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South African Architectural Record: Journal of the Transvaal, Natal and Orange Free State Provincial Institutes of South African Architects and the Chapter of South African Quantity Surveyors

1926

Institutes of South African Architects and the Chapter of South African Quantity Surveyors

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The South African ARCHITECTVRAL RECORD

The Journal of the Association of Transvaal Architects, the Natal Institute of Architects and the South African Institute of Quantity Surveyors.

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EDITORIAL NOTE.

The Editor will be glad to consider any MSS., Photographs or Sketches submitted to him, but they should be accompanied by stamped addressed envelopes for return if unsuitable. In case of loss or injury he cannot hold himself responsible for MSS., Photographs or Sketches, and publication in the Journal can alone be taken as evidence of acceptance. The name and address of the owner should be placed on the back of all Pictures and MSS.

The Association does not hold itself responsible for the opinions expressed by individual contributors.

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THE ASSOCIATION OF TRANSVAAL ARCHITECTS.

OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES FOR THE YEAR 1926.

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

President : Mr. N. T. Cowin, M.B.E., Licentiate R.I.B.A.

Vice-Presidents : Mr. F. Williamson, A.R.I.B.A. Mr. J. Lockwood Hall, F.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. J. S. Donaldson, F.R.I.B.A. Mr. T. Gordon Ellis, A.R.I.B.A. Mr. F. L. H. Fleming. Mr. R. Howden, F.R.I.B.A., A.R.V.I.A. Professor G. E. Pearse, A.R.I.B.A. Mr. H. Porter. Mr. John Waterson, F.R.I.B.A. Mr. Allen Wilson, Licentiate R.I.B.A.

Finance Committee : Messrs. Wilson, G. S. Burt Andrews, John Waterson and Professor G. E. Pearse.

Practice Committee : Messrs. R. Howden, J. S. Donaldson, Walter Reid, J. Waterson and T. Gordon Ellis.

Journal Committee : Messrs. A. Stanley Furner, Gordon Leith, F. Williamson, D. R. Lyne, Harold Porter, T. Gordon Ellis, J. P. Nelson and Professor G. E. Pearse.

Art and Education Committee : Messrs. F. L. H. Fleming, D. M. Burton, Gordon Leith, H. W. Spicer, R. E. Green, A. E. Gyngell, J. S. Donaldson, H. Porter, G. S. Burt Andrews, A. Stanley Furner and Professor G. E. Pearse.

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

Seymour Memorial Library : Mr. N. T. Cowin.

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

Associated Scientific and Technical Societies : Mr. N. T. Cowin, (alternate Mr D. M. Sinclair), Mr. Robert Howden, (alternate Mr. Gordon Leith).

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.

Minutes of the Sixteenth Annual General Meeting of Members of the Association held in the Scientific and Technical Club, 100, Fox Street, Johannesburg, on Friday, the 26th February, 1926, at 3 p.m.

Present.—The President, Mr. G. S. Burt Andrews, in the Chair, Messrs. D. M. Burton, N. T. Cowin, J. S. Donaldson, T. G. Ellis, F. L. H. Fleming, A. Stanley Furner, A. H. Gibbs, J. Lockwood Hall, R. Howden, G. Leith, J. A. C. Moffat, H. Porter, E. M. Powers, G. E. Pearse, Walter Reid, H. Rowe Rowe, F. Soff, D. M. Sinclair, F. Williamson, Allen Wilson and the Registrar, M. K. Carpenter.

Prior to the commencement of the business the President extended a hearty welcome to Mr. E. M. Powers, of Durban.

Minutes.—The minutes of the Fifteenth Annual General Meeting held on the 25th February, 1925, published in the March, 1925, issue of the "South African Architectural Record," were on the motion of Mr. Allen Wilson, seconded by Mr. F. Williamson, taken as read and confirmed.

Annual Accounts and Balance Sheet.—The President drew attention to the Annual Accounts and Balance Sheeet for 1925, included in Council's Report and commented upon the favourable financial position of the Association as compared with recent years.

On the motion of Mr. H. Rowe Rowe, seconded by Mr. F. Williamson, the Annual Accounts and Balance Sheet for the year ended 31st December, 1925, which had been duly audited by Messrs. Aiken and Carter, and circulated to members in accordance with the Act, were received, accepted and adopted unanimously.

Council's Report to Members.—Mr. E. M. Powers referred to the letter sent to the Minister of Finance, in May last, as it was mooted that the Union Government intended levying further taxation in the form of a professional licence, on Architects and Quantity Surveyors, pointing out that the new taxation unlike previous Provincial taxation became a tax on the individual member as against a licence for a firm or partnership. This individual licence was a great hardship on the members of a partnership who happened to have offices in two or more of the Provinces of the Union. In the case of his own firm three separate licences had been taken out for the Transvaal Province and a demand had been received from the Revenue Office for the three licenses to be taken out in the names of the partners of his firm in the Natal Province, he thought this matter should be brought to the notice of the Union Registration Executive Committee for their information and action at a later date. This was agreed to.

Mr. D. M. Sinclair pointed out that in his case he had taken out two licences, one as an architect and the second as a quantity surveyor, for which he paid £15. Other members stated that in accordance with the Receiver of Revenue's reading of the Act, which had been circulated to members, they had applied for a combined licence to cover architectural work and the preparation of bills of quantities for their own work, in each case the Receiver of Revenue had issued a licence as an architect only and had not referred in any way to the provision which enables architects to take out their own quantities under the architects' licence.

The President stated that in view of the omissions from the licences issued to members taking out their own quantities he considered it would be advisable for the incoming Council to take the matter up with the Receiver of Revenue, so that licences might be made out covering the architect who desires to take out his own quantities. This was agreed to.

Professor G. E. Pearse, in referring to the letter sent to the Minister for Finance, inquired respecting the reply received and proposed that the information be circulated to members or published in the next issue of the Journal. This was agreed to.

On the motion of Professsor G. E. Pearse, seconded by Mr. Walter Reid, Council's Report, for the year 1925 was received, accepted and unanimously confirmed.

Valedictory Address.—The retiring President, Mr. G. S. Burt Andrews, thereupon delivered the following Valedictory Address:—

The work of the Association during the past year is clearly set forth in the report of the Council.

Many problems have been dealt with in order to improve, or at least maintain, the status of the Architectural profession in this country.

One of the most important events of the year has been the amalgamation of the Royal Institution of British Architects and the Society of Architects. The fusion of two such strong and influential bodies is bound to strengthen the ties of the Architectural profession over the whole of the British Empire.

This fine achievement was not done hurriedly. For a long time it exercised careful thought and consideration by many of Britain's foremost men in the architectural profession, and now that the amalgamation has become an accomplished fact, we may safely look forward to many practical improvements.

Another important proceeding has been the drafting of the Private Bill for the Registration of Architects in the Union of South Africa. This entailed a considerable amount of labour on the part of those closely associated with it. The private Act of the Transvaal has been in existence for upwards of sixteen years and its successful working during that period should have considerable weight with the legislators of this Country now that the new Bill is before Parliament.

The desirability of Registration is generally recognised all over the world and it is only a matter of time when the public will be protected in connection with building operations as with law, medicine, dentistry and survey work.

Criticisms have appeared in the press against some of the provisions of the Bill, but many of the arguments used are far from convincing. It hardly follows because Sir Christopher Wren was not a registered architect that the Bill should be thrown out on that account. The conditions in the days of that highly distinguished architect were vastly different to those of to-day. Unless we march with the times we must expect to be left behind and no amount of carping criticism will stop progress.

Some of the objections raised against the draft Bill are that it will prevent anyone making plans for his own building; that it will exclude architects in salaried employ from certain work, principally quantities, and that the small investor in house property will be put to unnecessary expense. There is nothing in the Bill to stop anyone preparing plans for his or her own building, provided they comply with the requirements of the Local Authorities.

The other objections are being met by certain amendments to the Bill which should, and we hope will, make the Bill acceptable to all parties concerned.

In my opinion a Union Bill for the Registration of Architects will protect the public as much if not more than the qualified Architect and this is as it should be.

Another matter that is of considerable importance to the practising Architect is the growing tendency of some assistants in public service to accept and possibly go out of their way to obtain private work to the detriment of the private practitioner.

If there is any truth in the rumour that one large Departments in this Province employs several temporary architectural assistants for years at a stretch there must be something wrong. One can well understand the strong temptation for a temporary man at a low salary to augment his income by doing private work, but this is obviously unfair to the private practitioner as well as to the employer. To the private practitioner because he has no salary to help him along in bad times; to the employer because an assistant can hardly be expected to give of his best, if he is actively engaged during the whole of his spare time on similar work for private individuals.

