THE SOUTH AFRICAN ARCHITECTURAL RECORD

THE JOURNAL OF THE ASSOCIATION OF TRANSVAAL ARCHITECTS, THE NATAL INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS AND THE SOUTH AFRICAN INSTITUTE OF QUANTITY SURVEYORS

Vol. XII. No. 45. MARCH, 1927.

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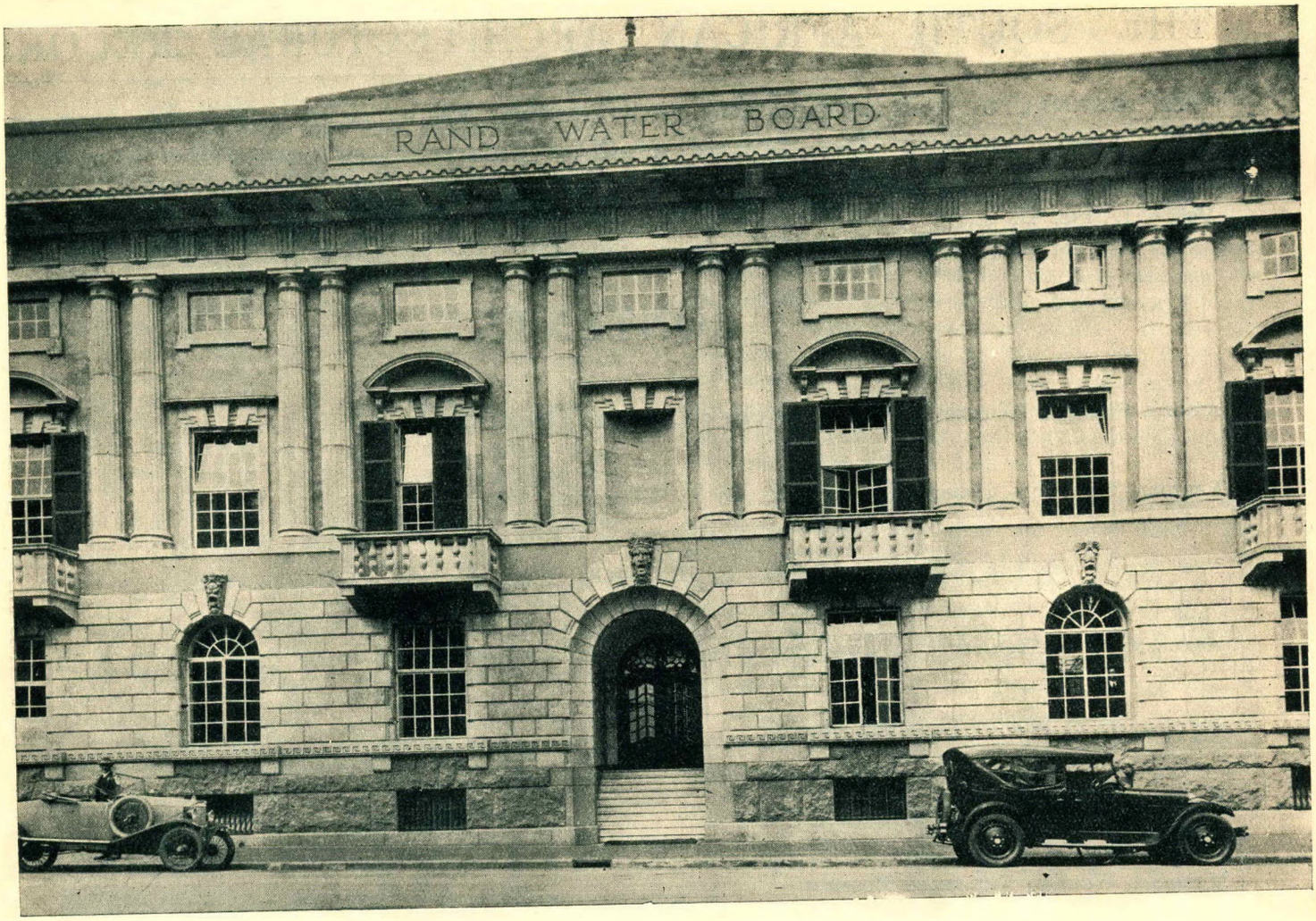

THE NEW OFFICES OF THE RAND WATER BOARD.

This block of offices designed by Mr. Gordon Leith, is described and illustrated with photos and ground floor plan on pages 10 and 11.

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ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE ASSOCIATION OF TRANSVAAL ARCHITECTS.

The Minutes of the Seventeenth Annual General Meeting of Members of the Association, held in the Municipal Offices, Pretoria, on Thursday the 24th February, 1927, at 3 p.m.

Present.—The President, Mr. N. T. Cowin, in the Chair, Messrs. G. S. Burt Andrews, J. S. Donaldson, C. C. Deuchar, J. B. Dey, T. Gordon Ellis, P. Eagle, F. L. H. Fleming, G. E. Fitzgerald, A. Stanley Furner, R. Howden, J. Lockwood Hall, A. Fraser Lawrie, V. S. Rees Poole, G. E. Pearse, Harold Porter, D. M. Sinclair, F. Soff, H. Spicer, F. Williamson, J. Goddard Wilson and the Registrar, M. K. Carpenter.

Apologies for non-attendance were received from Messrs. D. M. Burton, John Waterson, J. S. Cleland and Allen Wilson.

Minutes.—The Minutes of the Sixteenth Annual General Meeting held on the 26th February, 1926, published in the March, 1926, issue of the *"South African Architectural Record,"* were on the motion of Mr. G. S. Burt Andrews, seconded by Mr. J. S. Donaldson, taken as read and confirmed.

Annual Accounts and Balance Sheet.—The Financial Report and Balance Sheet for the year 1926, duly audited by Messrs. Aiken and Carter, were considered.

The President drew attention to the excess of expenditure over revenue for the past year, amount £7 0s. 0d., pointing out that this was due to the gradual decline in revenue. Revenue had fallen practically £100 in the last four years and the utmost economy was being practised in order to make revenue meet expenditure.

Mr. Fleming referred to the amount of £1,115 16s. 9d. which had been received from various members of the Association as voluntary loans. without interest, towards the promotion expenses of the Architects' Private Bill and mentioned that the amount should be carried forward because if the Act does not go through the Association will still remain responsible for the re-payment of these loans and every effort would have to be made to re-fund the monies received from the respective members.

Mr. D. M. Sinclair moved that a definite record be made in the minutes of this meeting showing that the Association has incurred a liability aggregating £1,115 16s. 9d., in respect of loans received from various members of the Association towards the promotion expenses of the Bill and that every endeavour is to be made at some future occasion to re-pay the amounts to the respective individual members. This was seconded by Mr. F. L. H. Fleming and agreed to.

In response to an inquiry the President stated that a sufficient supply of the forms of conditions of contract were in hand to cover requirements until the proposed amended form had been passed and printed.

Mr. J. S. Donaldson formally moved the acceptance of the Financial Report and Balance Sheet. This was seconded by Mr. D. M. Sinclair and unanimously agreed to.

Council's Report.—The President in referring to the Seventeenth Annual Report presented by the retiring Council pointed out that the work of the Association still continued to expand. The main feature of the year had been the promotion of the Union Architects and Quantity Surveyors' Bill, and he thought that members would like to hear what Mr. R. Howden, who was Chairman of the Union Registration Executive Committee, had to say in respect of the progress the measure had made in the House of Assembly.

Mr. R. Howden advised members of being in the happy position of being able to present a favourable report on the progress of the Bill through the House of Assembly, he referred to the Council's Report wherein it said that the Act before Parliament had passed the first reading and Select Committee stages: he was now able to state that on the previous Friday the Bill again came before the House for the second reading and was passed by 42 votes to 24. According to arrangements the Bill would come up before the the House in Committee on the 25th February, 1927; but owing to there being two bills set down for consideration prior to ours it might happen that the House would not reach our measure, which would therefore be put forward for one week. In any circumstance the Bill would be duly considered this Session and after passing through the Committee Stage would come up for the third reading and thereafter be sent to the Senate. Public opinion was optimistic as to the ultimate result of the Bill and he hoped before very long that the long sought after Architects' Bill for the Union would be a statutory measure.

Mr. G. S. Burt Andrews said that on behalf of the Association he would like to express their very high appreciation and thanks to Mr. Howden and the members of the Union Registration Executive Committee for the enormous amount of work done in promoting the Bill, he was convinced that no stone had been left unturned which would help to success, and that members were very grateful for what had been done, he moved that a hearty vote of thanks be accorded to the Chairman and members of the Union Registration Executive Committee in recognition of their zeal, this was seconded by the President, Mr. N. T. Cowin, and passed with acclamation and Mr. R. Howden suitably replied.

In connection with the Conditions of Contract, Mr. D. M. Sinclair referred to Council's proposal to amend the Arbitration Clause, he thought that the proposal contained in Council's Report was very sound and hoped that it would be accepted and the Arbitration Clause amended accordingly, he felt that the members of the Association had cause to thank the Council for considering this matter and making the able suggestion put forward.

After further discussion Mr. J. Lockwoood Hall formally moved and Mr. F. Williamson seconded the acceptance and adoption of Council's Report for the year 1926, this was unanimously agreed to.

Presidential Address.—Mr. N. T. Cowin, the retiring President in thanking members for their loyal support during his year of office said :—

"In compliance with the resolution that we should hold our Annual Meetings tri-annually in Pretoria, I am pleased to preside over this meeting to-day at the Capital and trust that it will prove as successful as the previous one in the same place.

The Council is always willing to co-operate with the members of our Association in every way, and I hope this opportunity, given to our Pretoria members, of discussing the work of our Association will be taken full advantage of.

Johannesburg greets Pretoria well as a friendly neighbour.

It it pleasing to record that the year that has passed is notable for great activity in the Building Industry throughout the country, and there appears no indication of any diminution in the amount of work going on. Large buildings have been completed recently in all the principal towns of the Union, more are in course of construction, and still more are projected.

Our General Manager of Railways paints a glowing picture of the agricultural, mineral and industrial possibilities of this country, our visitors sing its praises, and a large amount of capital is being invested in various enterprises. It would appear that a new era of peace and prosperity is dawning, and we must perforce, as a profession, prepare to take our rightful place in the march of progress.

Are we well equipped and organised for our work, and are the public taking an interest in architecture, so that they may be in a position to appreciate and insist on obtaining good architecture ? There is certainly an improvement all round over the conditions existing a few years ago. Given better education for architects and an improved taste of the public, we should have better buildings. A high standard of work generally is being maintained today ; we have abandoned the architecture of the mining town, and there is a mark of solidity and permanence in our new buildings which expresses confidence in a great future for this country.

It is gratifying to note the eulogy and sincere appreciation of the work carried out in this country in the reviews of South African architecture at the recent exhibition of Dominion Architecture in London. A pleasing feature is the comments on the excellence of the Official Architecture carried out by our Public Works Department. We can all endorse this view and I take this opportunity of congratulating the Chief Architect and his Colleagues on this attainment. It would be a just and fitting acknowledgment of the work of the Staff if the names of the authors of the various designs for this Government work were published whenever the buildings are illustrated.

Our Government, then, is alive to its obligation to promote good architecture and this example must have a beneficial effect throughout the country and should stimulate the public to fall into line.

While we appreciate the good work of the Government, a word might be said on the Government's duty to the practising architects in entrusting them with commissions occasionally.

There is yet a great deal to do in the way of educating and directing the public taste for buildings ; there is still a great deal of work carried out which is ugly and offensive. An improvement can be effected in the design of the small home which is often carried out without the services of an architect, with a view to keeping down the cost, and almost invariably proves a fallacy.

Architects should be prepared to supply, at a small cost, designs for better housing architecture and remove the idea rooted in the minds of the public that an architect's services necessarily mean a payment of 5 per cent. on the cost of the work, whereas partial services, with corresponding fees, are recognised and legitimate.

While it is true that great architects were produced under the old system of pupilage ; they were, however, exceptions. A great deal of the pupils' time under this system was spent in useless drudgery and wasted in misdirected study. It is quite impracticable, now-a-days, to rely on the talent of a few highly trained individuals to carry on the whole of our work. We should produce a large body of experts to share in the output, and I am convinced we are doing this in the training afforded at our Schools of Architecture that are now well established. The student should be unfettered by office routine during his course of training. This is the ideal, but poor circumstances may preclude a promising pupil from taking the full architectural course at a school, and such cases should be assisted by the granting of Scholarships from Government funds.

It speaks well for the training at the "schools" when I can say that I have not heard of a single case of a student who has qualified, after a full-day architectural course, not making good in practice. In fact they are sought after by practising Architects and public bodies.

I would here instil into our students that the Super-man does not exist, and hero-worship is a clog to self-reliance. The supreme test is, and always will be to extract the best from one's self without stint of labour and perseverance, and success is bound to follow in their wake.

A disquieting feature of the conditions in the Building Industry to-day is the lack of highly trained artisans; the old school of thoroughly competent craftsmen who emigrated here is gradually passing away, and there is danger of their being replaced by careless and inefficient workmen without zeal and ambition. Whether this is due to the proximity of the native and coloured races here inducing slovenliness, the fact remains that for high-class workmen we must still look to Europe and even Australia mostly for our supplies The vigorous policy recently embarked upon by the Government to foster Technical Education throughout the country has come just in time and should enable us to supply our want of highly skilled and reliable artisans.

We are told that the opportunity for the employment of the skilled trades is decreasing, due to the fact that buildings are now of the plainest description and different materials are being used. There is a great deal of truth in this, and architects must endeavour to induce their clients to expend a little more than the irreducible minimum if we are to produce and maintain skilled craftsmen in the country.

The substitution of materials is revolutionising the Building Industry; concrete blocks are replacing stonework; steel windows are largely used in place of wood, and steel and asbestos ceilings are also being substituted for wood, and metal is in use for shop fronts.

The restriction in the use of timber in buildings is a wise provision, not only in reducing the fire-risks; but in view of a probable timber famine.

In the report of the Forestry Commission of Great Britain, the conclusion is expressed that "available supplies of the principal timbers of commerce are rapidly approaching exhaustion. The most serious feature of the situation is in regard to the soft woods, the annual consumption of which exceeds the growth by about 3,000 million cubic feet."

