of Art associated itself with this movement and it is largely due to its help that this section was so well represented. It was rather a disappointment to find that Natal, Port Elizabeth and Cape Town artists were conspicuous by their absence. The shortness of the Exhibition no doubt was a deciding factor which weighed against the cost of framing, railage, etc. It was pleasing, however, to see some excellent work on the walls that has previously been exhibited here, and also a lot of new work of good quality. Mr. A. E. Gynge

placed things on a sound basis with eight characteristic works. Professor Armstrong contributed six excellent water-colours. The work of these artists is too well known for anyone to be able to say anything new in the way of criticism. Miss Marcel Piltan showed seven works including a large pastel portrait which merited the favourable comments made about it. Mr. W. H. Coetzer had a very creditable still-life in oils and a charcoal portrait. His work is always looked for and shows no sign of losing its freshness.

Miss Elsie Adams, a regular contributor to the S.A. Academy had five very sincere water-colours, the whole being careful, with attention to composition. Mr. Gus Friendly's eight black and white studies on modern lines drew a good deal of public notice.

Mr. Erich Mayer's landscapes are always popular and the four works sent in were well up to the standard that he has set for himself. Miss Joy Krause's work is noticeable for its broad treatment and is sufficiently realistic and convincing to keep it out of the realms of posterdom. Mr. John Lawson had two pleasing landscapes in oils. The work of Mr. Rene Shapshak whether it is in plaster or colour is too great a challenge to the accepted ideals of an older generation—it may find admirers in a newer school. The two late entries by S. P. Hodge would be in place in any Art Exhibition. His work is free in treatment and good in colour.

The three Whistler etchings were of great interest, also the five etchings by the late Sir Francis Seymour Haden entered by F. Seymour Haden, who also had five works of his own on view. There were four landscapes in oils by B. Hesselbarth, which show marked improvement in style and a good "out-of-door" freshness. Miss Constance Greaves showed three native studies in water colour, well drawn and true to type. Miss Dorothy Ashford's six oils showed an appreciation of values, No. 14 being excellent in tone and colour. No. 12—an interior, always difficult—was well lighted and consistent.

Mr. J. G. Bailes' "The Bridge," No. 16, was a nicely laid-in water colour, with good technique. Mr. A. Sevel, a newcomer, showed three works. The still-life (oil) was well handled but rather empty. The pencil portrait No. 168 was a skilful piece of work and we shall await fresh examples with interest. The six oils by E. Middlemiss were

promising, but could be improved with more attention to detail. Mr. Chas. Sachse is always sound and though he wields his brush broadly there is a sense of completeness.

Space does not allow for any special mention of numerous pictures that hold possibilities. They are quite obviously the work of amateurs with not very much experience, but Art is long and we may see many developments in the future. It is largely to foster the budding genius that this exhibition was held. It was not the intention of the committee to set a high standard, and to reject work which did not come up to that standard—rather did it aim at finding new talent and encouraging it—by accepting the work and giving all a chance to learn by comparing their own efforts with the work done by artists well trained, and with many years of experience.

As in the Models Section, one could see the crude work of the novice, made with a few simple tools, and compare it with the beautiful work of the trained hand that had, with proper facilities and knowledge and the untiring labour of years, turned out the perfect product.

There were not many entries for the Sculpture Section, but Miss MacAdam was well represented, her most important entry being "Grinding Corn," which was a realistic study well conceived and well modelled. Special mention should be made of the four works by Basil Abery. The large figure of the Hermes by George Woollacott appealed perhaps more to the casual visitor than to the trained eye that could detect anatomical inaccuracies. In the Crafts Section Mr. Ambler is to be congratulated on his exhibit of Stinkwood furniture.

Mr. Rocchi's violin cases were outstanding. Miss Ethel Pedersen's eight exhibits of leather and poker work were amongst the best. There was some excellent wood-carving by Mrs. E. L. Halse (panels for a fire-place, fire-screens, etc.). Mrs. Nancy Courtney Acutt and the Blue Bird Studio had some delightful exhibits. The eight exhibits by P. E. Evans, cushions, bedspreads, etc., received well-merited attention. Miss Johanna Smit and Mrs. Hatchard's embroidery work cannot be too highly commended, also the painted skins and hand-painted dressing gown by Mrs. Gladys Southam. Miss L. F. Murray showed some excellent hand thrown

pottery (late entry). Mrs. H. F. Mac-
kinnon's (late entry) barbola work was
very artistic. There were few sales but I
understand that quite a number of orders
were booked. In spite of the short time avail-
able the collection of work shown in the Sel-
borne Hall places it as one of the most inter-
esting sections of the Exhibition.

C. Thornley Stewart.

Architects' Fees

Action in Magistrate's Court.

In amplification of the report in "The
Star" yesterday of the case in which J. A.
Moffat and Harvey, architects, sued T. W.
Beckett and Co., Ltd., for £195, it may be
stated that plaintiffs prepared plans for pro-
posed additions to defendant's premises at
the corner of President and Simmonds
Streets, Johannesburg. The estimated cost
of the work contemplated was £20,000.
According to the tariff provided for in Govern-
ment Notice No. 387 of 1928, i.e., one and a
half per cent. on the estimated costs the fees
due to plaintiffs amounted to £300. Defen-
dants paid them £105. Plaintiffs now claimed
the balance of £195.