Temporary assistance cannot always be avoided even in public services, but every effort should be made to keep it within reasonable limits It is surely a misnomer to call an assistant temporary after continuous employment in the same Department for several years.

I have more than once expressed the opinion that a capable temporary assistant should, when occasion demands, be remunerated at a higher rate than some of the staff assistants. Unfortunately it frequently happens that the man who has to do the skilled work receives the least pay. This undesirable practice concerns the Association as much as the individual, and when such things occur they should be dealt with vigorously and without fear.

It is encouraging to know that the Association has to some extent taken this matter up with the public bodies in this Province, and it is to be hoped for the sake of the profession generally that such practices will rapidly disappear.

One of the most gratifying actions of the Provincial Administration in so far as the Architectural Profession is concerned has been the placing of one of its Architectural jobs in the hands of a local practitioner. It is hoped that

this form of encouragment to architects in private practice will continue, not because of any lack of confidence in the officers of the Public Works Department, for we know that many of them are highly qualified and competent men, but because the man who is battling his way to make a decent living should be given a chance as much by Government and Municipal Authorities as by private individuals.

That brings me to the subject of competitions. Governments and Municipalities frequently decide to erect important public buildings of a more or less monumental character and it always seems to me that such undertakings should be thrown open to public competition. It might be argued that the staff of a public Department might like to give some indication of their skill and ability in the design and planning of such buildings, if so, it should not be a difficult matter to arrange suitable conditions to meet such cases. In some instances the staff officials may have intimate or expert knowledge of special work, but even so, it is always possible that the private practitioner may have equally good knowledge and be capable of preparing a design in some ways superior to the staff officials. Such a possibility will always exist and it seems to me that full advantage should be taken of it. I fully realise that this is a debateable point, but I am merely offering my views on it, not only as your retiring President, but also as the head of a large Municipal Department which embraces Architectural work.

An outstanding feature of the work of the Association is the continued success of the South African Academy. The exhibition of local talent cannot fail to exercise a beneficial influence on the local mind, especially with the large number of students and scholars who are encouraged to visit the exhibition by making no charge in their case for admission.

The satisfactory result of this enterprise is largely due to the untiring efforts of our energetic Registrar (Mr. Carpenter) and every member of our Association must feel indebted to him for the excellent work he has done.

It has been a very great pleasure to me to preside at your meetings and I shall always remember the kindness and courtesy received from every member of the Council.

I regretted very much the resignation of Mr. Powers as a member of the Council, when he decided to leave Johannesburg and make a new home in Durban. He was a hard and conscientious worker, always ready and willing to do everything possible for the good of the Architectural profession.

I learned with regret, on my recent return from recuperative rest at the coast, that our esteemed friend, Mr. Soff, had also resigned his seat on the Council. We shall miss him very much. His regular attendance with his residence in Pretoria, and his unselfish devotion to duty should be an object lesson to many of us.

In conclusion let me express my thanks to Mr. Carpenter, our Registrar, for his valuable help. His able assistance and close knowledge of the work of the Association has made my duty as President comparatively light.

A word of praise is also due to Miss Murdoch who carried on the routine work of the office so tactfully during the absence of the Registrar in England.

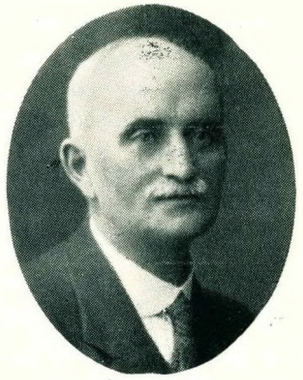
Mr. President, I offer you my heartiest congratulations on your accession to the chair. I hope your year of office will be as pleasing and interesting as mine has been.

On the motion of Mr. H. Rowe Rowe, seconded by Mr. D. M. Sinclair, it was unanimously agreed that copies of the President's Address be handed to the local Press for publication.

Appointment of Scrutineers.—The President having declared the Ballot closed, called for nominations for Scrutineers.

Messrs. Walter Reid and D. M. Sinclair were unanimously appointed Scrutineers.

Election of President.—Mr. G. S. Burt Andrews, after stating that only one nomination had been received for the position of President for the coming year, formally declared Mr. N. T. Cowin elected to that position and expressed his congratulations and good wishes to the newly elected President.



OUR PRESIDENT
MR. NORRIS T. COWIN, M.B.E.
LICENTIATE, R.I.B.A.

Mr. N. T. Cowin, on taking the Presidential Chair, was received with acclamation and addressed members as follows :—

I thank you heartily for electing me your President and I can assure you that I appreciate the honour exceedingly.

I am now at the pinnacle of fame in our profession in the Transvaal and from this giddy height I may be permitted a survey of the country around and may point out some landmarks for the observation of our Council during the ensuing year.

Firstly we must concentrate our energies on our Act to pass it through Parliament. Registration is desired by most members of the profession as it is felt that a higher standard of Architecture generally is required to make our towns the pride of those who live in them. Registration only is of no use ; we must have education and registration. Our ideal must be to raise the general architectural standard.

Here let me pay a tribute to the self-sacrifice and zeal of all who have served long and arduously on the Executive Committee of the Act for the benefit of us all. Splendid work for which we tender our thanks gratefully.

Also, I must record with gratitude and thanks the liberality and high sense of loyalty to the profession shown by our members in coming forward handsomely to support the guarantee fund for our Parliamentary expenses.

We must seek out better methods of settling disputes between Contractors, Architects and Clients. There have been some ugly cases recently and the whole profession suffers then in the eyes of the public.

Arbitrations are unsatisfactory and an appeal to the Supreme Court is not much better. I throw out a suggestion that one technical expert should be named in all Conditions of Contract as official Referee ; he should be appointed annually and by agreement between the Architects, Quantity Surveyors, Master Builders and perhaps the Chamber of Commerce.

Should questions of professional practice or disputes with Clients and Contractors be submitted to the Council for advice and guidance ? I think your Council is the right body to appeal to at the outset and their opinions should be given "without prejudice," but my views are not shared by all.

The new Council might give a ruling on this matter for the information of our members.

Supervision where many small buildings are in progress takes up too much of an Architects time. Efficient Clerks of Works are rare here. We should have a list of properly qualified Clerks of Works available at the offices of our Association for the benefit of our members and it may be possible to formulate a scheme for sharing the services of one Clerk of Works among several Architects for small works.

Some private competitions recently have proved unsatisfactory. As often as not there are no conditions and no professional Assessor is appointed. The out-going Council in the Annual Report, you will see, suggest a new by-law to the effect that members may not take part in such competitions unless the Conditions have been approved by the Council and a professional assessor is appointed. This would remedy the trouble and we should all be ready to fall into line and thus avoid recriminations.

Socially we want waking up, our quarterly meetings with lectures should be revived. We have held a Dance annually and this, thanks to the Ladies, has always been a success.

Your Council's work, gentlemen, embraces a heavy programme and let me remind you that it is considerably lightened if you are with us and have the interests of the whole profession at heart.

" By your deeds shall ye be known."

Mr. D. M. Burton, in referring to the work of the past year expressed to the immediate past President the thanks and appreciation of members for his labours on behalf of the Association and the profession during the past year and congratulated him upon his return to health.

Election of Vice-Presidents.—There being no other nominations the President formally moved the election, as Vice-Presidents for the current year, of Messrs. F. Williamson and J. Lockwood Hall, who suitably expressed their thanks for the honour conferred upon them.

Election of Auditors.—Mr. G. S. Burt Andrews moved that Messrs. Aiken and Carter be appointed auditors to the Association for the current year and that they be paid the sum of £10 10s. 0d. for their services during 1925, this was seconded by Mr. Gordon Leith and unanimously agreed to.

Benevolent Fund.—To fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Mr. E. H. Waugh from the Board of Trustees of the Benevolent Fund of the Architects of the Transvaal, Mr. H. Rowe Rowe, on behalf of Mr. D. M. Burton, proposed the election of Mr. F. Williamson, this was seconded by Mr.

J. S. Donaldson and unanimously agreed to. Mr. Williamson intimated that he would be prepared to act as Trustee of the Benevolent Fund. The President thereupon declared Mr. Williamson to be duly elected.

The President, on behalf of members, then presented Mr. G. S. Burt Andrews with an enlarged and framed photograph.