This warning should not pass unheeded, particularly by architects and building operatives.

The subject of architectural competitions is one that apparently cannot be settled to the satisfaction of all. There is a growing weight of opinion that Competitions should be avoided whenever it is possible to do so. Too much time and money is wasted on them and there is no doubt that any competent and conscientious architect would be able to satisfy any client or Committee with the sketches he is likely, and always willing, to submit. If however, a Competition becomes inevitable, let it be carried out on approved lines with a competent assessor, a fixed programme of requirements, and an assurance that the published conditions, and especially the definite limitations of cost, will be strictly adhered to, and the recommendation of the assessor will be upheld. These are the minimum safeguards to ensure something of certainty that the best scheme will be selected; but after all is said and done Competitions are, from the architects' point of view, usually a gamble, purely and simple.

Assessors are only human; their varying methods and ability must be considered and they have their limitations of taste, habit and experience, and Competitors are not slow to take advantage of them.

The Cape School Board have adopted successfully a plan whereby their work is given out to the local architects in rotation, and the Durban Corporation has followed on similar lines with their housing scheme. This points the way to further progress in the same direction, and a gradual elimination of the Competitive system, and I commend this practice to our Council for consideration and support.

We should guard against any inroads being made on our scale of fees. The remuneration of 5 per cent. in vogue here is less than that in force in Great Britain, and also at the Cape, where 6 per cent. is the practice. There is a tendency to require the payment of the Specialists fees by the architect out of his ordinary commission.

I refer to this point because it has come under my notice here, and it is under discussion at the present time in responsible quarters in England.

The remuneration of an architect is, for convenience, arrived at by an average percentage on the total cost of a building scheme. The simple parts of the structure balancing the more elaborated portions where a larger fee would be required to be remunerative. So by established custom Specialists' works in Electric Lighting, Heating, Lifts, Reinforced Concrete, etc., have been included to make up the total cost on which the average percentage is assessed. The architect is the planner and designer of the structure, and without his services the Specialists cannot function, and the work of supplying the experts with information and co-relating the result of their activities to the project as a whole is tremendous and certainly does not, in the end, result in any saving of time and money to the architect. It is unthinkable that these services and responsibilities should go unremunerated.

Any watering down of our fees in the direction indicated is directly opposed to the scale of charges of the Royal Institute of British Architects, and is calculated to have a disastrous effect on our profession and should be taken up officially and energetically by our Council.

The practice of including large amounts as provisional sums for Specialists work in a contract, often amounting to as much as 30 per cent. is a constant source of friction with Contractors, and we cannot be indifferent to their protests against this dilution of their Contracts. The employment of a general Contractor, to whom the architect may look for the general conduct and control of the erection of the building is the soundest policy, and it is undesirable that the Contractor should become merely an agent and not function as an organiser and director of the various building trades.

Specialists work should be eliminated as much as possible, and architects must be prepared to recognise this or else the position will develop into one where the general contractor will find himself shouldering all the responsibility plus loss of the control and profits, and it does not require much imagination to foresee that this would become intolerable, and the general contractor would be forced out of business.

The architect would then have to deal with the various trades separately, thus increasing his work and responsibilities enormously, to say nothing of the lack of co-ordination and control on the building itself.

We are indebted to our Registrar, Mr. Carpenter, for the excellent manner in which the work of our Association has been managed, and also to his able assistant, Miss Murdoch, and I thank them heartily.

I acknowledge too, with grateful thanks, the valuable assistance and co-operation of the Council which has rendered my year of office extremely pleasant.

The Council's Report furnishes a record of the year's work, and I need not enlarge on that. It is a record of good work done.

Lastly I come to the most important event in recent years in our profession. I mean the satisfactory progress of our Registration Act through Parliament. A matter of profound congratulation, because there is no doubt that a general improvement in the Art of Architecture cannot be brought about unless those who practice it are competent to do so.

This is an epoch in our history and will have a stimulating and beneficial effect, not only with the members of our profession; but with the public as well.

J. LOCKWOOD HALL.

We owe a deep debt of gratitude to all who have worked to bring about this result, and I take this opportunity of thanking all the members of our Association who have served on the Executive Committee, from time to time, and Mr. Carpenter, the Secretary.

I congratulate the Quantity Surveyors on being parties to the Act with us. We welcome them as indispensable associates and sharers in our triumph and aspiration.

Appointment of Scrutineers.—On the motion of Mr. J. S. Donaldson, for the purpose of conducting the ballot for members to Council, Messrs. H. W. Spicer and A. Stanley Furner were unanimously appointed Scrutineers.

Election of President.—The retiring President, Mr. N. T. Cowin, in stating that only one nomination had been received for the position as President for the ensuing year, formally declared Mr. J. Lockwood Hall elected to that position and expressed his congratulations and good wishes and promised co-operation and support to Mr. J. Lockwood Hall during the ensuing year and thereafter conducted the newly elected President to the Chair.

Mr. J. Lockwood Hall on assuming the Presidential Chair was received with acclamation and in reply to the welcome addressed the members in the following terms:—

"I sincerely thank you for the honour you have conferred on me in electing me President for the ensuing year, this honour in a way is an accident owing principally to excessive modesty on the part of Mr. Williamson.

"In following your immediate and other Past Presidents, I can assure you that the position will be no sinecure, the amount of time and energy they have put into the work of the Association is immeasurable and makes me feel diffident whether I shall be able to carry out the duties pertaining to this high office, with the same efficiency; at any rate you can feel assured that I shall always endeavour to work for the Association to the best of my ability.

"From the yearly Report and Mr. Cowin's speech you will realise the vast amount of work done by your Council for the profession in general and the Association, especially in regard to the Union Bill, which as you know is practically through. I should like to mention names but will refrain because those gentlemen who have worked to such good purpose may rest assured that their work is known and deeply appreciated.

"I am glad to say there is a greater tendency to consult the Council on matters in general, thus showing a greater confidence in them, this is as it should be, as they are elected by yourselves. I can assure you that cases brought before the Council receive very deep consideration and thought before any decision is arrived at.

"I should like to say a few words to our students who will eventually be our successors in carrying on the good work, they cannot carry on without hard work, an architect to do his work properly will work to the end of his days. Some of our students are inclined to pay too much attention to drawing; now drawing is admirable in itself, but it must be a

servant and not a master. I would say to them, master all the essentials of building in a proper sense, know what you are putting down on paper, and do the work that in you lies, to the best of your ability, and study all the best work you come across. We cannot all become Sir Christopher Wren's, but at least we can emulate him."

Mr. D. M. Sinclair referred to the good work done by the retiring President during his year of office and suggested that his Presidential Address be sent to the Press for publication and that a hearty vote of thanks be accorded to Mr. N. T. Cowin for his services as President during the past year. This was unanimously agreed to.

Election of Vice-President.—There being no other nominations the President, Mr. J. Lockwood Hall, formally moved the election as Senior Vice-President for the current year of Mr. F. Williamson and as Junior Vice-President for the current year, Mr. Harold Porter. These appointments were formally agreed to to and Messrs. Williamson and Porter suitably expressed their thanks for the honours conferred upon them.

Election of Auditors.—Mr. N. T. Cowin moved that Messrs. Aiken and Carter be appointed auditors to the Association for the year 1927, and that they be paid the usual sum, as remuneration, for their services for conducting the audit of accounts for the year 1926, this was seconded by Mr. F. Williamson and unanimously agreed to.

Election of Council.—The Scrutineers having submitted their return of the ballot cast, the President read out the result of the ballot for the election of members to Council and formally declared the following members to be elected as members of Council for the year 1927 :—Messrs. G. S. Burt Andrews, N. T. Cowin, J. S. Donaldson, F. L. H. Fleming, R. Howden, G. E. Pearse, D. M. Sinclair, Allen Wilson and John Waterson.

Subsequently Professor G. E. Pearse explained the working of the Department of Architecture of the University of the Witwatersrand and Mr. A. Stanley Furner outlined the aims and objects of the South African Institute of Art, and Mr. F. L. H. Fleming drew the attention of members to the forthcoming eighth Annual Exhibition of the South African Academy in May next and expressed the hope that the architectural exhibits would be numerous.

Following a hearty vote of thanks to the President for presiding, the meeting terminated.

PRETORIA TECHNICAL COLLEGE COMPETITION.

F. WILLIAMSON.

A general inspection of Designs submitted by Architects in competition invariably reveals the fact that comparatively few competitors have given sufficient time or thought to the primary requirements of the scheme. Success is to the man who having arrived at a dozen solutions of the problem before him—at the eleventh hour arrives at a conclusion and produces his scheme. Such results are frequently weak in points of detail, but after all how few competitive designs are found to be ideal when the serious building programme is finally discussed. The competitor who finds but one solution to a schedule of requirements and devotes his time and energy on the production of a scheme conceived in the belief that no other satisfactory result is possible deceives himself and is rarely successful. On the other hand the designer who will and is able to obtain a frank criticism from his fellow architects will undoubtedly produce a better result than he would if left to rely entirely upon his own imagination.

A lay criticism is frequently of great value, not perhaps in the merit of the views expressed, but rather in the new point of view opened up. Results in this country have often proved that a "syndicate" of competent men can produce a result infinitely superior to the efforts of the individual architect who closely closeted strives for success with his imagination confined to one preconceived channel.

Why are architects so jealous of their efforts in design and why do they not welcome and invite criticism of their work ? What architect is entirely satisfied with the result of his labours, and what valuable assistance might have been rendered in the course of a friendly and frank discussion in a circle of his professional friends.

But this is a serious digression.

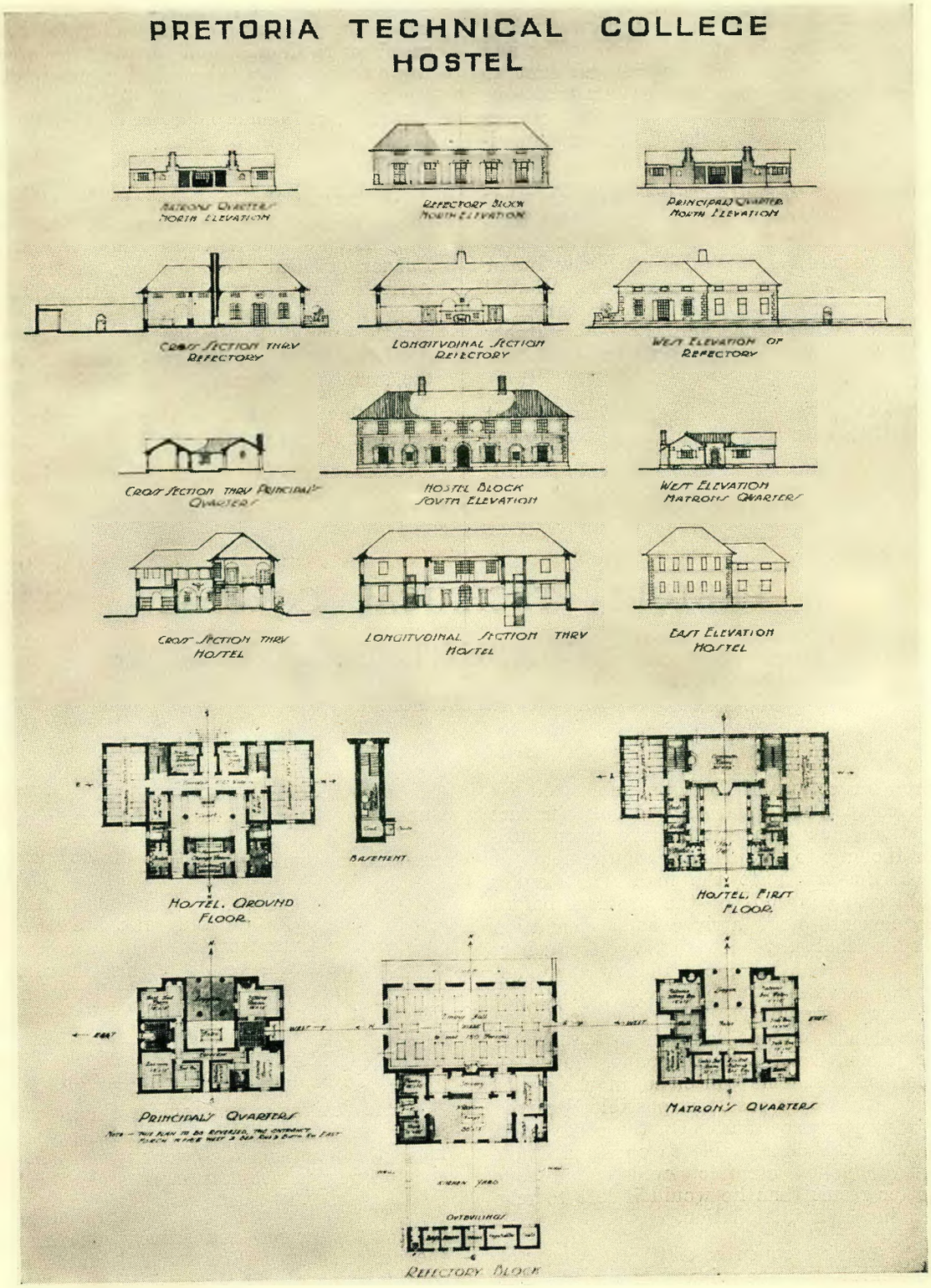
The designs submitted for the new Hostel Buildings, Pretoria, were as a whole disappointing. Perhaps the cost of the work was not sufficiently encouraging to promote more serious competition !

Few of the competitors appreciated the importance of the lay-out and general concentration was on the design of the several small buildings with little consideration of the disposal of the elements on the site. One design submitted ignored the shape of the site entirely.

As in previous competitions one or two designs were submitted by persons not eligible to compete.

In the design placed first, an excellent grouping of buildings on the site was obtained and a close study of the arrangement of the several elements enclosing the campus revealed numerous well considered advantages from the administration and control point of view.