The defendants in their plea alleged that
their Johannesburg manager had informed J.
A. Moffat, a partner in the plaintiff firm, that
they were calling for competitive plans for
the erection of their proposed building. He
invited Moffat to prepare and send in a plan ;
and arranged with Moffat that if his plan was
not accepted they would pay him a fee of
£105. Moffat, they alleged, accepted this
arrangement ; and they alleged further that
it was on the same day confirmed in writing
by them. Defendants did not accept Moffat's
plan and contended that they were, there-
fore, not liable to him for more than the
£105, which they had already paid him.

Mr. Douglas Wilson (of Messrs. Routledge
and Douglas Wilson), who appeared for J. A.
Moffat and Harvey denied the allegations of
the defendants that his clients had any infor-
mation that the defendants were calling for
competitive plans ; that they had agreed to
accept a fee of £105—which would have
amounted to unprofessional conduct—and
that they had ever received any letter of con-
firmation of the alleged arrangement.

Before evidence was heard, Mr. Robin
Stratford (instructed by Messrs. Cliffe and
Dekker) contended that his clients—Messrs.
T. W. Beckett and Co., Ltd.,—were not bound
by the tariff promulgated under the Archi-
tects' Act of 1929. This matter had never
yet been tested in court. The point was
whether the public were bound by the tariff
in question.

Mr. Wilson, for the plaintiffs, replied that
reported cases prior to 1929 were to the effect
that the public were not bound by the tariff
unless a special agreement to that effect had
been entered into. But by the 1929 Act
it was laid down that "in the absence of a
special agreement an architect should be en-
titled to remuneration on the basis of the
tariff" (Clause 97 of the regulations). The
Architects Act of 1929 had therefore changed
the whole position.

The magistrate (Mr. J. H. Green) upheld
the contention of the defence—i.e., that the
public were not bound by the architects'
tariff which was promulgated under a private
Act.

As mentioned in yesterday's "Star" the
parties effected a settlement whereby the de-
fendants agreed to pay the plaintiffs £36 3s.
10d. and taxed costs in addition to the £105
already paid, and that judgment by consent
was entered accordingly. From the "Star."

Comment on page 272

light on the lift problem

• e. morley

A Plea.

The stage at which an architect usually calls
in the lift engineer is when he is ready to
call for tenders, or has called for tenders for
the building. He has planned the lift wells

and motor rooms, fixed the number of lifts
and, roughly, their size and duty, and often
the method of control. This information has
been gleaned from previous experience, from
associates or from study of another building
of approximately the same size and type.

In view of the fact that the lift makes the high building possible (even though the high building called the lift into being) it is only right that the lift should have first consideration, and not share the fate of stair rails, wash basins, tiles and other sub-contractors' work.

When a building has been carefully planned and every contingency taken into consideration, it must be annoying to the architect to find that the lift engineer requires more space than has been provided to give a satisfactory installation, or on the other hand, that there is space to spare which could have been put to profitable use.

When a building is projected in America, the home of the high building, the lift engineer's recommendations are given first consideration and the building is built round the lifts. The principals may want a certain number of shops, offices and rooms in their building; the lift engineer (often an independent consulting engineer specialising in lifts) is called in to design a "vertical transportation system" which will serve such a number of rooms and, literally "bring the top floors down to the street level." The lift engineer's traffic estimate and preliminary scheme are then considered and the architect revises his rough sketch plans to suit the scheme and eventually the building comes into being—as near the ideal of efficiency as modern brains can make it—the result of unselfish co-operation.

The same routine is not applied to all buildings, but the principle remains unaltered, and the principle is that the specialist has been able to accumulate a fund of experience in this class of work, he is specially trained, and invariably able to overcome the obstacles which generally beset the architect.

In the following notes it is not my intention to go into the details of lift construction and design, but rather to outline types of lifts which are fairly new to this country, and also rudimentary principles applying to the selection of these types to suit various classes of buildings.

Some Overseas Examples.

In America recently several new tall buildings came into being. So much has been written of the Chrysler Building and the Empire State Building that I do not propose to go deeply into details, and as this class

of work is not met with in South Africa, architects here would have no more than a passing interest.

The Empire State Building, the tallest structure in the world, with eighty-five

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storeys and a two hundred foot observation tower, and covering a ground area of eighty-three thousand eight hundred and sixty-three feet, has a rentable area of two million one hundred and fifty-eight thousand square feet.

The solution to the problem of securing the necessary lift service with the least possible encroachment on the net rentable area was, in this case, the selection of high speed lifts having the most efficient and time-saving method of operation obtainable. The method of operation is important and this will be referred to in particular later on.

There is a total of sixty-seven lifts in this building, of these fifty-eight are the main passenger lifts with a speed of seven hundred feet per minute, eighteen of these being arranged for a future speed of eight hundred feet per minute, eighteen for a future speed of one thousand feet per minute and eighteen for a future

speed of one thousand two hundred feet per minute, when the building regulations allow. Some of the lifts run express to certain floors and then local, and one bank of ten lifts provides the necessary night service. A special signalling system renders the whole service proof against inefficiency. This system includes a scheduling device to each bank of lifts, so that each starter knows the exact position of each lift in the bank and can make the necessary adjustments to the automatic despatching to meet various conditions.

A private automatic exchange telephone system with a two-hundred-station board provides for communication between the cars, the starters' control panels, the machine rooms and the superintendent's and chief engineer's offices. It also includes a telephone station in the lift lobby on each floor.

To be Continued.

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