Mr. G. S. Burt Andrews, in expressing his appreciation of the kindly thought which prompted the presentation asked the President, on behalf of the Association, to accept the enlargement to be hung in the office among his predecessors.

University Students.—Professor G. E. Pearse, after outlining the work of the department of architecture at the University explained that for past years the Society of Architects (London) South African Branch had been good enough to annually donate a sum of money for students prizes. Owing to the amalgamation of the Society with the Royal Institute of British Architects this source of prize money had now ceased and he suggested that the Association should undertake to provide prizes and thus make it possible for yearly incentives to be offered to the students.

Mr. F. L. H. Fleming referred to the work of the Federal Council on Architectural Education one of the duties of which was the co-ordination of prizes and bursaries for students in the profession throughout the Union and he thought it would be inadvisable to place on record a definite resolution that this Association should provide prizes as suggested by Professor Pearse, he promised that the matter would not be lost sight of and that provision would be made at an early date.

Election of Council.—The Scrutineers having completed their duties, the President read out the result of the Ballot for election of members to Council and formally declared the following members elected as members of Council for the current year:—Messrs. G. S. Burt Andrews, J. S. Donaldson, F. L. H. Fleming, R. Howden, T. Gordon Ellis, H. Porter, G. E. Pearse, Allen Wilson and J. Waterson.

Mr. F. L. H. Fleming mentioned the excellent service rendered by Mr. G. S. Burt Andrews during his period of office and referred to the interesting and instructive address delivered that afternoon In expressing the hearty appreciation of members the Speaker formally moved a vote of thanks to Mr. Andrews for his address and as an expression of appreciation for the labours he had undertaken during his year of office. This was seconded by Mr. Allen Wilson and agreed to. The cordial expression was suitably acknowledged by Mr. Burt Andrews and the meeting terminated.

THE MODERN MOVEMENT IN ARCHITECTURE.

(continued.)

These new conditions are driving us back to a more simple and logical outlook in which the scientific solution of modern programmes is being attempted without the handicap of a preconceived exterior based on the needs of nearly two thousand years ago.

The evolution of the motor car or ocean liner is an interesting parallel. Developed along lines of necessity, beauty and tradition for an interested and intelligent public, they are among the finest products of modern civilization. A "period" motor car would make its owner a victim of ridicule—a "period" room often brings him praise.

A very natural feature of the changing outlook of the early twentieth century is a reaction against the admiration of the past—a revolt against tradition—and new systems of government and education, poetry, painting, sculpture and architecture are advocated on every side. But tradition—which is the sum of previous experience—cannot be ignored. The Sedan Chair lives in the motor car of to-day and we still talk of railway coaches. Originality, for which the whole world is clamouring, is after all, simply intelligent evolution.

The modern movement in architecture is thus the natural result of the current trend of thought and increased interest on the part of the public in the various countries of the world. It aims at making architecture more logical, direct and scientific and to allow it to reflect the tendencies and ideas of the twentieth century—the century of science and machinery—rather than those of a previous age.

To trace the history of the modern movement in architecture with accuracy is a matter of great difficulty for the change is taking place gradually and almost imperceptibly. Of the evils brought by the nineteenth century and its "battle of the styles," the habit of labelling all our buildings either Classic, Gothic, Romanesque or Byzantine is not the least. It often blinds us to the fresh ideas expressed in many recent buildings. Westminster Cathedral has been labelled "Byzantine" and Liverpool "Gothic"—but neither of these designs could have been carried out in any other period than our own and both of them are perfectly expressive of the needs of to-day. That there should be consider-

able similarity between these two modern churches and buildings of an earlier age is to be expected as the needs of modern worship are not very different from those of previous centuries and both religious thought and architecture are essentially conservative. It is only natural to expect that buildings of a definitely modern character are the first to show signs of change, and thus we find that, in England, shops such as Heale's, in Tottenham Court Road, offices such as Adelaide House and Underground Railway Stations such as the recent design by Charles Holden, are some of the earliest buildings of the new school, and the work of the young generation seems to indicate that this movement will soon become general.

One of the earliest pioneers of the modern movement was Dr. Berlage, of Holland, whose design for the Exchange at Amsterdam, built early in the present century, may be taken as one of the first examples of the changing ideals in the design of buildings and as the earliest work of the modern Dutch School. The design of this building, though by no means entirely satisfactory is full of interest and originality and has had a great influence upon the architecture of Holland. Dr. Berlage has been followed by a host of architects who have carried on the new ideas and who have developed a very distinct modern national style. Unfortunately many have not understood the new movement and some extremely bad work of a very eccentric type has resulted. But in the better examples, the old traditional use of brickwork has been developel on modern lines and has produced buildings of great interest and beauty.

A parallel development is taking place in Sweden and has culminated in the design for the New Town Hall of Stockholm, by Professor Ragnar Ostberg, which is one of the most beautiful and striking buildings of modern times.

In France and Germany the new movement is gaining ground rapidly. The Theatre of the Champs Elysees, by the Perret Freres, various shop fronts in Paris, the work of Tony Garnier, in the new industrial town at Lyons, the Grosse Schauspielhaus, in Berlin and the designs of Otto Wagner and Eric Mendelsohn are all examples of the recent development and this year has produced the Exhibition at Paris—an Exhibition of the applied arts where no period reproductions of any kind were allowed. Further fuel has been added to the flames by Corbusier Saugnier's new book, "Vers une Architecture."

America in the past, being severely handicapped in having no tradition of its own, was compelled to look to Europe for ideas and has not hesitated to copy freely from old buildings more openly and extensively than any other country. Yet high land values, a rock foundation and steel framed methods of construction have produced the skyscraper, a type of building almost unknown in Europe, and to-day there seems to be a growing desire to develop American architecture upon definitely progressive lines.

An international competition for a block of offices has recently been held there and one of the designs is having a considerable influence. The design, which is very modern in character, is the work of Eliel Saarinern, of Finland, where another school of modern design is flourishing. Saarinern is the author of several designs in Finland, the most important being that for the railway station at Helsingfors, but although the work is interesting and fresh it is largely spoilt by detail inspired by the New Art movement in Germany, of the early years of this century.

The task of developing a new type of detail and decoration has always proved to be one of great difficulty and one which can only be carried out satisfactorily after years of experiment and evolution. No period has produced a reasonable type of ornament which does not owe its existence to growth from earlier forms—either constructional or decorative, and work of a definitely modern character is hampered more by the difficulty of finding a suitable form of satisfactory detail than by any other consideration.

In a short survey it is impossible to mention more than a few of the more important examples but the list would be incomplete without the Imperial Hotel, at Tokio, by Frank Lloyd Wright, which is one of the most beautiful buildings of the day. Designed and constructed on revolutionary principles, it has stood the test of the great earthquake, while the orthodox buildings fell down in ruins around it.

It will be seen from these few examples that far from producing a dull, monotonous type of structure the scientific and logical solution of a programme leads, in the hands of an artist, to far more variety than the older school ever produced, a variety which can reflect national and local characteristics far more completely and accurately than can any one of the famous imported "styles" of the nineteenth century.

Many of the new forms are strange and difficult to appreciate until they are understood—some are doubtless ill considered and eccentric, but all are a fresh and sincere attempt to reflect the new wide spread wish for progress and the desire to cast off the meaningless motives of a dead past.

Architecture can only express itself by means of symbols and new ones must be added gradually or they will be difficult to read; and so, in examining this modern development criticism must not be too severe—personal taste is largely a matter of education and use, and is apt to be too dogmatic—the artists themselves are exploring new territory and reformers are notorious for their extreme views.

The movement is in its infancy and its full development must not be measured by its youthful achievements—one day it will reach maturity and all will understand.

So, remembering familiar words "let us suffer absurdities for that is only to suffer one another.

"Nor let us be too hard upon the just but anxious fellow that sat down dutifully to paint the soul of Switzerland upon a fan."

RECENT PRACTICE IN COLD STORAGE CONSTRUCTION.

PART VII.

By E. H. WAUGH, A.R.I.B.A.