In general character the Architectural treatment made a strong appeal, although modifications in both



FIRST PREMIATED DESIGN *Gordon Leith.*

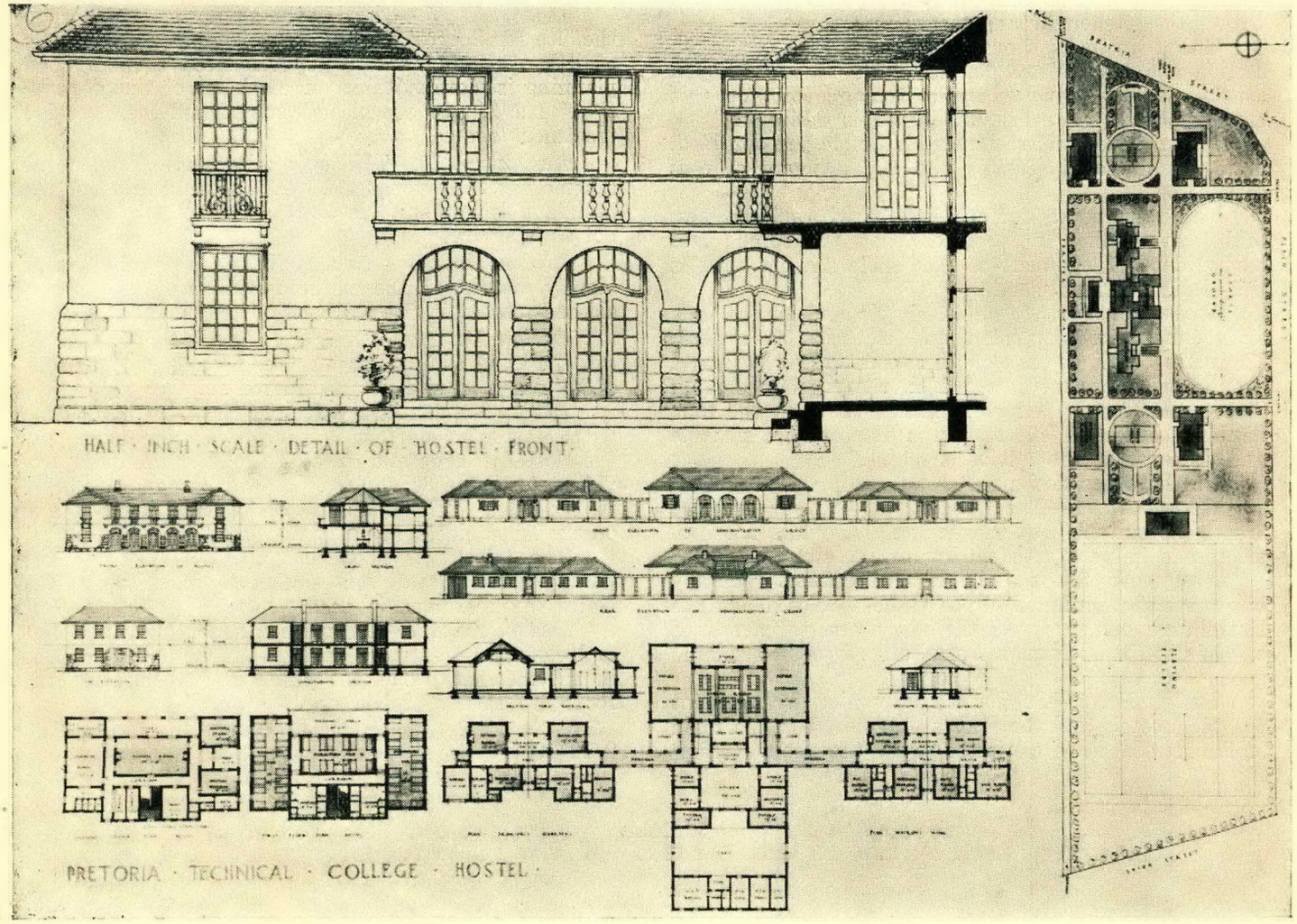
plan and elevation will no doubt be found advisable when more detailed drawings are prepared.

The promotors are to be congratulated on obtaining a really good design.

Two or three good designs—with the buildings enclosing a campus—were submitted, but in almost every case the general character was either too school-like or too civic.

An inspection of competitive designs invariably promotes the thought "What an exhibition of misguided labour!" An Assessor usually finds that he has little difficulty in singling out three or four designs for final consideration.

A sketch design would occupy very little of an Architect's time and many more designs would be received than is the case under existing conditions. The suggestion is that from the sketch designs submitted the Assessor should select from two to six schemes—according to the size of the job— which in his opinion could be developed with good results. The Authors of the sketch designs selected by the Assessor should then be asked to compete under conditions similar to those existing and should be paid a small premium to cover their expenses in the preparation of carefully finished designs.



SECOND PREMIATED DESIGN *Charles Small.*

The remaining schemes—carefully finished in compliance with the conditions of competitions—represent so much wasted effort and time.

Would it not be in the interest of the Promoters and the Architects to have a preliminary sketch design competition before inviting carefully finished designs?

Under these conditions every busy architect would compete in the sketch design competition, and many competitors would be saved both effort and time.

Academic competitions in Europe are conducted on the lines suggested and it is felt that if arrangements could be made, such a system would be advantageous to promotors and competitors and better results would be obtained.

The following is the Assessor's Report :—

I have the honour to state that the twelve Competitive Designs submitted for the above, together with the accompanying reports have been carefully examined and, after full consideration of the various points of detail of each design. I beg to advise that I place the designs in order of merit as follows :—

First Design No. 7.

Second Design No. 6.

First Design No. 7 provides for a very suitable grouping of buildings facing on to a large central enclosure or campus with the Sports Grounds at the East end of the site.

The Buildings generally are sensibly and conveniently planned. The Refectory is simple and dignified with good kitchen arrangements.

The Principal's House, Matron's and sick room section and Hostels are planned with patios and open courts, a particularly suitable arrangement for this climate where the maximum of air is desirable.

The architectural treatment is simple and dignified, materials proposed sensible and the estimate of cost satisfactory.

There are points for criticism as with all schemes, taking everything into consideration the simple and convenient arrangement of the whole scheme entitles this design to first place.

Second Design No. 6.—A simple and satisfactory arrangement both in plan and elevation treatment. The main buildings face on to a portion of the Sports ground with a central drive entrance from Beatrix Street, the Hostels being planned to come on the four flanking corners. The materials proposed are suitable and the estimate of cost satisfactory.

Of the other designs :—

Design No. 1.—The buildings are simple and the treatment suitable but the general lay-out is not considered to be very satisfactory for the site.

Design No. 2.—Is a simple arrangement generally but the main Dining Room is rather enclosed and the Hostel arrangements with the only access to Lavatories on the 1st Floor through Dormitories is not considered good.

Design No. 3.—Suggests a very nice arrangement for the Hostels and the Sports Grounds, but the main buildings are very conjested with the main Dining Room somewhat hemmed in. The Principal's House is very close to main kitchen for smells and noise and this section with the Matron's Quarters and sick room strung out in a long line facing west is not considered good. Native Quarters are very close to both main building and hostel. The W.C.'s arrangement on internal wall in Hostels is not sound.

The architectural treatment is good and materials proposed suitable.

Design No. 4.—A sound plan for the Hostels, but the Main Block with the kitchen yard as the central feature is not considered so satisfactory.

The general lay-out does not provide for any definite entrance and the elevation treatment is somewhat elaborate.

Design No. 5.—The lay-out suggested would spoil the site for Sports ground, etc. The main building is a little conjested and it is considered a more open planning is more suitable for a scheme of this description. The Hostels are nicely planned and the elevation treatment simple.

Design No. 8.—This competitor has planned his scheme for the wrong site. The arrangement of the buildings is not suitable and the elevation treatment not satisfactory.

Design No. 9.—A very fair scheme, but as previously mentioned, the more open arrangement is considered more suitable. Elevation treatment is simple.

Design No. 10.—A fair arrangement of buildings, but the main Dining Room rather hemmed in. Lay-out of buildings on site not considered suitable.

Design No. 11.—The refectory Block in this scheme with Matron's Quarters is very nicely arranged, but the Hostel is large and expensive, the Dormitories providing for some 80 sup. ft. per bed as against the 50 ft. required. The Changing and Locker Room is also on the large side.

The lay-out is good, but the outlook from the Dining Room is somewhat blocked by the Hostel. The elevation treatment is good.

Design No. 12.—A very nice general arrangement and elevation treatment, but the kitchen yard, etc., is in a somewhat prominent position. In elevation the roofs are rather broken up.

J. S. CLELAND F.R.I.B.A.
9/12/1926. Assessor.

NEW OFFICES FOR THE RAND WATER BOARD.

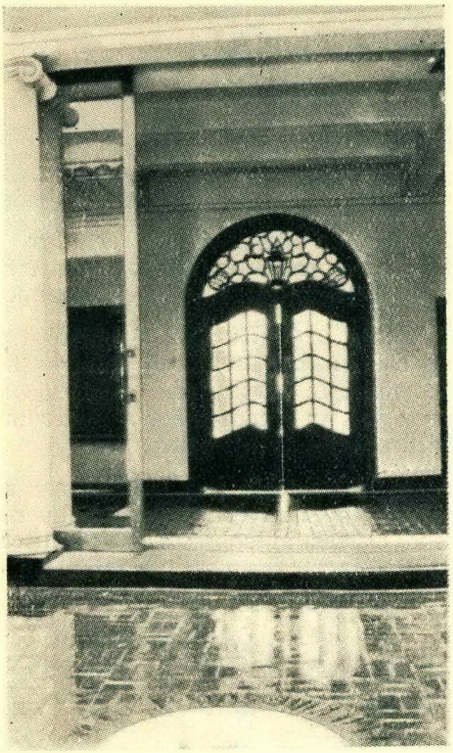
H. C. TULLY.

One can say the Rand Water Board were fortunate in their selection of an architect, and that one cannot help feeling that their aspirations have been realized in this new building, which has been designed to their requirements by Mr. Gordon Leith.

Coming down Commissioner Street into Marshallstown, the facade unfolds itself in a quiet expanse of reticent and refined proportions.

It requires no analytical mind to discover what it is that is so attractive about this first glimpse of the exterior. The fenestration of the windows ; the recession of the wall surfaces ; the disposition of the solids and voids ; the bold central arch with its ornate keystone ; the delightful detailing of the window surrounds ; the simpicity and resourcefulness of the lower storey—and the originality displayed in the Doric Cornice, are the attributes that contribute to this general impression.

In the Entrance Lobby, a barrel vault with deeply recessed coffers gives a convincing sense of enclosure, and one enters the Vestibule through its massive swing doors and richly carved lunette with feelings of respect. The interior is trabeated, with coupled Ionic columns, Greek Antae and moulded cross beams of delicate outline.



The floor is a pattern of red klompje bricks, surrounded by a border of South West African marble.

Sliding bronze doors, glazed with single panels of plate glass are fitted between the columns, and expose to the view an atrium of scholarly detail, in which water plays from a marble impluvium throughout the day.

The general effect of this Court and Vestibule is one of lightness and animation, which is in keeping with the general conception.

Passing through an ante room we enter the Board Room, 40ft. by 20ft. through deep jambs, fitted with doors on either side.

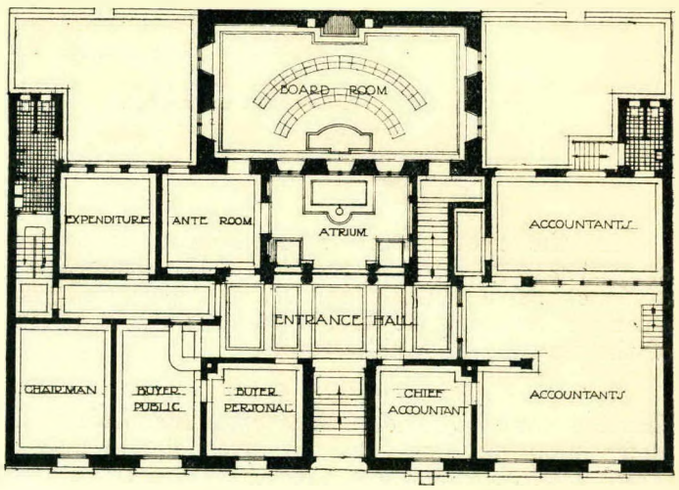
The effect of this long low room, is extremely happy, reminiscent in a degree of some cool Dutch interior—after De Hoogh, although the curved furniture is not altogether in keeping with the Architecture of the room, which is a pity, as it detracts from the harmony thereof.

The floor is of Moulmien teak blocks and a handsome sandstone fireplace lines one side, with its dwarf cupboards fitted with delightful escutcheons and hinges.

The room is panelled in teak to a height of 7ft. 0in., and it has a rich open beam ceiling, with heavy moulded brackets and freestone corbels—even the chairs with their cabriole legs and the brass candelabra, gave to this Board Room a *"Nuance"* sufficient to raise it far above the commonplace.

Athwart the Entrance are the Buyers' and Accountants' rooms—the numbers on the doors being carved on the upper panels in Roman numerals—while in the Chairman's door, a little red light shows itself whenever that important personage is engaged.

The main lavatories are grouped on a Mezzanine floor—the staircase to which runs on to the Basement —here are Record Rooms, Strong Rooms, and a heating chamber.



These rooms get their light from windows in the plinth—masked by wrought iron grilles of simple design.

Passing from the Vestibule again, we ascend a staircase of white Karibi marble, flanked by a dado of brindle bricks, and catch a momentary glimpse of the Atrium from the first landing. The Lobby on the first floor occupies the space over the Vestibule, and around it are disposed the Board's offices, typists, plan room and a large well lighted Drawing Hall.

On the top floor are the Caretakers suite, Sun Printing rooms and a Laboratory.

All these rooms with the exception of the 2nd floor are finished in putty plastered walls and ceilings and have composition floors and 12in. black granolithic borders—the window cill internally being covered with small Craven Dunnill tiles.

The building is heated throughout by Barkers, low pressure hot water system.

MEMORANDUM ON ARCHITECTURAL EDUCATION IN SOUTH AFRICA

G. E. PEARSE.

In the near future a commission is to be appointed to go into the question of the demarcation of functions of Universities and Technical Colleges, among other items, to be discussed, is the question of the teaching of Architecture.

This is a very important matter, and it is well that the profession should appreciate and discuss it. Many important questions are involved and unless the profession, as a whole, take them into consideration we may find, with the passing of our Act, that many difficulties will arise.