Very large fruit pre-cooling buildings have been erected at the Cape Town Alfred Docks. These are built right along-side the ship's side and the railway runs right into the building, so that a whole train-full of fruit can be brought in and shut up in a gigantic cool chamber. This is a somewhat novel arrangement and is very convenient, for if a train arrives too late for off-loading, the fruit can be kept cool by simply leaving it in the freight trucks which, as they stand in a cooled chamber will not rise in temperature, till the morning. The large apartment into which the rail trucks are brought is fitted on the ceiling with direct expansion pipes in cribs. Each pipe is provided underneath with a drip gutter to catch the melting frost off the pipes and the drip is carried away to the outside of the building

It may be noted for the uninformed that "pre-cooling" fruit means cooling it down to the proper temperature, say about 32° to 34° **before** it is put into the ship's refrigerated hold. The effect of this "pre-cooling" is to enable the ship engineer to get his temperature down almost right away. In fact the manager of the docks pre-cooling stores stated that the S.S. "Edda" last week, as well as some other ships, had been battened down practially at 33°, which is a very wonderful performance and of most valuable effect. In the old way the fruit was allowed to get warmed up, to its detriment, before being put in the hold and then many days would pass **before** the proper temperature was obtained. All this time, of course, the fruit was losing condition badly.

When the railway trucks are unloaded the boxes are put on flat trucks without sides—five tons to each truck. These trucks are taken up loaded by large lifts to the first floor and put into small chilling chambers—each chamber holds 12 trucks or 60 tons. The whole store will be able to hold 6,000 tons of fruit—a marvellous provision by the Government which has only been reached after years of trouble and mistakes.

These chilling rooms are in one long row and each one is about 9 or 10 feet wide and about 35 to 40 feet long and about 8 or 9 feet high. The forced air current is brought in from the top and distributed by ducts along each **side**. These ducts are made of flooring boards with about 1" to 1½" open space between them to allow the air to escape into the room and circulate on to the fruit. The outlet duct on the other side is exactly the same. The air cooling chamber or place where the expansion pipes are placed is at the end of the rows of rooms and the main delivery and return ducts are on the top of the row of rooms.

The expansion pipes are staggered and not one above another as shown in our previous articles; but in these Government stores there is no brine drip to take away the frost which forms on the pipes. At the time of my visit, a man was busy brushing off this frost with a long handled scraper.

The compressors (there are two) which work this somewhat unique installation are by Hall's, Limited. Each compressor is capable of producing 120 tons refrigeration per 24 hours. They are moderate speed compressors, upright cylinders and the drive is by electric motor direct coupled.

The delivery pipes which discharge warm gas to the condensers are fitted with valves so that the warm gas can be driven direct through to the expansion pipes referred to above and so warm the frost on them which then melts and can be knocked off as described.

This method is very fine for a store of this kind, used for the same class of goods and where the store rooms are in continuous rows and not requiring separate handling for different classes of goods. This must be obvious as eggs will readily acquire taints, so will meat and other goods and we cannot freely mix up the air for different goods. This necessitates the separate battery system previously described, and eliminates the opportunity of having only one pipe battery for a number of rooms.

In the Cape Town stores, five tons is lifted at once by the loading cranes. When ready the doors of a cooling chamber are opened and the truck is pushed out on to a balcony at first floor level when the crane descends and lifts truck and load together and lowers it down into the ship's hold, where the boxes are then removed from the truck and stacked away by the stevedores, and the now empty truck is returned to the cold store.

The simplicity of the whole thing almost surpasses anything the writer has before seen in his travels and while in the main the system is only suitable for a very large pre-cooling store, there are points which could be availed of in inland centres.

The main object sought is to save handling the boxes of fruit which causes damage.. At Cape Town the fruit is taken off the rail truck and is not again touched till it reaches the hold. This saves (1) loading into elevator; (2) off-loading from elevator on 1st floor; (3) loading into cold chamber and; (4) off-loading from cold chamber into ships, so at least four handlings are avoided with saving of damage to the fruit and loss of wages for men to handle it unnecessarily.

PRETORIA TOWN HALL COMPETITION

Assessor's Report.

In this Competition twenty seven sets of designs were submitted. These were packed and forwarded to Mr. E. Vincent, Harris, F.R.I.B.A., 29, St. James' Square, London, for assessment, the result of which is set out in the following letter from the Assessor to the Town Clerk, Pretoria:—

> "I have examined the 27 sets of drawings sent in response to your invitation for the Town Hall Competition, Pretoria, and I consider them on the whole an excellent series.
>
> The Competitors have undoubtedly given close attention to the problem, and the majority of the designs evince considerable skill and care on the part of authors. I place
>
> First Design No. 23.
> Second Design No. 7.
> Third Design No. 22.
>
> I suggest for the consideration of your Committee that the top portion of the Towers and Pylons of Design No. 23 be treated in a simpler and more monumental manner. This would not increase the cost and would add to the dignity of the building.

The envelopes containing the names of the three successful competitors were opened by His Worship the Mayor, Pretoria, in the presence of the Chairman of the General Purposes and Estates Committee (Cr. C. M. de Vries), and the Town Clerk. It was found that the following were the successful competitors:—

First. Design No. 23. F. Gordon McIntosh, and J. Lockwood Hall, F.R.I.B.A., Pretoria.

Second. Design No. 7. Harold Porter and A. Stanley Furner, A.R.I.B.A., Johannesburg.

Third. Design No. 22. Messrs. Deuchar and Pease, A.A.R.I.B.A., Pretoria.

The designs have been returned by the Assessor to the Town Clerk, Pretoria, who proposes to exhibit them in due course.

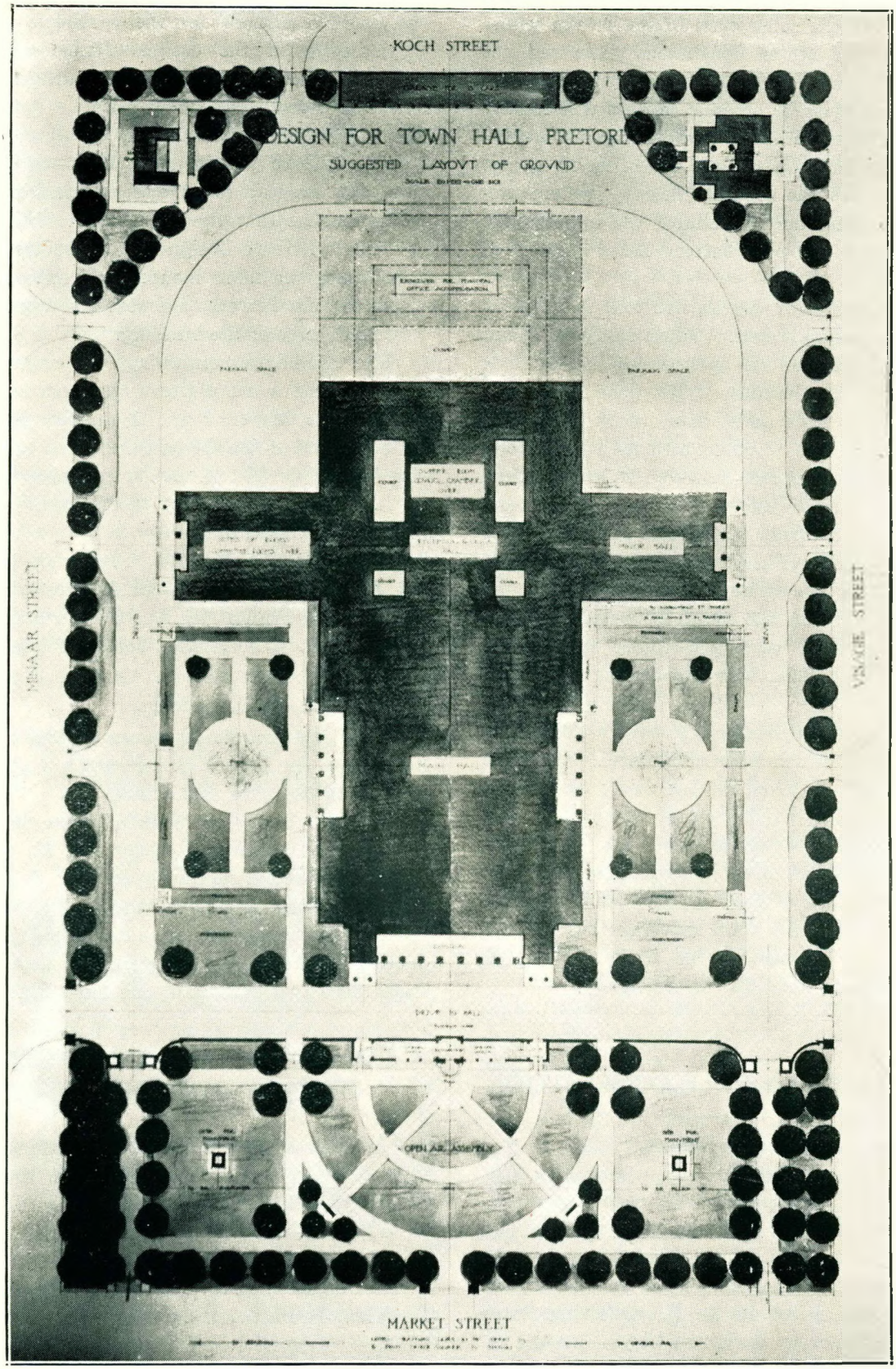
In this issue we have pleasure in illustrating the first premiated design No. 23, submitted by Mr. F. Gordon McIntosh and Mr. J. Lockwood Hall, F.R.I.B.A., in collaboration. The second and third premiated designs are not available for reproduction at the present time but we hope to illustrate these two designs in our next issue.