In Johannesburg, for over 20 years, architectural training of a desultory nature was carried on. Of all the students who have taken advantage of it not more than half a dozen are qualified to-day.

This is entirely due to the nature of the training. Architectural training at Technical Institutes has never been a great success, unless a school of Architecture, properly equipped and staffed, exists within the Institute.

Otherwise Architectural students attend common classes with trade apprentices which, though desirable in many respects, is a handicap to the better educated or Matriculated student who is usually quicker and more apt to learn.

The time is rapidly coming when Architecture will be looked upon as a profession in the truest sense of the word and the Architect a highly qualified professional man, not a mere artist or decorator.

This necessitates a sound artistic and scientific training which cannot be given satisfactorily in evening classes.

In Johannesburg we have realised that students working in Architects' offices should attend as many lectures during the day as possible and convenient in order to devote their evenings to the enormous amount of drawing required.

In England the only schools recognised by the R.I.B.A. are the day schools of Architecture.

Unless a high standard of Architecture is adopted and maintained the present unfortunate state of affairs of turning out mere draughtsmen with a smattering of Architecture is bound to continue.

At present well equipped and staffed schools of Architecture exist at Johannesburg and Capetown.

In spite of this there has been a definite movement to commence Architectural training at the Witwatersrand Technical Institute, in fact, a department of Art and Architecture has been established.

In Durban, in July, Professor Orr definitely stated that it was the intention to start Architectural classes at the Technical Institute, Johannesburg.

In Pretoria and Durban Architectural Classes are conducted at the Technical Colleges leading, at present, nowhere in particular. In 1925 an attempt was made to set up a course for a Government Technical Certificate in Architecture.

Students in Pretoria and Durban are not bound to follow a recognised course, with the result that they attend classes in subjects which interest them with, in some cases, the possible intention of taking the R.I.B.A. examinations.

Surely this state of affairs should be seriously considered by the profession.

The majority of these students will become draughtsmen not Architects with little or no hope of practising or obtaining the higher appointments in the public services.

It is this state of affairs which has caused the unhappy position existent to-day, the existence of a large body of discontented men constantly forming new societies in order to get recognition.

Arguments have been put forward that we are analogous to Mechanical and Electrical Engineers who can get their theoretical training at Technical Institutes whilst obtaining practical training during the day.

This surely is quite wrong as practical training in the building trades is not and cannot be an essential part of an Architect's training.

Our profession is much more analogous to Civil Engineering and how many Civil Engineers are trained to-day in Technical Institutes?

Another important question asked is what of the poor boy? He has just as much opportunity in this profession as in any other, and, if he possesses the necessary artistic ability and enthusiasm nothing will stop him. At least half a dozen Architectural students are getting free education at the University in Johannesburg, through bursaries and, if the profession, after it is relieved of the heavy expenses of the Act, can found Scholarships for this purpose, as other professions do, there is nothing to prevent a brilliant artisan entering upon the profession of Architecture.

Would it not be as well to definitely lay down a minimum course spread over a number of years with regulations governing attendance at classes and the completion of certain definite courses at the end of each year before proceeding to the next?

By this means students will realise the seriousness of the profession and make up their minds to work.

Since such a scheme was adopted at Johannesburg the results have been surprisingly satisfactory.

Experience has proved that three years' study is essential in order to take the Intermediate R.I.B.A., and five years to take the Final (i.e., a further two years).

The courses at Capetown and Johannesburg have been drawn up for this purpose as follows:—

1st Year: History of Architecture, Architectural drawing, Freehand drawing, Elementary Building Construction, Geometrical drawing including sciagraphy and perspective.

2nd Year: History of Architecture, Architectural design (elementary), Freehand and Life drawing or Modelling, Building Construction, Geometrical drawing including the elementary principles of the Mechanics of Building Construction.

3rd Year: History of Architecture, Architectural Design, Building Construction, Mechanics of Building Construction, including strength of Materials, Materials of Construction, Sanitation and Hygiene.
(The above enables students to qualify for the Intermediate R.I.B.A.)

4th Year: Theory of Structures, Architectural Design, Specifications, Estimates, Contracts, Quantities, Working Drawings.

5th Year: Advanced Architectural Design and Construction, Town Planning and Landscape Design, Professional Practice.

At Capetown and Johannesburg Diplomas are awarded on the satisfactory completion of this course.

If such a course were drawn up and adopted by the Federal Council a Diploma, as previously suggested, could be awarded by it to students in other centres but it is essential that some measure of control should be given by the profession to schools adopting this course.

This is done by every other professional body throughout the Empire.

In Capetown and Johannesburg members of the R.I.B.A. Board of Examiners set the examination papers for the Universities thus an uniform standard prevails. Perhaps Durban and Pretoria could adopt a similar procedure.

In the smaller centres where only two or three students present themselves and Technical Colleges exist, the profession might urge that the first two years of this course be adopted. This would necessitate Architectural students taking the majority of the subjects in common with trade apprentices, but they should be encouraged to proceed to the larger centres for further tuition unless, of course, the staffing and equipment can be furnished for the advanced courses.

Were some such scheme, as outlined, adopted by the Federal Council and rigidly adhered to by the profession all courses in the Union could be correlated, students moving from one centre to another could continue with their studies, the R.I.B.A. could be approached with a view of recognising these courses so that a student, at the end of them, could, if he desires it, obtain the Associateship R.I.B.A.

It is essential to bear in mind that we must not become too parochial and realise that we are not training students only for the Union of S.A., but to take their place in other parts of the world by giving them every facility possible.

We shall then have laid the foundation in this country for sound Architectural training which, with the passing of our Act and the future recognition of Architects, as such, will redound to our credit.

We have a fine tradition laid down for us in this country by the early Dutch settlers, the threads of which were picked up by Cecil Rhodes and Sir H. Baker, and which are being ably carried on by a number of capable and brilliant men in practice, and by the Staff of the P.W.D.

A final word may be said, in support of the above, about the present position of the architectural draughtsman. Two classes may be said to exist:—

1. Those possessing imagination and decided artistic ability but with little or no knowledge of construction or business ability.

2. Those with business ability and a practical knowledge but with little or no knowledge of design.

The former usually succeeds but is inclined to rely too much on the specialist to see him through, often with disastrous results, through his lack of knowledge.

The latter lets the profession down, for the public soon discover that the employment of a builder with business ability and a sound practical training can do the work equally well, at less cost in professional fees.

Practitioners should seriously consider whether it would not be wiser to refuse to take pupils until they had spent at least one year at one of the schools.

ALTERATIONS TO DURBAN TECHNICAL COLLEGE.

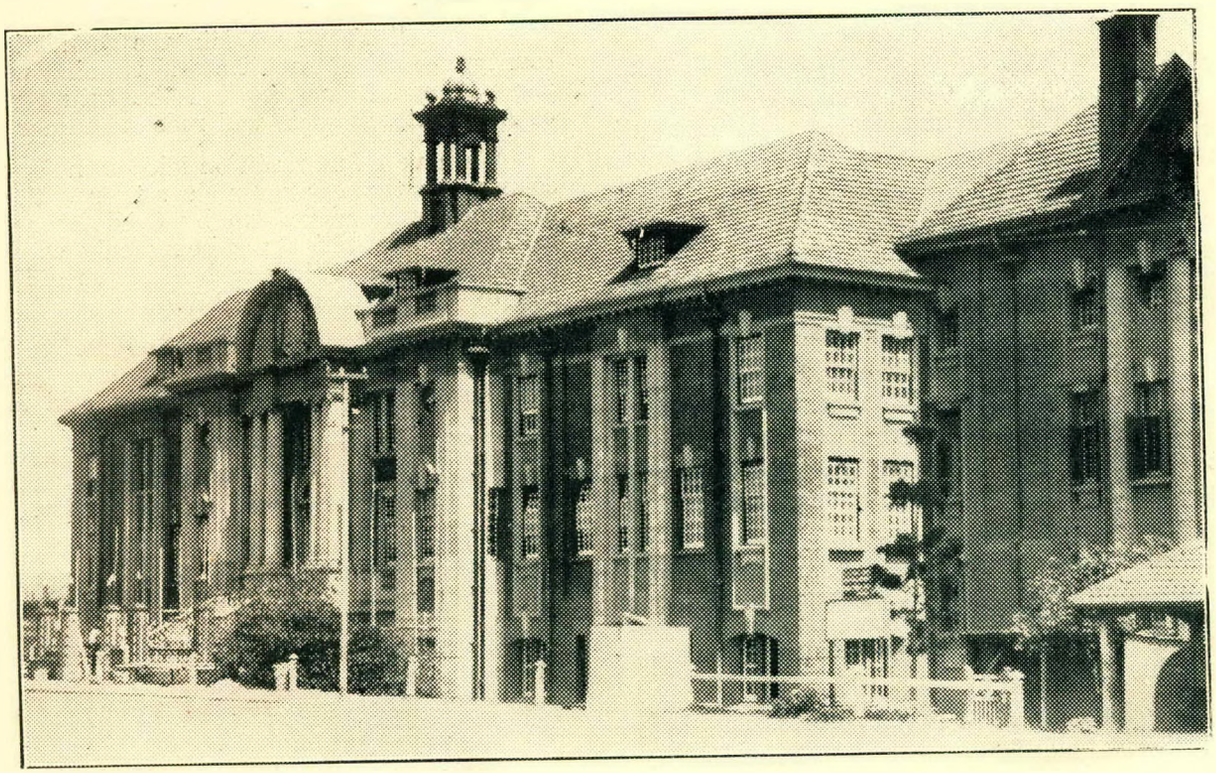
It is hoped that the new West Street wing of the Technical College will be completed and ready for occupation by the middle of next month; and although the new building will not extend the college's present activities, by reason of merely supplying the necessary extra accommodation for the work carried on in miscellaneous and extemporised premises in the past, it will greatly facilitate the work of staff and students alike by centralising it, and will also allow considerable improvement and development of the work already in hand.

The department of the college which will benefit most by the erection of the new wing, is that of domestic science, which, for the first time since its inception will now receive adequate and satisfactory accommodation.

Certain alterations in the old building at its junction with the new wing, were, of course, found necessary in ensuring co-ordination; and on the ground floor, the rooms which formerly represented a millinery lecture room and a laundry, have been joined and converted into a capacious kitchen which will be used for cookery demonstrations, and in which will be installed both electric and coal-heated stoves, so as to make the work as comprehensive as possible.

While the old kitchen will be retained as such, it will now be fitted with a large hot water installation and will serve both laundries and the kitchens.

The ground floor of the new buildings is to be devoted principally to the comfort and convenience of students. A large refectory whose dimensions are 36 by 35 feet, and which is provided with its own



kitchen, pantry and servery, occupies a central position of this floor and here all students will be able to obtain refreshments at very moderate prices during all hours of the day.

On one side of this floor, women students will be provided with their own common room which will communicate with a separate block consisting entirely of a series of cloak rooms and lavatories serving each floor of the new building.

The men's common room is situated on the opposite side of the refectory, where are also three lecture rooms for needlework and languages and a large store room.

As is well known, the chief difficulty with which the Technical College has always had to contend is the one of finance; and bearing this in mind, a plain and simple design conforming as much as possible with that of the original building has been insisted upon, in order to devote as much of the available funds as possible, to practical ends.

Those who have seen the West Street facade of the new buildings will agree that dignity has not been sacrificed in attaining this object; and although similarly simply treated, the main hall, situated on the first floor and reached by the main West Street entrance, is given the grace and dignity demanded by such an institution as the Technical College.

A special feature of the plans is the manner in which intercommunication has been provided between all floors, and between each floor and the main building. For the sake of saving the vast space and expense of internal corridors, a 12 foot loggia and similar balcony corridors run along the whole length of the inner side of the new wing, and each connects with the main building; while besides three sets of staircases, allowing access to each floor, a lift shaft has been erected on the quadrangle side of the building and connects the loggia and corridor balconies.

Students will be permitted free use of the loggia and balconies, and these should provide very pleasant retreats which even on the hot sultry day on which the new wing was visited, were delightfully cool.

A "mezzanine" block at the end of the new wing contains men's cloak-rooms, lavatories, and shower-baths, and being at present finished somewhat abruptly with a flat roof in preparation for further extensions, it provides a serviceable form of grand stand from which an excellent view of the tennis courts below is obtained.

The first floor of the new wing will be entirely devoted to domestic science. In addition to the large, airy, and well-equipped kitchen, reference to which has already been made, the first floor will provide a large laundry four special rooms for dress-making, millinery, upholstery and housewifery, as well as a well-designed flat in which practical demonstrations in housekeeping will be given.

The flat comprises a lounge, and a dining-room, communicating with two bed-rooms, and with a kitchen which is fitted with an electric stove. The pantry and the servery are combined. The flat is nicely planned, and as the intention is that it should be run on exactly the same lines as a modern private house or flat, it will be the means of giving students a fittingly practical experience of up-to-date and hygienic housekeeping.

It will thus be seen that these additions or new premises will place the domestic science department on a footing of equality with the most recent practice of older and more advanced countries; and girls and young women will be given an opportunity of receiving the best type of training in the various domestic arts and crafts.

Appropriately, and in fitting conclusion, the first floor also contains a special office for the head of the domestic science department, thus allowing the whole of this important work to be entirely centralised.

A very important part of the educational province of the College is its technical library, which although up to the present housed in a very pleasant room has now proved too large for such accommodation.

A new library approximately 50 ft. by 30 ft. has therefore been provided on the second floor, and together with its special annexe for storing books of reference, will form an important addition to the new wing. This room is to be equipped with a new set of pressed steel shelving which has been specially designed for the purpose.

On the same floor will also be included a large craft room which is to be added to the school of art, giving this department an opportunity of continuing the very valuable and practical work which it has already achieved, and which is thus recognised in a fitting manner.

A large biological laboratory and a biological lecture room will accommodate the classes in botany and zoology which have been an important feature of the Technical College for a considerable number of years.

It will be realised that in a building of this size it is most desirable that the caretaker should live on the premises; and this has been achieved in a very satisfactory manner by the inclusion, in the attic, of a small complete flat, fitted with electric light and cooking appliances, bathroom, and other conveniences.

There are in addition special features in the new wing which can only commend themselves to all concerned.