THE SOUTH AFRICAN INSTITUTE OF QUANTITY SURVEYORS.

Minutes of Seventeenth Annual General Meeting held at the Council Chamber, Pretoria, on Saturday, 20th February, 1926, at 3 p.m.

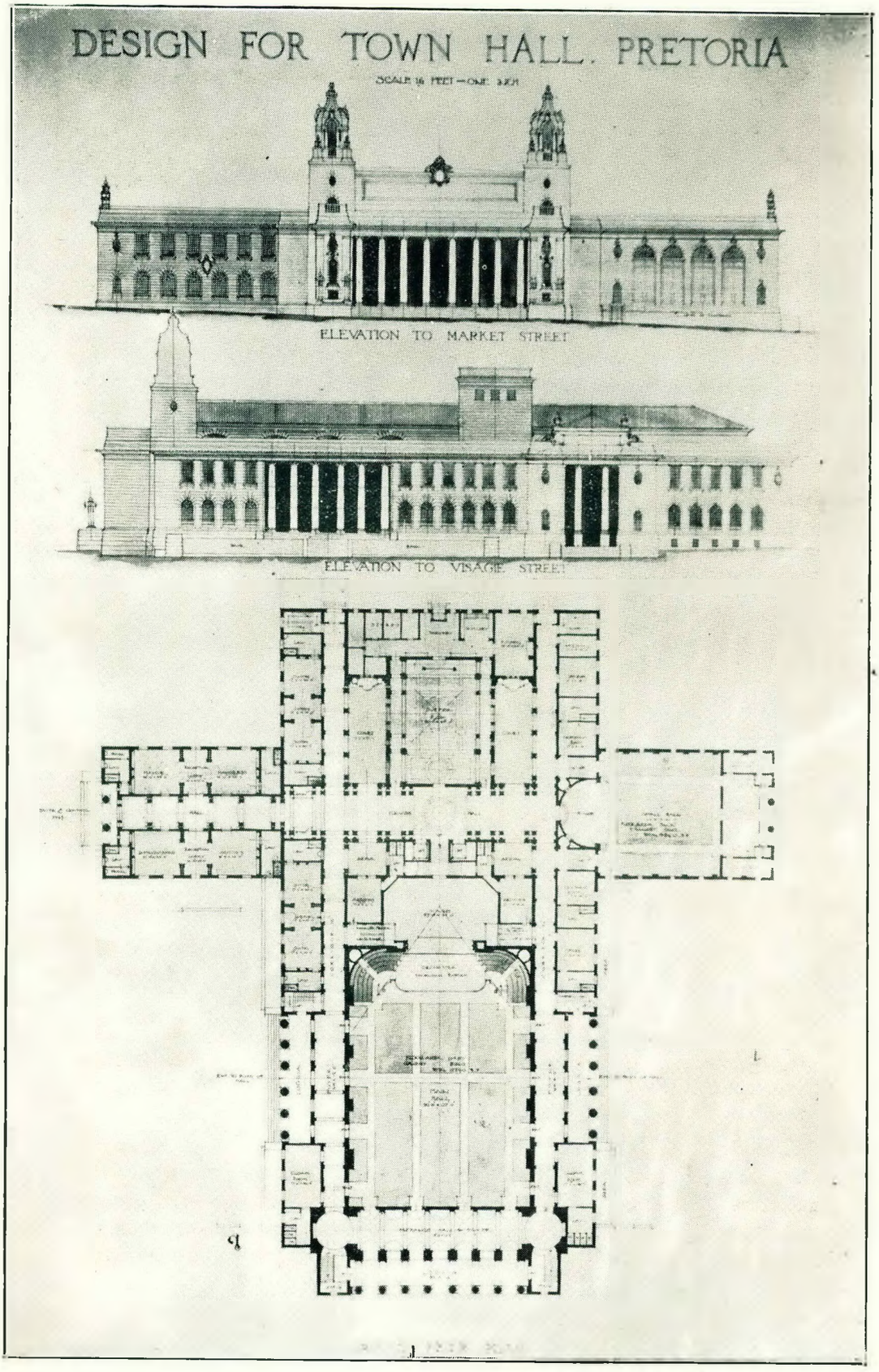
Present.—Messrs. F. D. Hickman (in the chair), W. E. Puntis (Vice-President), N. T. Cowin, C. H. Deighton, E. B. Farrow, F. B. Holt, G. E. Howgrave-Graham, D. J. Laing, T. Moore, W. H. Priestly, H. Rowe Rowe, W. Selkirk, A. W. Springthorpe and S. Walters.

Apologies for absence were tendered on behalf of Messrs. W. Rhodes-Harrison, W. G. Thompson, J. W. Cowling and the Secretary.

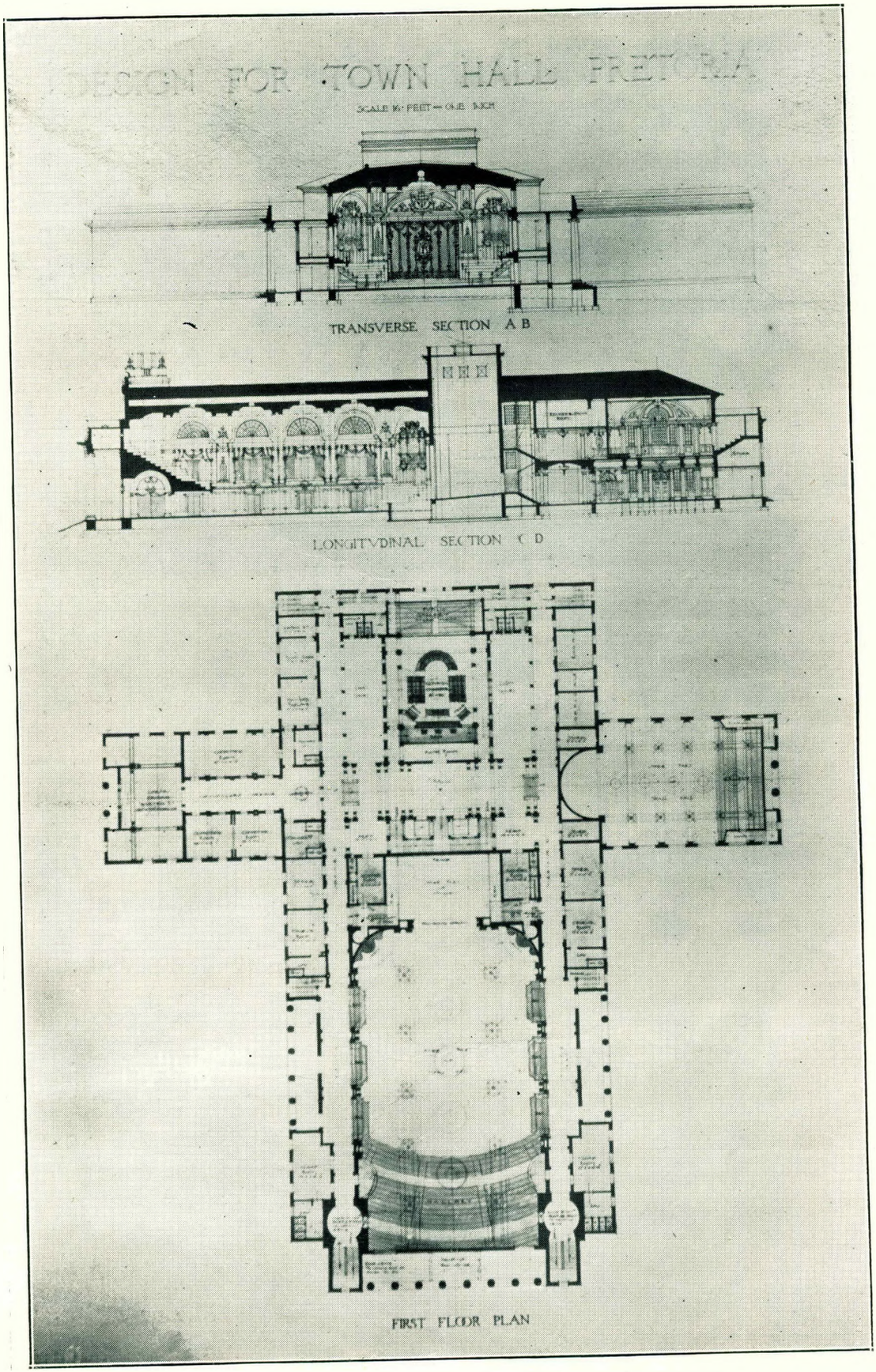


FIRST PREMIATED DESIGN FOR TOWN HALL, PRETORIA.

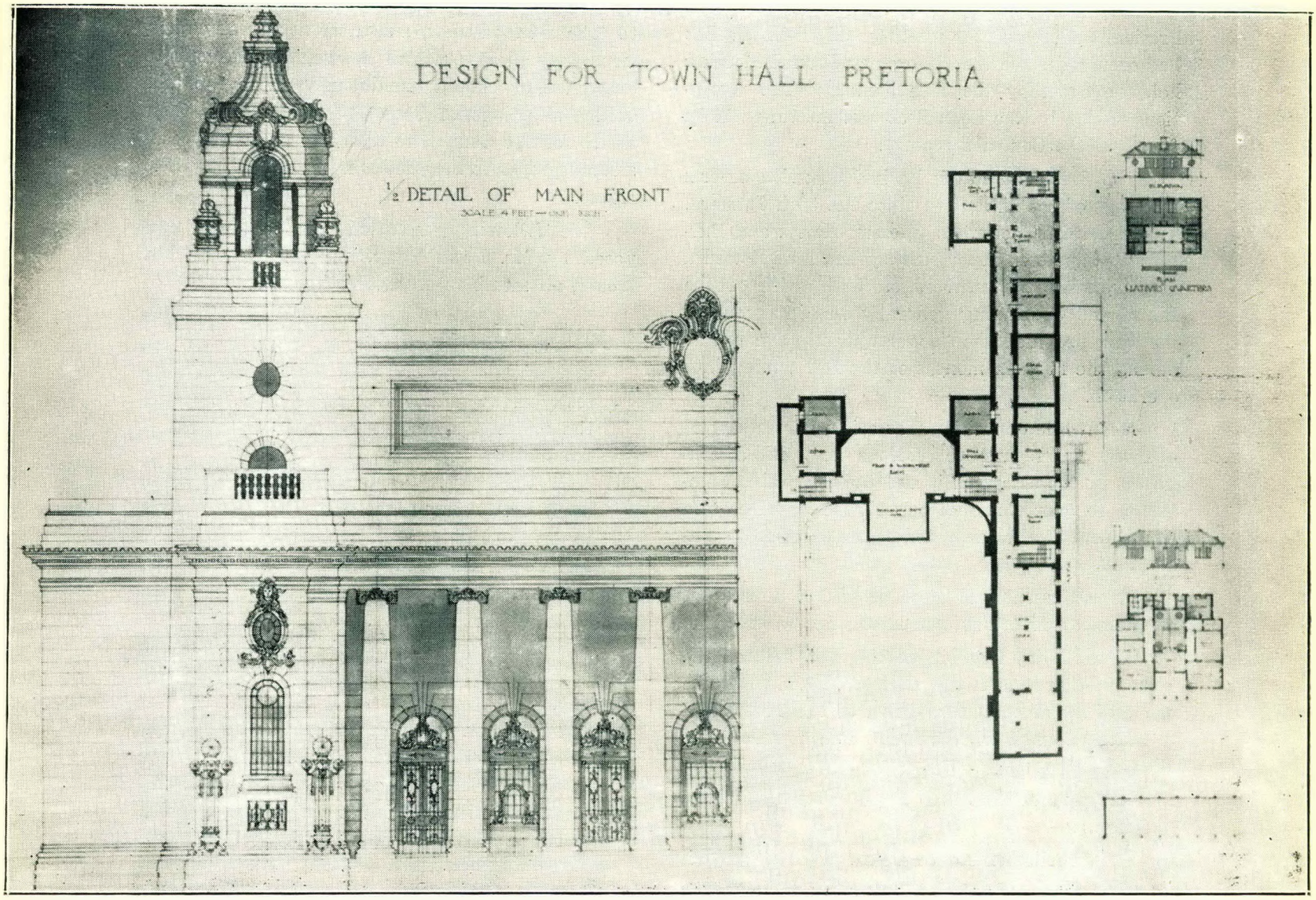
F. G. McINTOSH & J. LOCKWOOD HALL, F.R.I.B.A., ARCHITECTS.



FIRST PREMIATED DESIGN, TOWN HALL, PRETORIA.
F. G. McINTOSH, & J. LOCKWOOD HALL, F.R.I.B.A., ARCHITECTS.



FIRST PREMIATED DESIGN, TOWN HALL, PRETORIA.
F. G. McINTOSH & J. LOCKWOOD HALL, F.R.I.B.A., ARCHITECTS.



FIRST PREMIATED DESIGN, TOWN HALL, PRETORIA.
F. G. McINTOSH, AND J. LOCKWOOD HALL, F.R.I.B.A., ARCHITECTS.

Minutes of Sixteenth Annual General Meeting. These were read by Mr. D. J. Laing in the absence of the Secretary and confirmed. Proposed by Mr. Moore and seconded by Mr. Rowe Rowe.

Minutes of Extraordinary General Meeting held in Pretoria on October 6th, 1925, were read by Mr. D. J. Laing and confirmed. Proposed by Mr. Cowin and seconded by Mr. Holt.

President's Address and Council's Report.—The President gave a resume of the year's work, and outlined the actions of the Council under the various headings:—(a) Associated Scientific and Technical Societies; (b) Surveyors Institution (London); (c) Scale of Fees; (d) Balance Sheet.

The President stated it was the intention of the Institute to endeavour to have the Surveyor's Institution Examination papers set on the basis of the S.A. Standard System of Measurement in order to avoid candidates studying for the examination under two systems.

Mr. Cowin stated he understood it was the practice of the Royal Institute of British Architects to have their examination papers marked in this country, but they were subsequently sent to England to be ratified. He stated that possibly the South African Institute of Quantity Surveyors could come to some similar arrangement with the Surveyors' Institution, London. The matter was left in the hands of the incoming Council.

After the President had elucidated the balance sheet, it was proposed by Mr. Cowin and seconded by Mr. Holt, that the balance sheet be adopted.

Architects and Quantity Surveyors Bill.—The President addressed the meeting and outlined what had occurred since the Emergency Council Meeting held on Saturday the 30th January (The resolutions passed by the Council at this meeting will be found in the Council's report).

The President stated he had attended several meetings of the Executive since the 30th January. The Architects' delegates (Messrs. Harris and Burton) to Capetown reported they had interviewed a large number of members on both sides of the House and the feeling generally was in favour of the Bill, provided the "doors were thrown open" during the first six months of the Bill coming into operation.

Meanwhile opposition was arising from several quarters in regard to various restrictions contained in the Draft Bill, and the Executive Committee to overcome this opposition passed certain amendments to be presented before the Select Committee.

Your Council had also received a number of amendments from our own members.

A whole day Council Meeting was held on the 17th February, and the Council dealt with the whole of the amendments—a list of these as agreed to by the Council will be found attached hereto.

Meanwhile a telegram had been received from the Secretary of the Union Registration Committee as follows:—

> "Parliamentary agents require immediately 1,500 pounds of unlimited guarantee stop Kindly forward your pro rata share 195 pounds or bank guarantee for amount this is exclusive of balance 32 pounds of previous levy also required immediately."

The Council therefore approached the Standard Bank and secured an overdraft on behalf of the Institute not exceeding £250 at 7½ per cent. per annum.

The President impressed on the members present the fact that if the Bill did not become law, the various constituent bodies who are parties thereto will be burdened with their pro rata share of the expenses incurred.

He further stated the Council had given a very great deal of time and thought to the Bill and were convinced that notwithstanding the fact that the gain at present was less than they desired, they considered it would be of enormous value and benefit in later years.

He therefore requested the members present to take a broad view, and after asking any questions they pleased, which he would endeavour to answer, they should unanimously approve of the Council's actions to date and also express their desire for the Council to take any steps they considered proper to help further the Bill through the House.