The problem of satisfactory ventilation for the college presents perhaps the greatest difficulty from an architectural point of view; for, on account of the unfortunate site originally chosen for it, with West Street, Smith Street and the railway as its boundaries, the college is literally surrounded by continuous noise.

Accordingly, a special study of the ventilating arrangements has been made in order that while all rooms receive an adequate supply of fresh air, the noise which forms a serious obstacle to the efficiency of lectures may be eliminated.

Since, owing to its situation, ordinary windows are unsuitable, in making provision for the all-important matter of ventilation, the windows of all lecture rooms have been fitted with double sash windows; while, in addition, provision has been made for a system of ventilating flues by which fresh air will be drawn into every room and circulated through them in the form of currents of air which will eventually pass out by means of ducts. This ventilation system will be worked by electricity, and will be embodied in the building as soon as funds permit.

The lighting arrangements of the new wing are all that could be desired. There is ample provision of windows in each room, and the electrical installation which was specially designed by Professor Clark has been computed in strict accordance with cubic capacity, and is thus not only entirely adequate, but also truly economical.

Kitchen and laundries are, of course, floored with concrete. As many of the rooms, as funds permitted, are floored with wood-block flooring on concrete bases, the remainder having ordinary flooring boards on concrete.

All walls have been distempered a pleasant shade of cream.

The cost of the necessary alterations and additions at the college is approximately £45,000. This may appear at first sight an excessive sum for the work involved, but it must be remembered that the site of the college is unsatisfactory in that the ground is of a swampy character—a condition which necessitated the laying of unusually deep foundations.

It is evident from what has been said that the college authorities, architects, and all others concerned in the new building are to be congratulated on the manner in which they have carried out these additions to the Technical College, and there can be no doubt that the college will now rank as one of the leading educational institutions of South Africa.

Articles and Illustrations by the courtesy of the "Natal Advertiser."

PRE-RAPHAELITISM.

On the evening of the 12th March, at the Commercial High School, Union Ground, a most interesting lecture was delivered by Mr. Winter Moore, Head of the Art School, Technical Institute, Witwatersrand, to members of the S.A. Institute of Art on the subject of Pre-Raphaelitism. The lecture was very ably delivered without manuscript or notes, rendering complete reproduction unfortunately impossible. Sketching briefly the characters of the "Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood," Holman-Hunt, Rossetti and Millais with four others less well-known, and the condition of art which obtained in England in the middle of the 19th Century, Mr. Winter Moore went on to illustrate the theories of the brotherhood, by projecting on to the screen some famous works of Raphael and Botticelli and of the brotherhood itself. The story of the popular outcry against the brotherhood and their works, their early struggles, and their eventual rise to popular esteem with the powerful support of John Ruskin was told in a manner at once interesting and enlightening. The effect of popularity upon the natures and work of the chief exponents of the Pre-Raphaelite theory was fully illustrated by examples of their more famous pictures thrown upon the screen, and many interesting features of our own local Art Gallery were brought into view.

In moving a vote of thanks to Mr. Winter Moore, Mr. F. L. H. Fleming reflected upon the value and interest of the lecture and expressed the hope that Mr. Winter Moore would undertake a full series of similar lectures covering the whole field of painting.

Mr. Lefebvre, in support, congratulated Johannesburg upon the establishment of a very promising School of Art and upon the fact that Mr. Winter Moore had accepted the headship of the school.

Mr. Howard Pim, who occupied the chair, referred to the almost immeasurable effect upon every form of art arising out of the energies and natural qualities of the Pre-Raphaelite School. He went on to congratulate the art school in their possession of that most valuable instrument, the Epidiascope, with which the enlarged image of any photograph or coloured picture is shown upon the screen without the use of slides. He strongly supported the expression of hope that there would be further similar lectures under the auspices of the Institute.

The vote of thanks to Mr. Winter Moore was carried with enthusiasm.

Mr. Winter Moore, in reply, pointed out the extreme convenience of the Epidiascope in enabling lecturers to illustrate their subject, and promised every assistance as well as expressing his willingness to contribute future lectures. He was of the opinion that the Institute should prepare a regular series of Art Lectures to be given during the winter months and indicated that the Commercial High School, in which the School of Art is for the present lodged, possessed very suitable facilities for the purpose. In his opinion the Institute could in this way do a most valuable work.

MEMORIAL WINDOW, KIMBERLEY HOSPITAL.

The Memorial Window installed in the Chapel of the Hospital at Kimberley, was a gift to that Institution by Mrs. Ashe, in memory of her late husband who did so much for the hospital.

The design is a most suitable one, not only from the standpoint of the institution in which it is displayed, but because it so ably demonstrates the sympathetic attitude which the late Dr. Ashe displayed towards the hospital and those who, from time to time, found it necessary to attend there.

The design of the window is based on the ancient subject of Our Lord raising the Daughter of Jairus, and has been carried out in stained glass.

On close examination it will be found that the small medallions in the four main Cusps of the quatrefoil represent the healing plants—Dandelion, Horehound, Aconite and Burdock.

In the four spandrils there are represented those four wonderful natural healing Agents, Water, Sunlight, Rest (represented by the moon and stars) and the Winds, in the fourth spandril, is also, the Tree of Life, whose leaves are "For the Healing of the Nation."

This magnificent memorial to one who will ever be remembered, has been built into the western wall of the hospital in a Portland Stone surround specially designed to demonstrate the beauties of the window.

Mr. William M. Timlin, the Architect, must feel extremely satisfied with the result of the craftsmanship of the Birmingham Guild, who were responsible for the production.

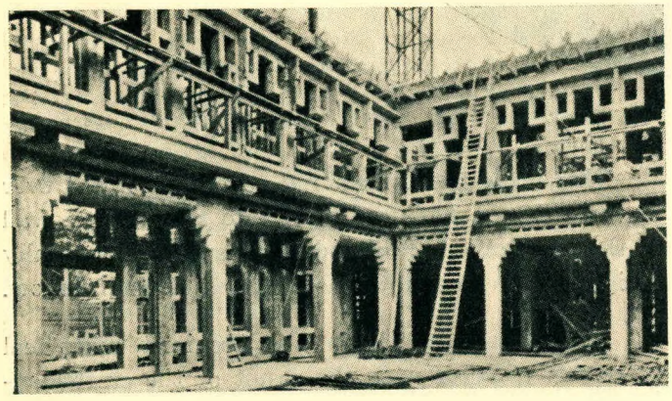
CONTEMPORARY ARCHITECTURAL MAGAZINES.

The years' architectural work in London is reviewed in the special New Years' number of the "*Architects Journal,*" and it makes a very fine display. The New Devonshire House is probably one of the most spectacular and certainly very American, both in plan and elevation. An interesting criticism of this design is published in the *Architectural Review.*

"We have said that the new Devonshire House was a great opportunity. The problem has been handled with restraint and judgment. The experience and skill involved are without question. We gather from the texture of the walls, strongly marked window bars, and shadowed cornice, an impression of stalwart building up stone by stone . . . But in the building itself the architects seem to have been conscious of their steel skeleton and have wished to share this consciousness with the spectator; and by the shallowness of revels and flatness of ornament to announce that their masonry was only a veneer . . . And yet the general shape of the masses and character of style employed seem to call, as we have said, for an opposite treatment. The sense of a hesitation between two modes of expression hampers all of us who are concerned with steel-framed buildings and it will lie with this generation to find the solution."

The new design for the quadrant of Regent Street is, one cannot help admitting a great disappointment. Nash's design with all its charm and delight, has gone, swept away by hard necessity and dividends. The march of progress—one often doubts if it is progress—will not be stopped and our old friends must pass away.

Norman Shaw's vigorous design for the quadrant was too unsuited to modern requirements to be carried further, and so while the general idea has been maintained, certain drastic alterations have been made to meet the requirements of the business of to-day. The problem was a difficult one and one can hardly be surprised that the result is disappointing—dull, bare and monotonous.



Offices, Holland. *H. P. Berlage.*

ARCHITECTS' JOURNAL.

The interior treatment of Messrs. Austin Reed's new premises in the quadrant is extremely interesting and fresh, and is a fine example of an imaginative handling in the design of a modern shop.

Another example of the trend of modern design is the new building for Messrs. Courtaulds, by Mr. Sullivan. This building forms the peg for a provocative but interesting article by Robert Nichols, "Toward To-morrow." He obviously finds London, architecturally imperfect—in fact he refers to it as an "architectural gehenna," a chaotic muddle of buildings "all playing different tunes and for the most part each individual tune, is a vile and almost invariably stale tune, whether it be the otiose tromboning of the war office or the ramshackle rattle of the shops in the Strand." Westminster Cathedral and the "little church in the Strand," however, are a "reminder that among millions busy making hell" there are some whose hearts "had dwelt in heaven." This building by Mr. Sullivan meets with his approval except that "within the vestibule one is confronted by marble Doric pillars. 'To the devil with them, in so far as they are Doric! What's Hecuba to him or he to Hecuba? This is the shrine of the super silk merchant, not of Oedipus Rex and Sir Martin Harvey."

It is good news to hear that London has at last realised that no satisfactory solution of its cross-river traffic problem can be secured by patchwork methods and that the whole of the position has been fully considered by the Royal Commission recently appointed. The area dealt with is known as the London Traffic Area, and extends to a radius of 25 miles from Charing Cross. The following principle has been laid down for guidance in dealing with the placing of bridges and is well worth remembering "Bridges cannot be regarded merely as a means of getting from one bank to another, and must always be considered in connection with both their immediate and more distant approaches. Properly looked at, a bridge is only a link in a long line of communication, and the use made of it is largely determined by the extent to which its approaches are adequate and convenient."

The proposed St. Paul's Bridge and the present Southwark Bridge are examples of not conforming to this principle and in consequence the former has been condemned. An alternative has been proposed, called the Ludgate Bridge, seventy to seventy-five feet wide, from Southwark Street to Holborn Viaduct, and, in order to provide an adequate continuation to the North, Longlane is to be widened to at least fifty feet and a circus made at its junction with Aldersgate Street. This scheme avoids any contact with the Cathedral while it gives all the traffic facilities which the proposed St. Paul's bridge would offer.

It is recommended that the existing Waterloo bridge should not be demolished, but that it should be slightly widened and strengthened. It is pointed

out that the narrowness of the approaches would detract from the usefulness of any great increase in width.

A double-deck bridge is suggested at Charing Cross, the higher level to carry the road—the lower the railway. The station is thus to be reconstructed on the Northern bank and constructed at the lower level under the new roadway. The new roadway on the northern side will thus cross over the Strand, with about eighteen feet head room and passing behind St. Martin's Church reach ground level near the Cavell Statue. Other changes are suggested for the remaining bridges, but are of little interest compared with the three major problems already mentioned.

The Commission's Report is only in the nature of advice and one can only hope that their recommendations are carried out.

The R.I.B.A. London Architecture Medal and Diploma were presented to Sir Edwin Lutyens, in November, for the design of Britannia House, a design too well known to require comment. The Royal Gold Medal has been awarded to Professor Ragnar Ostberg—the author of the design for the City Hall, at Stockholm. Further illustrations of this building have been published in various periodicals during the last few months revealing new delights and unexpected charms in a design which impressed its greatness upon the architectural world when it first became known to members of the profession.

Another architect whose work is widely illustrated in the current journals is the late Bertram Grosvenor Goodhue. When his work is illustrated collectively one realizes the loss architecture has suffered by his death. The charm, freshness and originality of his art is incontestible and its influence on the future of the art will be immeasurable.

Recent excavations at Ostia have proved to be very interesting and a lecture delivered at the Royal Institute of British Architects gave a picture of Roman Life which is certainly at variance in many points with our old ideas of that civilization.

"Ostia considerably extends our knowledge of the Roman habitation. In the Roman world there were two types of dwellings, the 'domus,' as seen at Pompeii, which is well known and, I believe, generally accepted as being typical of the Roman dwelling, and the "Insula," of Ostia. Ostia must have been an important and typical Roman city, and the type of dwelling found there must have been modelled on the Roman type, and must take precedence over, the 'domus' type of Pompeii as being typical of the Roman dwelling of the second century . . . Only this type of dwelling would permit of the population of Rome, which cannot have been less than a million inhabitants, being housed in the comparatively small area enclosed by the ancient walls . . . While the 'domus' of Pompeii develops horizontally and is lighted internally, the Ostian house develops vertically and is lighted externally . . . and the rooms obtain light from numerous and ample windows overlooking a street or open space. The houses are three or four stories high. Each floor was similar in plan and independent of the rest of the house, but served by a common staircase." The Roman thus was far more "modern" than we have imagined and lived in flats. And it is interesting to note that mica was used for the windows, probably in a wooden frame.

The views of a client as to the duties of his architect are as interesting as they are varied, and the article in the *Architects' Journal*, on "What the client thinks," is certainly entertaining, if not instructive. Mr. Gordon Selfridge maintains that architects should assert themselves more and should not allow themselves to be bullied by clients into carrying out work which they consider undesirable. "Doctors," he said, "find it possible to keep up discipline among their patients. For the good of themselves and the community architects ought to do the same." Yet another client insists that many pieces of domestic building have been ruined by giving a free hand to the architect.

However, we can learn, even from our clients! "My outstanding impression of building," said one, "is that it is a piece of mechanism. It is put up to fulfil a definite function, which may be elaborate or may be simple. In any case, it is the first duty of the building to fulfil that function with the greatest possible efficiency . . . But it is very difficult to get architects to take this view. They have a great deal to learn and would be of very much more use to their clients if they would genuinely and imaginatively realize the services which their building has to render." Again, "The architect is an artist who materalizes your needs, just as a lawyer puts

Courtaulds. *L. S. Sullivan.*

ARCHITECTS' JOURNAL.

your ideas into legal language." These, and many others, are the views of some of the leading patrons of architects in England to-day and it would seem that the architects position is one of the least defined of any in any of the Professions.

An extremely interesting number of the *Architects Journal* (November 24th) was devoted to concrete.

Framework design, bridges of wide span, concrete sculpture. concrete containers, tanks, swimming baths and a host of interesting information on this subject is included, and gives one a very excellent idea of the recent developments in the use of this material. Space forbids a detailed discussion of this number, but a design for a modern office block, by H. P. Berlage, of Holland, is so unusual and interesting that it cannot be passed over without comment and illustration.