The following resolution was therefore proposed by Mr. Rowe Rowe, and seconded by Mr. Moore, all members present voting in favour.

> "That this meeting unanimously approves of the Council's actions in relation to all matters in connection with the proposed Architects and Quantity Surveyors' Bill including the financial arrangements made on behalf of the Institute.
>
> "Further the Council be empowered to use every endeavour to take all necessary steps to get the Bill through Parliament."

Mr. Cowin enquired whether the proposed amendments as approved by the Council had been agreed to by the Executive.

The President stated they could not be officially dealt with until after ratification by this meeting.

The President stated he had attended a meeting of the Johannesburg Master Builders Association on the day previously in company with the Architects representatives to discuss certain points which had arisen in regard to the the Bill.

The outcome of this meeting was to request the Institute to give their considered opinion in writing in regard to the points raised affecting the Quantity Surveyors Chapter, and it was decided that the President should write a report to be dealt with by the incoming Council.

Election of Council 1926 Session.—There being no other nominations the Council Nominees were elected en bloc.

Mr. Hickman in handing over to Col. Puntis, thanked the Council and members for their assistance during his last year of office and explained the vast amount of work done during that period.

Mr. Cowin proposed a hearty vote of thanks to Mr. Hickman for his untiring efforts during the last two years and said the incoming Council would have the benefit of his experience in furthering the passing of the Act. Mr. Hickman briefly returned thanks and also referred to the work done by Mr. Moore in connection with the Executive's Meetings.

Mr. Farrow thanked the members for electing him Vice-President and also enlarged upon the amount of work done by the past President and Council. He expressed a vote of thanks to Mr. Moore, as the Institute's delegate on the Union Registration Executive Committee, stating he had given his ungrudging services at all times and on many occasions.

Col. Puntis proposed a vote of thanks to the Secretary for his untiring efforts and obliging attitude in carrying out his duties within the past twelve months

Mr. Howgrave-Graham proposed a vote of thanks to Mr. Laing for assuming the duties of Secretary on one or two occasions during the unavoidable absence of Mr. Loots, and for typing and circulating the Minutes to the Council Members of the Institute free of charge.

Col. W. E. Puntis, who was received with applause, said :—

The next item on the Agenda is General, but before proceeding with this I desire in the first instance to say how much I appreciate the honour which the Members of the South African Institute of Quantity Surveyors have conferred upon me by electing me as President.

It is a position which after nearly 20 years membership I am proud to occupy. I undertake the duty with a certain amount of diffidence and with a feeling that the coming year is one of considerable importance and one not only requiring patience and tact, and a considerable amount of leisure at ones disposal, but also the ability of an expert financier. I can only express the hope however, that during my year of office, I may be able in however small a degree to promote and uphold the best interests of our profession and that I may do nothing to derogate from the high tradition of those eminent Surveyors who have preceded me in this Chair. Perhaps I feel that I can accept the position of President with more confidence than would otherwise have been justified, because I know that the President for the time being invariably receives the absolute confidence and the willing help of all the members of Council, and also of the general body of members of the Institute. The duties and responsibilities of the President are considerably lightened when he knows that he has the co-operation and support of kindly and generous colleagues who will put a favourable construction upon his actions and who will be lenient with his mistakes.

I have been somewhat exercised in my mind of late as to the advisability of admitting to the Institute Students or learners. As you are aware there are at present a number of young fellows studying the profession of Quantity Surveying and who will in time qualify. I feel that now is the time to bring these students into contact with the Institute and the work we are doing in the interest of quantity surveying in South Africa. They should be given some encouragement and assistance from the older and established members of the profession and feel that they can approach us with their questions and difficulties. It seems to me that we can be of more use and assistance to them and bring them into closer contact with our profession in all its phases. The fee for membership need only be a nominal one and qualification that of a recognised learner or student in quantity surveying.

As regards the examinations for the Surveyors Institution to which reference has been made this afternoon and which are now conducted under the auspices of your Institute, there are many matters requiring adjustment in order to bring the examinations in keeping with the requirements of South Africa. As an instance I may mention the methods of measurements adopted in this Country as compared with the system practised in London, which is somewhat confusing to a South African Student who at present is compelled to master two or more methods. The analysis of pricing should be that for South Africa and further the Union Public Health Act could more usefully be substituted for that of London. These are some of the matters which should receive early consideration by the incoming Council, for representation to the Surveyors Institution.

There is the Standard System of Measurement which requires to be brought up to date, not so much perhaps for republication, but with the view of having a record of amendments or additions which are considered desirable.

In regard to the Architects and Quantity Surveyors Bill which is now before Parliament, I do not propose to say much, in view of the discussions which have taken place this afternoon, but I do feel that reference should be made by me to the importance of the work which still lies in front of your Council for the ensuing year. The financial position is an extremely difficult one, and will necessitate the most careful consideration with the

view to rigid economy without retarding the progress, of our activities. Should the Act become law, your Council will cease to function as such and in its place will be created a Provisional Board, most of the members of which are to-day represented on your Council. That Board will comprise some of the most representative and pioneer quantity surveyors of South Africa and they will be entrusted with the responsibility of giving full effect to the terms of the Act. I need hardly express the hope that your loyal and cordial co-operation and support will be extended to the Provisional Board in the same hearty manner that has been accorded the Council on all occasions in the past.

The primary object of Registration is to enable the Public to distinguish a qualified from an unqualified surveyor and in course of time be the means of protecting the Public.

It must be admitted that there are to-day a number of persons calling themselves quantity surveyors, entrusted with the preparation of Bills of Quantities, which they are not qualified to undertake.

The Public can distinguish those members of the Surveyors' Institution, if they take the trouble to ascertain the meaning of the letters denoting membership F.S.I. or P.A.S.I. But I would go further and recommend that all those members should forthwith exercise their right and adopt the term "Chartered Quantity Surveyor" or "Chartered Surveyor." Other professional bodies, such as the Architects and Civil Engineers have already taken steps to ensure that their members adopt the term "Chartered" and its use is now becoming more general. As we all know the Accountants have familiarised the term "Chartered Accountant" to their great advantage. We of the Surveyors' Institution have had the right for some thirty years, but have not availed ourselves of it and I feel sure that if the term "Chartered" became generally known and recognised by the community it would mean that that person would be accepted as being capable of the duties which he professed to practise and was a qualified person in his particular profession. In order to bring the term into more general use and to enable the Public to recognise all that it implies, it is essential for all members who possess the right to do so, to delay no longer in describing themselves as "Chartered Surveyors."

It should be a guarantee to the Public that it indicates a professional man upon whom they can rely for capable and honest service.

It should tend to bind our members together and impose upon them a stronger feeling of comradeship and there would be in a more real sense an obligation upon them to maintain a higher standard of professional conduct.

Differences of opinion may arise on this subject, but I leave that for discussion on some future date.

In conclusion, I wish to again express the very great pleasure it affords me to accept the honour of President and to assure you of my earnest endeavours to assist as far as lies in my power in the advancement of our profession in South Africa.

LIME.

The British Engineering Standards Committee (S.A. Branch) has issued a suggested specification for lime for chemical and building purposes. It is naturally of such a nature as to come within the scope of a chemist's knowledge rather than that of an architect or engineer.

There are a few points, however, which are of interest to architects.

Blue Lime, is described as a magnesium lime in which the lime and magnesia shall together be not more than 65 per cent. expressed in terms of lime (Calcium Oxide CoO_2) This is for slaked blue lime. There should not be more than 5 per cent. free and combined silica, 3 per cent. of carbon dioxide (viz., commonly called carbonic acid gas), 3 per cent. water in excess of the combined water.

Slaked Lime, is described as lime which has been treated with sufficient water to convert the true lime into Calcium Hydroxide. Before lime is slaked it is described as Calcium Oxide. That is for the lime content.

It is stated that the carbon dioxide (e.g., carbonic acid gas) present in the air (about 0.3 per cent. to .04 per cent.) unites directly with the oxide (lime) and hydroxide (slaked lime) thus forming Calcium Carbonate—the identical substance from which the lime is originally produced. It is for this reason that access of air should be prevented by storing the lime in sound sacks before use.

Mr. G. S. Burt Andrews, F.R.I.B.A., M.Inst. C.E., M.I.M.E., Town Engineer, Johannesburg, is contemplating retiring from that position in February next year, for health reasons.

The Bloemfontein Art Conference.