In an article in the same Journal on "Auguste Perret and brothers," the views of M. Perret are very clearly stated and whether one appreciates his work or not, his ideals are certainly worthy of close study. "He preaches the necessity for the artistic handling of modern building materials, but he says so long as engineers express themselves clearly, and architects obscurely, we are likely to see so-called architecture replaced by mere engineering; to the ultimate benefit of architecture properly speaking. He adds: "The work thus realized will not attain beauty straight away but, it will surely attain to a 'style,' which is the necessary step on the road leading to beauty."

In the *Architectural Review* are illustrated several examples of the recent work of Corbusier Very "modern," very interesting, but rather disappointing. The designs tend to be rather cold. One doubts "whether it is an interior in which one would like to live . . . certainly to English eyes it produces an effect of coldness and inhospitality, it obtrudes too forcibly its ingenuity and studied effects, it offers what comfort may be gleaned from a clean efficiency, but it lacks the friendly warmth and sympathy of the average pleasant English home . . Effects are wilful and selfconscious, the background is arrogant in its simplicity, seeming to urge its uncompromising rigidities as a virtue. Phantasy there is, but it is of too relentless and wilful a character, appearing less as a little outbreak of humanity than as the product of a brain which says "at this point we will be amusing."

This lack of the human element would appear to be the greatest defect in what is called "modern" design. But that it is unnecessary is clearly shown by such designs as the Town Hall, at Stockholm, or the work of Ivor Tengbom.

We have still much to learn from the past and buildings such as the Escorial, delightfully illustrated in the same *Review,* are full of inspiration—the stark bare garden front alone shows the magnificent effect that can be obtained with the simplest elements.

An article by Mr. G. Grey Worman on Penny-a-Week Architecture, in the New Year's Number of the *Architects Journal,* will prove valuable reading to those interested in the housing of the working classes and to the development of tenement buildings. "The reader might wonder whether two-storied houses equal in number to the flats proposed, could not have been erected cheaper. The answer is yes, but under most undesirable conditions. The L.C.C. find as a rule that when a housing area is condemned, the rebuilding, though consisting of five-storey buildings instead of probably two-storey buildings, will house no more people than before, even working on the basis of the highest standard density for new housing allowed by the Ministry of Health. Where such rebuilding schemes, apart from greatly improved planning and accommodation, will justify themselves is in the matter of air space around the building. For that reason, where land it too valuable to devote to a good two-storey housing lay-out, it is infinitely better to achieve a good tenement lay-out."

The *Architectural Forum* has recently published a special number devoted to Monuments and Memorial Buildings. It forms an interesting collection, although most of the examples are well known.

Sir Herbert Baker's memorial at Winchester is illustrated and the *Builder* illustrates his design for the South African War Memorial at Delville Wood.

CAUSERIE.

"Have you ever noticed," asked the Professor, "that as a nation grows older, so do it's designs tend, more and more towards the vertical?"

The man in the Black Hat thought for a moment.

"I can't say that I had until you mentioned it," he replied.

"Well, it seems to me that practically every one of the great civilizations of the past have undergone the change I mentioned."

"Let us," said the Professor, "select at random a few examples to illustrate my point. The Greeks, for example. The Doric order used in the temple of Demeter, at Paestum, had columns of slightly over four diameters in height. The columns of the Parthenon, on the other hand, built some hundred years later, are five and a half diameters high.

"The same change is noticeable in the Ionic Order.

"The temple on the Illisus, at Athens, built in B.C. 484, had columns of roughly eight diameters in height, while those of the temple of Athena, Polias, dated 164 years later were nine and a half diameters high.

"The rise and fall of the Roman Empire was witnessed by an exactly similar progression.

"I should not be surprised to find," he said with a smile, "that Romulus and Remus had used columns of not more than four diameters in height when building the original city on the Palatine Hill."

"I seem to have read somewhere," said the Man in the Black Hat, "that with the Egyptians, this tendency took a more physical form. Recent discoveries have shown, I understand, that they bound up the heads of their children so that their appearance at maturity should more nearly approximate to their Aesthetic ideal."

"Perhaps the Middle Ages in England provided the best example of all," continued the Professor. "The slightly pointed arches of the early English and decorated periods replaced the semi-circle of the Norman, and in their turn, gave way to the Perpendicular, which latter title speaks for itself. Yes, it would seem that as a nation, period or civilization enters its decline, so do its designs become more and more attenuated."

"That's all very well," laughed the Man in the Black Hat, "but how do you apply the theory to our own period? Take, for instance, the skyscrapers of America. Are they signs of decadence?"

"No," replied the Professor, "their colossal height is due not so much to Aesthetic considerations as to the practical factors of high land values and engineering potentialities.

"But there are other signs which point to our own period being one of decline. The modern movement now taking place in Northern Europe. There they are limited by none of the considerations which evolved the skyscraper."

"I cannot agree that we of to-day are degenerate," said the Man in the Black Hat, "despite all that has been said and written by pessimistic greybeards.

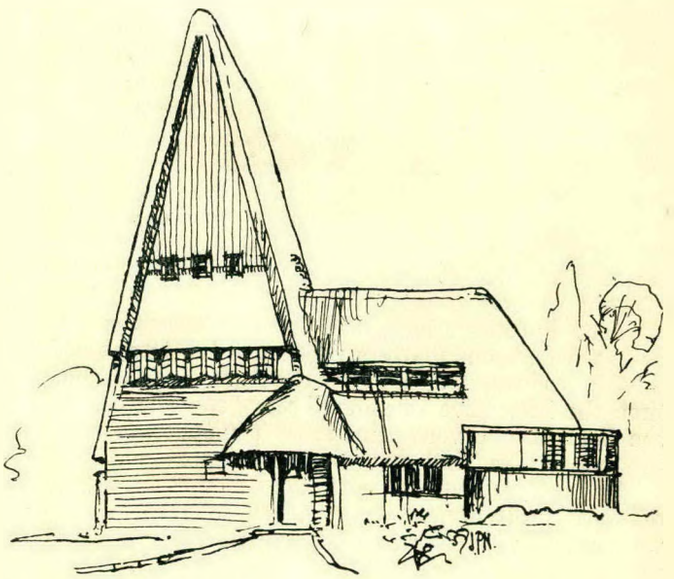
"It is, and has always been, the fashion to compare our own age unfavourably with that of our predecessors. The world to day is not on the decline. Athletics have never flourished as they do at present. Science is progressing at the rate of compound interest: and Art, whilst suffering from what may be termed 'growing pains' is nevertheless in a state of healthy turbulence."

"It is refreshing to listen to such optimism," laughed the Professor, "but I stick to my contention nevertheless. If the theory 'holds water,' and you must admit that, in the light of past examples, it does, we cannot be on the up grade. Take feminine fashions, for instance, or rather the fashionable female figure. The Venus de Milo standard has been scrapped in favour of the Slender Silhouette. Or again, motor car design. There, I grant you the tendency has not been vertical but elongation is again the keynote.

"Whether or no these examples have any moral significance remains to be seen. But certain it is that on every hand robust rotundity is being replaced by effete elongation.

"I wonder . ." murmured the Man in the Black Hat.

J.P.N.



HOUSE · IN · BILTHOVEN · HOLLAND ·
Frants E Rönlgen Architect.

PROFESSIONAL NEWS.

FEDERAL COUNCIL ON ARCHITECTURAL EDUCATION.

The Minutes of the Fourth Annual General Meeting held in the Board Room of the Bloemfontein Board of Executors, Maitland Street, Bloemfontein, on Monday the 31st January, 1927, at 9.30 a.m.

Present.—Mr. H. de la Cornillere, representing The Cape Institute of Architects; Mr. F. L. H. Fleming, representing the P.E. Society of Architects; Mr. G. T. Hurst, representing the Natal Inst. of Architects; Mr. G. T. Hurst, representing the Natal Technical College; Mr. E. M. Powers, representing The Royal Inst. of B. Architects; Mr. A. B. Linscott, representing the Union Dept. of Education; Mr. F. W. Masey, representing the O.F.S. Institute of Architects; Professor G. E. Pearse, representing the University of the Witwatersrand; Mr. E. H. Waugh, representing The Association of Transvaal Architects; Professor J. H. Wheatley, representing The University of Cape Town; M. K. Carpenter, Secretary.

After the Delegates had signed the Register, Mr. H. de la Cornillere, President of the O.F.S. Institute of Architects, extended a hearty welcome to members which was ably supported by Mr. F. W. Masey and duly acknowledged.

Apologies.—A telegram from Mr. Wallace Paton, of Durban, was read, regretting his absence, through pressure of business. This was ordered to be recorded.

In Mr. Paton's absence, Mr. Edward H. Waugh was formally voted to the Chair for the purpose of commencing the business.

Executives Report.—In the unavoidable absence of the Chairman, Mr. Wallace Paton, the Executive submitted the following Report :—

"The period under review is six months only and during that time very little business has been done owing to the following circumstance which occurred at the last Annual General Meeting at Durban.

At that meeting Mr. Frederick Williamson, of Johannesburg, was elected Vice-President and a member of the Executive, subsequently it was found that he was not eligible for these positions owing to not being a representative of any one of the Constituent Bodies. On this account the Executive was unable to function until the early part of December when Mr. Williamson, in writing, intimated that on the foregoing grounds he was unable to accept the nomination.

Immediately this notification was received the remainder of the members of the elected Executive met and decided to carry on, this with the agreement of your Chairman, Mr. Wallace Paton.

The Executive have held three meetings and have dealt with various matters which will be the subject for consideration under Item 8 of the Agenda. In the meantime the Executive considered the general working of the Council and were reluctantly compelled to come to the conclusion that insufficient support has in the past been afforded by Constituent Bodies, as a matter of fact no communication either in respect of the working of this Council or suggestions for its betterment or any reference to local students have been received, further the Constituent Bodies, with the exception of the Association of Transvaal Architects have not paid their levies for the past two years.

A Constitutional difficulty has arisen in respect of some original Constituent Bodies falling away, and the number of members comprising the Council now requires amendment, this is dealt with in the Minutes of the Executive which will be considered under Item 8.

The Finances of the Council require careful consideration particularly in respect of payment of Institutional levies and Students' fees, these items are also dealt with in the Minutes of the Executive Committee.

In respect of the intention of Council to issue a Diploma, the Executive consider that the time is now ripe for this matter to be seriously taken in hand and immediate provision made for a Diploma and the conditions and regulations under which it shall be issued.

It is noted with concern that applications for enrolment are not coming forward as might reasonably be anticipated. So far not one application has been received from juniors at Cape Town although it is known that approximately thirty juniors are engaged in the offices of Cape Town practitioners. East London and Durban have not produced applications commensurate with the number of juniors employed. Public Services, particularly the Public Works Department in Pretoria have not provided applications commensurate with the number of juniors employed on their respective Staffs and it will be for the Annual General Meeting to devise means to remedy this state of affairs.

Machinery should be provided whereby every practitioner throughout the Union should, before employing a junior, satisfy himself that the boy's standard of education is up to that required for enrolment as a student under this Council, namely the matriculation standard, thereafter the practitioner should insist upon the boy enrolling as a student at the local training centre and regularly attend the classes and lectures. This stipulation should be a part of the agreement under which the junior is engaged.

It is abundantly clear that the work originally intended for the Federal Council to perform waits and grows, and there can hardly be two opinions as to the national, professional and architectural need and usefulness of the Council's functions. It is confidently left to the Annual Meeting of Council very seriously to consider the position and to make suitable arrangements for the better progress of the work."

On the motion of Mr. F. L. H. Fleming, seconded by Professor G. E. Pearse, members unanimously agreed to the adoption of this Report.

Election of Chairman.—Mr. E. M. Powers, Royal Institute of British Architects, submitted the principle of electing, as Chairman of the Federal Council, the representative of the district in which the next Annual Meeting is to be held. This suggestion was favoured by Mr. G. T. Hurst.

Mr. F. L. H. Fleming considered that for the ensuing year, in order to put the business of the Council on a proper basis, the Chairman for the year should be resident at headquarters, at Johannesburg, and therefore moved the nomination of Mr. Edward H. Waugh, for the position of Chairman for the ensuing year, this was seconded by Professor J. H. Wheatley and agreed to.

Election of Vice-Chairman.—For the position of Vice-Chairman for the year, Mr. F. W. Masey, of Bloemfontein, was nominated by Professor G. E. Pearse, seconded by Mr. F. L. H. Fleming and unanimously elected.

Meeting Hours.—With a view to the transaction of all the business in the one day to permit delegates to leave for their homes by the night train it was unanimously agreed, on the motion of Professor Pearse that the meeting adjourn at 1 p.m. and resume again at 2 p.m.

Minutes.—The Minutes of the Third Annual General Meeting held at Durban on the 7th and 8th July, 1926 were taken as read and confirmed. Arising out of these Minutes the following business was considered :—

Dates of Meetings.—Arising out of the two resolutions passed at Durban, resolving that the Annual General Meetings shall be held on such dates as will permit of delegates making use of excursion rates on

the South African Railways. Professor Pearse pointed out that the next Annual General Meeting was scheduled to take place at Cape Town. After discussion as to the best method to adopt to give effect to the previous resolutions on the matter it was decided to leave the convening of the next Annual General Meeting to the Executive who were deputed to appoint the date of the meeting, within the intentions of the Durban resolutions .

Joint Exhibitions.—In view of the fact that nothing had been done in the matter of attempting to establish joint exhibitions of the work of Architectural students in the various centres or that the Royal Institute of British Architects had been approached with a view to sending out students work after exhibition in Britain, Mr. F. L. H. Fleming moved that this matter be dealt with without delay, this was agreed to.

Finance.—The Revenue and Expenditure Account and Balance Sheet for the period 1st January, 1926, to 31st December, 1926, duly audited by Messrs. Aiken and Carter, of Johannesburg, were considered.

Mr. F. L. H. Fleming drew attention to the Auditor's note concerning the non-payment of levies by the various architectural bodies during 1925 and 1926.

For 1925 the per capita levy was 7s.; but owing to a misunderstanding this amount was reduced at the Annual General Meeting to 2/6 which was insufficient to pay the expenses of the Council and he therefore moved that the levy for the present year, 1927, be at the rate of 5s. per head per member of each of the Constituent bodies. This was seconded by Mr. G. T. Hurst and agreed to.

The Chairman Mr. E. H. Waugh, advised members that this matter had received careful consideration at the hands of the Executive and that he was prepared to move that in view of the financial position displayed in the Minutes of the Executive of the 25th January, 1927, this Council authorised the Executive to take all possible steps to collect all outstanding levies and in case it is unable to do so before the end of March then the Executive is empowered to take action by suspending the activities of the Council. This important matter was agreed to, also that the Executive shall consider and take any possible action to recover monies and meet liabilities.

Mr. A. B. Linscott, Union Department of Education strongly supported the work of this Federal Council and expressed the view that it would be regrettable if the functions of the Council were to cease and that every attempt should be made to obtain payment of the levies so that the Council could continue the good work it had done.

Mr. F. L. H. Fleming moved that the Executive be instructed to apply to the Union Department of Education for an annual grant in aid of the funds of the Council. Mr. Fleming said that he did not know whether such a grant would be obtainable; but it would be advisable to place the financial position before the Minister for Education with a view to obtaining his sympathetic consideration. The motion was seconded by Mr. F. W. Masey, the Secretary of the O.F.S. Institute of Architects, and unanimously agreed to.

Mr. E. H. Waugh, from the Chair, impressed upon delegates the necessity for pressing for the payment of per capita levies by their respective bodies and if that were done he would be prepared to withdraw his proposed motion.

Delegates agreed to bring the financial aspect of the Council immediately to the notice of the Constituent bodies with a view to obtaining payment of outstanding levies.

Mr. H. de la Cornillere moved the acceptance and adoption of the Financial Report and Balance Sheet. This was seconded by Mr. F. L. H. Fleming and agreed to.

Minutes of Meetings of the Executive.—The Minutes of meetings of the Executive held on the 15th December, 1926, and the 21st and 25th January, 1927, were received.

(a) The Minutes of meeting held on the 15th December, 1926, were approved without comment.

(b) The Minutes of meeting held on the 21st January, 1927, were carefully considered:—

(a) The Constitution.—The recommendation of the Executive for the amendment of the Constitution was accepted and unanimously agreed to providing for the deletion of the following clause reading:—

"The Federal Council on Architectural Education shall be composed of one member elected, annually, from each of the following nine Constituent Societies with power of alternation and one member from each of the existing four Educational Institutions. The Council to consist of thirteen members with power to add as circumstances arise providing the majority of the Constituent Societies may approve."

and the substitution of the following:—

"The Federal Council on Architectural Education shall consist of representatives, elected annually, from each of the following Societies, Districts and Institutions and in the case of Districts not possessing an Architectural body, the Executive shall have power to co-opt a suitable representative for any meeting, and the Council shall have power to add any other Society, District or Institution which they may deem fit."

The Natal Institute of Architects.
The Cape Institute of Architects,
The Orange Free State Institute of Architects,
The Association of Transvaal Architects.
The Pretoria District,
The Port Elizabeth Society of Architects.
The Architects of East London and Border Towns,
The Architects of Kimberley,
The Royal Institute of British Architects in the person of the Honorary Corresponding Secretary for the Royal Institute of British Architects in South Africa.
The University of Cape Town,
The University of the Witwatersrand,
The Natal Technical College, Durban,
The Union Department of Education.

the principle of co-opting a representative for East London and Kimberley was warmly approved.

Mr. G. T. Hurst, in referring to the position of students in Pretoria considered that the Transvaal should be given another seat on this Council by co-opting another member of the Association of Transvaal Architects to represent the Pretoria District. This was subsequently moved as an addition to the Executive's recommendation, agreed and embodied in the foregoing amendment.

Students' Subscriptions.—On behalf of the Executive Mr. F. L. H. Fleming introduced the question of payment of students' subscriptions which had been referred from the last Annual General Meeting to the Executive and who after careful consideration recommend:

1. That applications for enrolment upon the Council's Roll of students shall, in future, be made to the Constituent Societies only and forwarded by them to the Executive with remarks, if any, for consideration and decision by the Council.
2. That each Constituent Body shall be responsible for the collection of students' annual subscriptions and for their payment to the Council.
3. That each Constituent Body shall forward to the Executive, at least six weeks prior to each Annual General Meeting a complete report of all students in the particular area, in respect of their educational training and general progress for the year preceding.

Mr. Fleming moved the adoption of the foregoing.

Mr. E. M. Powers raised the question of payment from students outside the Transvaal because at the moment it might be thought that the Council was not offering a *quid pro quo* for the subscription of 10/6. Mr. Fleming pointed out that although students outside the Witwatersrand were not in a position to avail themselves of student membership of the Associated Scientific and Technical Societies Premises, they at least received a copy of the *"South African Architectural Record,"* which was of half the value of their subscription; and that the Council must rely upon the other Constituent Societies to provide facilities for enrolled students to participate in the functions of the respective bodies and to enjoy such other privileges and advantages as might be devised.

Mr. E. M. Powers suggested that a booklet be issued showing the returns and facilities given to students who enrol under this Council. On the question of financing the Council and paying for the printing of this brochure, Mr. Powers introduced the question of the Royal Institute of British Architects moiety received by the respective Constitutional Bodies on behalf of the individual members' subscription and suggested that the sanction of the respective bodies might be obtained for the payment of the respective moieties to this Federal Council as an earnest attempt to provide the necessary funds to finance the Council's Work. This suggestion was left to the incoming Executive for consideration.

Respecting Students' subscriptions, Mr. E. M. Powers stated that in his opinion all practitioners should see that their junior members are enrolled students under this Council and that if they were suitable to be retained as juniors in their offices then the architects employing these juniors should be prepared to pay their fees to this Council. This aspect of the matter was referred to the Executive for consideration.

Prizes and Bursaries, etc.—The list of scholarships, prizes and bursaries available to South African Students, laid on the table, was referred to the Executive in the hope that further full particulars of Municipal bursaries and prizes would be obtained and thereafter the whole information issued in leaflet form to all students on the Roll.

The Herbert Baker Architectural Scholarship.—The Financial Statement and Report from the Trustees for the period ended the 31st December, 1926, were laid on the table.

Executive.—As members of the Executive for the forthcoming year, Messrs. Edward H. Waugh (Chairman), F. W. Masey (Vice-Chairman), F. L. H. Fleming, and Professor G. E. Pearse were duly elected from the existing Council and Mr. J. Lockwood Hall was nominated and elected a member of the Executive to represent Pretoria District.

R.I.B.A. Examinations.—Mr. E. M. Powers in referring to the Royal Institute of British Architects' examination in South Africa suggested an interchange of the papers set by the respective Board of Examiners at Cape Town and Johannesburg,

Professsor J. H. Wheatley welcomed this and immediately provided copies of the last examination conducted at the University of Cape Town and promised to forward copies of the papers set at previous examinations. The suggestion was warmly received and the Secretary was instructed to communicate the proposal to the proper centres with a view to the interchange being adopted.

Reports from Architectural Teaching Bodies.—(1) The following report was received from the University of the Witwatersrand, School of Architecture, for the year 1926.

"The School of Architecture moved into the new buildings at Milner Park at the beginning of the year and with the more congenial surroundings and splendid equipment the work during the year has been very satisfactory. This is indicated by the fact that the students have formed their own society, appointed office bearers, organised two public lectures and a very successful dance.

An exhibition of students' work was held in June, attended by a number of practitioners and others interested, when the President of the Association of Transvaal Architects presented prizes to successful students. A report of this function appeared in the *"South African Architectural Record."*

Two of the Degree students visited Europe at the beginning of the year with the South African Universities Students' Tour.

The Library has been considerably augmented by the purchase of the following books:—

Concours de l'Ecole des Beaux Arts: Les Grands Prix de Rome d'Architecture—2 Vols.

D'Espouy: Monuments Antiques—3 vols.

D'Espouy: Fragments d'Architecture Antiques—2 Vols.

D'Espouy: Fragments d'Architecture de la Renaissance.

Haupt: Palast Architecktur,

Reinhardt: Palast Architecktur.
Raschdorff: Palast Architecktur—2 Vols.
Planat: Louis XIV, Louis, XV, Louis XVI.
Ellis: Modern Practical Joinery.
Ellis: Modern Practical Carpentry.
The Book of Decorative Furniture, by E. Foley.
Drawings by Percier et Fontaine.
Bourgoin: Precis de l'Arabe.

Gifts to the Library have been received from the Hon. Henry Littleton, Sir Herbert Baker and Mr. F. Williamson.

A number of new casts from the antique have been purchased for the studio.

In addition several of the leading Technical Journals are now being taken and filed for reference.

The number of students taking the Degree course are as follows:—5th year, 1; 4th year, 1; 2nd year, 1; 1st year, 4; making a total of 7; and taking the Diploma Course:—4th year, 4; 3rd year, 4; 2nd year, 6; 1st year, 9; making a total of 23.

Four students are taking the course for registration.

The Examination results are as follows, the numbers given being the passes in each year:—

Degree Course.

5th year, 1; 4th year, 1; 3rd year, 1; 2nd year, 1; 1st year, 3.

Diploma Course.

4th year, 3; 3rd year, 2; 2nd year, 5; 1st year, 7.

It will be seen from the above that the Diploma Course in Architecture still remains the more popular, due no doubt to the fact that students can work in architects' offices and obtain a salary during their course. This is not altogether satisfactory and should be discouraged by the profession as is being done in Europe where full-time courses are general. It is quite impossible to expect the best results in design and draughtsmanship, the essentials of an Architect, owing to the small amount of time that can be devoted to drawing. Furthermore, tuition in the proper presentation of drawings has to be neglected. It is felt that the profession should seriously consider this matter and, whilst in the first instance urge prospective students to take the Degree Course; it should advise or insist that those who cannot possibly afford the Degree Course should spend at least one term (approximately eight weeks) at the University for tuition in the subject of presentation. A student will thus be better equipped to enter for the large overseas scholarships open to him as well as any local or overseas architectural competitions.

Though it may be felt that a student at the end of his Degree Course is not as valuable an assistant as one taking the part-time course, it is found that, after a very short period of office experience, he will prove infinitely more valuable.

The classes at Pretoria this year have been conducted under the aegis of this University with very satisfactory results. Both staff and students are keen and the excellent results shown in the examination prove that the tuition is satisfactory. The number of students taking the Architectural Courses is 18. The present position of these classes is a peculiar one and should be most carefully considered and discussed by the Federal Council.

(2) The following report was received from the Natal Technical College, Durban, for the year 1926:—

"Classes in Architectural Design, History of Architecture and Building Construction for Architectural students only, have been conducted at the College during 1926.

The number of students at the beginning of the year was seven, at the end eight, one student dropped out and two enrolled.

The students have all worked well and displayed great interest in their studies. One student is sitting for the Inter R.I.B.A. shortly. Another student has gone to the Architectural Association School in London, having won the Emma Smith Scholarship. Several students should be advanced enough to take the Inter R.I.B.A. during 1927 The rest are elementary students.

Great difficulty is found here in Durban, as will be the case in other S.A. schools, in the teaching of Architectural History owing to the absence of examples, particularly of Medieval and Rennaisance work. Book knowledge can never be as good as that acquired from actual examples. This also applies to the making of measured drawings for the Testimonies of study.

Lack of knowledge of general History is a serious handicap to all students, this branch of knowledge having apparently been left out of their elementary education.

If possible intending Architectural students should take History in their Matriculation or other Preliminary examinations.

The students generally lack facility in sketching. This is an important branch of their studies. The lack of it may perhaps be put down to scarcity of examples to practice upon.

Many students know their subject well. but fail when asked to put down their knowledge in the form of a sketch.

Students should be encouraged to practice sketching either at the College or by sketching buildings. If necessary, permission should be obtained from their employers for time to do this. This will, I know, be readily granted."

In connection with architectural training at Durban, Mr. E. M. Powers outlined the difficulty which confronted Professor Oxley and the Members of the Natal Institute. So far there were insufficient juniors to warrant the conduct of classes and he was afraid that at least for 1927 the teaching of architecture would have to be abandoned at the Natal Technical College through lack of students.

(3) The University of Cape Town: Professor J. H. Wheatley stated he had not compiled a report, but he was prepared to give all information and statistics regarding the working of his department during the past year. The course at the University at Cape Town was one of five years duration based on the Royal Institute of British Architects syllabus and each student on entering was given an opportunity of some months to feel his position and demonstrate any aptitude he might possess in architecture and thereafter he was enrolled a Probationer of the Royal Institute of British Architects. At the close of last year his department possessed 26 enrolled Royal Institute of British Architects students, all taking their

course for the Intermediate examination and additional thereto there were at least twelve other students in the preliminary stage, all not having fully demonstrated which subjects, taught by the Faculty of Fine Arts, they were most suitable for. Referring to the Staff, Professor Wheatley stated that he had eight assistants all from the ranks of practising architects in Cape Town and that his department was fully equipped and in excellent working order.

Donations in support of the Department had been generous and amongst others was one of £1,000 as the nucleus for the formation of a Library. Professor Wheatley stated that the course laid down for the Royal Institute of British Architects Intermediate was parallel with the Diploma Course at the University of the Witwatersrand and that the training would permit any student who might find it necessary to change from his University to the Northern University immediately to take up the diploma course. At the present time the Degree Course had been placed in abeyance by the Senate of the University and this matter would be reported upon during the forthcoming year.

Courses in Architecture.—In connection with courses in architecture throughout South Africa including (a) Correlation of same and (b) the teaching of architecture in Technical Institutes; Professor G. E. Pearse of the University of the Witwatersrand had drawn up a Memorandum on the subject of "Architectural Education in Universities and Technical Institutes." This Memorandum had been distributed among members of this Council several days prior to the meeting and Mr. A. B. Linscott, Union Department of Education, in opening the discussion on same outlined all architectural training from the days under the Witwatersrand Council of Education to the present course under the University of the Witwatersrand, pointing out that his Department had always been in sympathy with the provisoin of architectural training by contributing towards the upkeep of the Institution or University teaching the subject of architecture, his department was not seriously concerned as to whether the subject was taught exclusively by the University or at the Technical College he wished to emphasise this because with extensive payments made by students at Universities additional to actual fees his Department was called upon to make heavy *pro rata* payments which was not the case when students were enrolled at the Technical Institutes. On the question of the provision of architectural training at the Technical Institute, Johannesburg, Mr. Linscott advised members that the Directors of this and other Technical Institutes had been requested to stay their hands in connection with the establishment of architectural training pending the outcome of a Commission which the Minister for Education had decided to appoint to inquire into and report generally upon the scope of Technical Institute training.

Mr. A. B. Linscott recommended that this Executive be prepared to give evidence before the Commission.

Professor J. H. Wheatley referred to the Government grant made to Technical Colleges which operated against Universities in many directions and was therefore establishing competition by the creation of new Technical Institutes at a time when there were far too few students for the existing Technical Institutes or Schools and he considered that evidence to this end should be brought to the notice of the Commission. Following a general debate on the subject, Mr. F. L. H. Fleming moved that this Council give evidence before the Commission to be appointed by the Minister for Education regarding the scope of Technical Institute training, and, for the guidance of the Executive in preparing and giving that evidence, and reminded the Council of the two motions adopted in 1926, at Durban, moved by Mr. Ernest M. Powers, and Professor John Orr respectively, as very pertinent to the subject, and moved the following four resolutions:—

1. That the multiplication of architectural training facilities in South Africa is at present to be deprecated; a few efficient schools are more desirable than many only partly efficient.

On being put to the vote this was adopted by five votes to one, Mr. G. T. Hurst recording his vote against.

2. In the opinion of this Council any school of architecture in South Africa should work to a complete course or part course drawn up in consultation with this Council; any examination for certificate, Diploma or Degree in architecture should be based upon such course and should be set or modulated in consultation with the Council.

On being put to the vote these were agreed to unanimously.

3. In the opinion of this Council the complete training for architecture is primarily a cultural subject; and a full time architectural school subject: in addition to adequate practical training.

4. Preferably, students should receive full time University training.

On being put to the vote these were agreed to and the Chairman, Mr. E. H. Waugh, recording his vote against resolutions No. 3 and 4 as going too far.

Following the passing of these resolutions the Chairman expressed the thanks of members to Mr. A. B. Linscott for the very able manner in which he had brought forward the aims and objects of his department in supporting architectural education.

Professor G. E. Pearse moved a hearty vote of thanks to the members of the O.F.S. Institute of Architects for their cordial reception and attention. This was duly acknowledged by Mr. F. W. Masey.

A hearty vote of thanks to Mr. E. H. Waugh for his able conduct of the proceedings of the meeting from the Chair was accorded, duly acknowledged, and the meeting terminated.

DEGREE IN ARCHITECTURE.

The first degree of Bachelor of Architecture awarded by the University of the Witwatersrand will be conferred on Mr. H. C. Tully, at the Graduation ceremony in the Town Hall, on March 26th.

Mr. Tully was born at Rosebank, Capetown, and is the son of Mr. J. Collingwood Tully, F.R.I.B.A., of Pietermaritzburg He was educated in England, and at Maritzburg College, where he matriculated in 1916. In 1915 he won an Essay Competition open to the whole of South Africa.

He was one of the first 30 selected by Major Miller in 1916 for the Royal Air Force in which, after training as a mechanic, be obtained a Commission and was on active service for two and a half years.

On returning to South Africa he joined the Public Works Department and commenced his Architectural course at the University in 1921. Some of his work was exhibited in London in connection with the International Congress on Architectural Education one of his drawings being selected for reproduction in the report of the proceedings.

Illustrations of his work have appeared from time to time in this Journal.

ARCHITECTS AND QUANTITY SURVEYORS ACT.

Ever since 1909 when statutory Qualification was granted to the Architects of the Transvaal a Committee of some kind or other has been in existence framing and reframing Draft Acts for the Union, with a view of applying to Parliament to obtain for the Union those priviledges already granted to the Transvaal.

It is perfectly obvious that an Act, the first to be granted in any part of the British Empire after some 18 years of service, should be found deficient in many ways, and opportunity has been taken in the new Bill of remedying where possible, the defects of the 1909 Act.

One of the most extraordinary features, however, in this connection has been that each succeeding committee dealing with this Act managed to make a correpondingly increased voluminous Bill until when the parliamentary stage was reached the pruning knife was used to such an extent that when the Bill reached Parliament it was about one fourth the size of that submitted by the Promoters.

As a further illustration of the difficulties in framing such a Bill the Promoters even with assistance of the legal fraternity all groping in the dark for some solution to our difficulties it was not till the last moment that it was discovered that there existed certain enactments on the Statute Book which suited our case and on which we have now more or less framed our Act.

After everything had been done by all the Architectural Councils, Committees, and Conferences, then came the consultations with those more closely connected with Parliamentary procedure.

As a result of interviews with Parliamentary Agents, Officials of Parliament and Counsel versed in Parliamentary procedure to say nothing of extensive printing and translation expenses the stage was at last reached to lay the precious document before Parliament.

The Government notified us at the outset that they could not accept the Bill as a Government measure and that it must be introduced as a Private Bill.

The Bill was duly presented to Parliament in May, 1926, for its first reading and duly passed, it was then sent to Select Committee.

The Select Committee sat for some weeks and after taking evidence from persons for and against the Bill completed their labours, the results of which are contained in a voluminous document of some 200 pages now obtainable by the public.

The next stage was the Second Reading which with very little opposition was duly passed by Parliament on the 18th of February, 1927, when it was decided that it should be presented to the House in Committee on the 25th February, 1927.

It duly came before the House in Committee at the late hour of 5.30 p.m. on the 25th February, 1927, and was adjourned to March 11th next, when it is hoped the House in Committee will pass it on to the House for its Third and Final reading. There will then remain the Senate who we feel sure will approve of the Bill after which it will become law.

The Registration Executive which is the latest Committee appointed to deal with the matter feels quite confident that the Bill, having been so amended to meet the several persons and Institutions concerned, that in its present form Parliament will continue as they have done up to the present in approving and passing the Bill as it now stands.

Every conceivable provision has been made in the Bill to meet all genuine and even imaginary grievances of every section of the community directly and indirectly interested and yet at the same time the Architects and Quantity Surveyors will benefit from the protection given to the Profession.

The chief benefits of the Bill are that the public will not so much in this generation but certainly in the next be assured that when they employ an Architect or Quantity Surveyor they will be employing a fully qualified well trained and skilled professional man, while from the students' point of view they will feel that after putting in some five years of technical training and devoting their time to study and passing their examinations they will be protected from competition from the unqualified.

The Bill makes provision for the framing of Regulations or Bye-laws which will control the government of the newly created Institutes, etc., Conduct of members, Professional fees, Education Examinations etc., but the Minister of the Interior being the person responsible for the framing of these Regulations is a sufficient guarantee to the public that no injustice can be done them in the framing of these Regulations.

Parliament up to the present has appreciated the fact that we have generously drafted this Act and we have generously accepted all the amendments made by the Select Committee which fact Dr. Reitz, the Introducer of the Bill, so aptly put when he said that we had been unreasonably reasonable, a fact the House almost unanimously accepted and will no doubt continue to do so.

The thanks of the Architectural Profession go out to every member of Parliament who has so willingly accepted our bona-fides and has acknowledged the righteousness of our cause and accepted our claims that in the interest of the Public and the profession the Bill is a just one.

DURBAN NOTES.

The demolition of the old Standard Bank, at the corner of West Street and Mercury Lane, preparatory to the erection of the more commodious new premises removes an interesting architectural land mark in the business centre of Durban.

The facade of the old building with its imposing colonaded loggia in the Doric Order, extending along the whole frontage was a fine example of the rather free Rennaisance style so much in favour for commercial institutions some 30 years ago. The loggia was executed in free stone and the remainder of the facade in cement stucco.

The loggia portion of the old building was the last to be removed, requiring the use of cranes to lift the larger stones. For some weeks past a few isolated columns supporting portion of the entablature and fragments of the cornice have stood among the ruined walls and debris of the old structure, strangely reminiscent of the archaeological remains in Southern Italy.

The new building is to have a granite front abutting into the street frontage, and no doubt the increasing business of the Bank requires room for expansion. One, however, has a sense of regret for the passing of the shady Loggia so characteristic a feature of South African Architecture.

Professor Oxley has returned from his six months' leave in Europe and is resuming his duties at the Natal Technical College.

Professor Oxley reports having met, in London, Mr. W. Hurst, who was awarded the Emma Smith Scholarship for architectural study abroad.

Mr. Hurst has enrolled at the A.A. School, in London, and his drawings prepared at the Natal Technical College, were considered of sufficient merit to enable him to continue his studies in the third year of his A.A. Course in Architecture.

SOUTH AFRICAN ACADEMY.

The Eighth Annual Exhibition will be held in the Selborne Hall, Johannesburg, from Monday, 16th May, to Saturday, the 28th, May, 1927, both dates inclusive, and will be for original works executed by South African Artists and Craftsmen.

The Exhibition will be open for Paintings (all media), Sculpture, Tapestry, Embroidery, Stone and Wood Carvings, Metal Work, Enamels, Bookbinding, Modelling, Plaster Work, Leather Work, Furniture, Jewellery, Ceramic Work, Miniatures, Architectural and other drawings, etc.

All pictures must be suitably framed. Copies of any kind and works previously publicly exhibited in Johannesburg will not be accepted.

Intending Exhibitors are requested to communicate with the Honorary Secretary, 67, Exploration Building, Johannesburg, not later than the 15th April, 1927, giving the number and description of the proposed exhibits and enclosing the necessary submission fees based on the following scale :—For each Exhibit in the Picture Classes excepting Etchings, 5/- each. For each Etching, 2/6 each. For a complete Exhibit in the Craft Section, each exhibit, of twelve articles, 10/-. Exhibits from Art Schools and Classes, Free..

It is essential that all submission fees be paid in advance ; exhibits for which fees are unpaid cannot be considered or shown. The Executive points out that these fees are still a vitally necessary contribution to the expenses of the Exhibition, and regret that for the present it is impossible to consider their abolition.

All work submitted will be subject to approval and acceptance by a competent Jury of Admission and the hanging and placing of works will be under the personal supervision of the Academy Hanging Committee, whose decision will be final. All rejected works will be returned to their authors prior to the opening of the Exhibition packed at owner's risk and expense.

In the case of Art Classes in Schools, Government and Private (except Schools of Art), the total exhibit from any one centre is limited to six works ; these must be works executed within twelve months preceding submission, must be certified by the Art Master or Mistress as the unaided work of the executant, and will be subject for acceptance or rejection by the Executive. In the case of Craft Work, not more than twelve articles will be considered as one exhibit in respect of submission fee. This work will be subject for acceptance or rejection by the Executive.

All works must be delivered, carriage prepaid, at owner's risk, addressed to the Honorary Secretary, South African Academy, Selborne Hall, Johannesburg, on or before Saturday the 30th April, 1927. Johannesburg local exhibits must be delivered at the Selborne Hall, on Monday, the 2nd May, 1927, to the Honorary Secretary who will be in attendance from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on that date for the purpose of receiving.

Whilst all reasonable precautions and care will be taken, the Association of Transvaal Architects and the Executive Committee of the South African Academy do not accept any responsibility for loss of, or damage to, any works from any cause either in transit or before, during or after the Exhibition. All exhibits are invited under these conditions only. All exhibits will be returned to their owners immediately after the close of the Exhibition, packed at owners' risk and expense. For any further information required application should be made to the Honorary Secretary.

Exhibitors are advised that the Art Gallery Committee of the Municipal Council of Johannesburg has agreed to the principle of purchasing works of Art at the Annual South African Academy Exhibition and is prepared to purchase such works provided that, in the opinion of the Committee, they merit being exhibited in the Art Gallery.

THE ASSOCIATION OF TRANSVAAL ARCHITECTS.

OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES FOR THE YEAR 1927.

The following Officers and Committees have been elected for the current year :

President : Mr. J. Lockwood Hall, F.R.I.B.A.

Vice-Presidents : Mr. F. Williamson, A.R.I.B.A., Mr. Harold N. Porter, Licentiate R.I.B.A.

Members of Council : Mr. G. S. Burt Andrews, F.R.I.B.A., M.I.C.E., M.I.M.E.; Mr. N. T. Cowin, Licentiate R.I.B.A., Mr. J. S. Donaldson, F.R.I.B.A.; Mr. F. L. H. Fleming, F.R.I.B.A., Mr. R. Howden, F.R.I.B.A., Professor G. E. Pearse, A.R.I.B.A., Mr. D. M. Sinclair, F.R.I.B.A., Mr. John Waterson, F.R.I.B.A., Mr. Allen Wilson, F.R.I.B.A.

Finance Committee : Messrs. G. S. Burt Andrews, John Waterson, D. M. Sinclair, and Allen Wilson.

Practice Committee : Messrs. R. Howden, J. S. Donaldson, Walter Reid, J. Waterson, N. T. Cowin and D. M. Sinclair.

Journal Committee : Messrs A. Stanley Furner, Gordon Leith, N. T. Cowin, J. P. Neison, and Professor G. E. Pearse.

Art and Education Committee : Messrs F. L. H. Fleming, D. M. Burton, R. E. Green, J. S. Donaldson, G. S. Burt Andrews, A. Stanley Furner, Professor G. E. Pearse, John Ferguson, D. Lefebvre, A. Winter Moore and N. T. Cowin.

Board of Examiners : Messrs. F. Williamson, E. H. Waugh, P. J. Hill, S. C. Dowsett, Gordon Leith, A. Stanley Furner, Professor G. E. Pearse and N. T. Cowin.

Seymour Memorial Library : Mr. F. Williamson.

Town Planning Association (Transvaal) : Messrs. D. M. Burton and G. S. Burt Andrews.

Associated Scientific and Technical Societies : Mr. J. Lockwood Hall (alternate Mr. Robert Howden) Mr. D. M. Sinclair alternate (Mr. F. Williamson).

British Engineering Standards Committee : Messrs. Allen Wilson and Walter Reid.

Union Registration Executive Committee: Mr. M. J. Harris (alternate Mr. Harold Porter.)

Union Architectural Practice Committee : Mr. M. J. Harris.

Federal Council on Architectural Education : Mr. E.H. Waugh (alternate Mr. F. L. H. Fleming.)

The President and Vice-Presidents are ex-officio members of all Committees.

MURRAY K. CARPENTER,
Registrar.