A conference of far reaching and vital importance to Artists and Architects was held in the Town Hall, Bloemfontein, last month to discuss the formation of a proposed Dominion Institute of Art.

The proceedings were opened by the Mayor (Dr. H. J Steyn), the following delegates being present:—Professor F. W. Armstrong (School of Art, Rhodes Univerity College), Messrs. Graham Botha (Chief Archivist of the Union representing the Government), T. H. Bryant (Rhodesian Society of Fine Arts), J. Bosman (Normal College, Bloemfontein), C. T. Campion (Grahamstown Fine Arts Association), R. Crispe (Art Section, Victoria League, P.M. Burg), S. Carter (East London Society of Arts and Crafts), H. G. E. de la Cornillere (O.F.S. Institute of Architects), J. Muff-Ford (O.F.S. Society of Arts and Crafts), L. Francois (Natal Society of Artists), F. T. Jones (Eastern Province Society of Arts), D. Lefebvre (Johannesburg Sketch Club), A. R. Martin (Art Advisory Board, Durban), D. F. Malherbe (Zuid Afrikaanse Academie vir Taal, Lettere en Kuns), Professor O. J. P. Oxley (School of Art, Natal University College), Professor G. E. Pearse (University of the Witwatersrand and Association of Transvaal Architects), J. Perry (S.A. Society of Artists and Cape Institute of Architects), J. Williams (Natal Society of Art). Art).

Mr. Graham Botha was unanimously elected Chairman of the Conference.

The scheme, as submitted by the Natal Society of Artists through their able chairman, Mr. Francois, was not too favourably received as a whole by other provincial art societies, especially at Capetown and Johannesburg, but, after considerable discussion it was unanimously decided that an Institute should be formed entitled "The South African Institute of Art."

The question of the scope and activities was discussed, at length these being finally laid down as follows:—

1. To promote the intercourse of societies and individuals interested in art in South Africa and elsewhere, and to encourage the holding of exhibitions of works of art.

2. To encourage the teaching of arts and crafts.

3. To emphasise the value of art as an element in culture and to work for the removal of any disadvantages which may be hindering its better cultivation.

The question of status was the cause of considerable divergence of opinion and it was generally felt that it was somewhat premature to consider a Charter or Act of Parliament. It was finally decided that as soon as the Institute was in operation application should be made to the Government for the Institute to be regarded as a public utility society, capable of receiving grants with a view to its incorporation by Act of Parliament as soon as it should seem desirable.

Membership was next discussed and it was agreed there should be two classes.

1. Members (persons interested in Art generally, duly elected by the Council or by a Provincial Council).

2. Associates (elected by the Central Council, conditional upon their work being of sufficient standard to justify promotion from the class of members).

The annual subscription shall be ten shillings and sixpence, payable in advance on the first day of each year.

At the end of the first day a sub-committee, consisting of Messrs. Graham Botha, L. Francois, D. Lefebvre, Professors Oxley and Pearse was appointed to draft a constitution for discussion the following day.

Their proposals were as follows and were agreed to after considerable discussion:

The management of the affairs of the Institute shall be entrusted to a Central Council consisting of 21 members to be elected annually, one from each of the following bodies:—

Natal Society of Artists.
Natal Institute of Architects.
School of Art (Natal University College).
Victoria League (Pietermaritzburg).
Association of Transvaal Architects.
Johannesburg Sketch Club.
University of the Witwatersrand.
Z.A. Academie.
O.F.S. Institute of Architects.
O.F.S. Society of Arts and Crafts.
S.A. Society of Artists.
Cape Institute of Architects.
School of Art (Capetown University).
School of Art (Rhodes University College).
Grahamstown Fine Arts Association.

Port Elizabeth Society of Architects.
Port Elizabeth School of Art.
Eastern Province Society of Arts and Crafts.
East London Society of Arts and Crafts.
Rhodesian Society of Fine Arts.
Representative of the Union Government.

The officers of the Central Council shall consist of the President, two Vice-Presidents, Secretary and Treasurer. The President shall not hold office for more than two years. Any member of the Council who is unable to attend a meeting may appoint an alternate.

Provincial Councils shall be appointed at each of the following centres:—Capetown, Johannesburg, Durban, Bloemfontein, Eastern Province of the Cape, Bulawayo.

These shall conduct their own affairs and send copies of their minutes to the Secretary of the Central Council.

The headquarters of the Central Council will be the centre in which the President resides. The Central Council shall meet at least once a year, any urgent business being dealt with by an emergency committee consisting of the President, one Vice-President and one member of the Central Council.

Any decision of this emergency committee must be circulated to the members of the council for confirmation.

The Central Council shall have power to appoint sub-committees to deal with such subjects as it may approve, to draft regulations for any such sub-committees and to vote money to assist the sub-committees in their work.

All subscriptions shall be collected by the Provincial Councils and, after the deduction of sixpence per member, shall be forwarded, together with donations and other monies, to the Treasurer who shall deposit these monies in the Standard Bank.

The levy of 6d. per head shall be used for petty local expenses.

The patrons of the Institute shall be the Governor-General, the Prime Minister and the Minister for Education.

Whenever practicable, and suitable halls for the purpose are obtainable, the Council shall arrange for an annual exhibition to be held in such centre as the council shall determine.

The Council shall collect and administer funds for the purpose of scholarships, bursaries and travelling studentships open to South African artists and students.

It was finally agreed to send copies of the minutes to each of the Societies and Institutions represented for comment and discussion at the next meeting.

A Provisional Central Council was formed consisting of the delegates present.

Mr. Francois was unanimously elected the first President (Provisional) of the Institute. The proceedings terminated with a hearty vote of thanks to the Natal Society of Artists.

The delegates were entertained at tea by Mr. and Mrs. Bosman, of the Normal College, and were afterwards motored round the town and suburbs as guests of the Municipality.

It is earnestly hoped that all societies and institutions as well as those interested in Art will make a great effort to press forward the new movement which should be of great value in fostering the arts and crafts, assisting in art education and creating a wider public interest in art than has hitherto existed.

G. E. PEARSE.

CIVIC SURVEY OF JOHANNESBURG.

The Town Planning Association (Transvaal), have interested themselves in a proposal to prepare a Civic survey of the Municipal Area of Johannesburg and its environments. At the request of the General Purposes Committee, Johannesburg Municipal Council, a sub-committee consisting of Messrs. B. W. Brayshaw, Harold Porter, C. P. Tompkins and A. Stanley Furner, prepared the following memorandum which was received by the General Purposes Committee and resulted in a deputation from the Town Planning Association meeting the members of the committee and further emphasising the necessity for a civic survey in terms of the latter portion of this article:—

A Civic Survey results in a statement of all existing conditions which have to be considered in evolving a plan for the future growth of a city. The present time appears to be very opportune for making a definite scheme of development for Johannesburg, as during the next twenty years or so it will probably change from an essentially mining town to an industrial one, as the mines are gradually worked out. And unless the future development of factory areas, the districts for working class housing, the question of industrial power plant, and the design of suitable road and sewerage

systems are carefully considered great loss of economic efficiency and local amenities will result.

Another factor of growing importance is that of traffic. The enormous increase in the use of motor transport is causing considerable congestion in the centre of the town, parking areas are totally inadequate to the needs and accidents are becoming more and more frequent. Efficient arterial roads to the outskirts of the town need to be developed on a definite plan to keep pace with the growing population and more rapid and direct means of communication between the various suburbs are required.

The use of the ground over the disused mines as building areas or open spaces should be considered, as they are among the worst dust producing districts in the town. Railway development requires consideration on the score of efficient service, local amenities and elimination of danger spots.

It is impossible to evolve satisfactorily any one branch of town development, without due consideration of all the others. Roads must be designed in relation to residential, business and industrial areas, and residential districts must be placed in relation to factories, dust zones and local amenities It will be seen therefore that before any efficient scheme of town planning can be produced a thorough survey of existing conditions is necessary and it is for this purpose that a Civic Survey is required.

The necessity for a scheme of development in the case of Johannesburg is obvious. The lack of authority to control the various bodies which have modelled the town in the past has resulted in some unfortunate errors, for example the Jeppe and Braamfontein subways, the growing congestion in the centre of the town, the loss of open spaces and the ill considered placing of some of the public buildings. Many of these defects appear to be unalterable, but many can doubtless be modified in the future.

The growth of a large modern town is an exceedingly complicated development and one which unless carefully controlled is likely to lead to undesirable, uneconomical and inconvenient conditions. To assist a logical and considered growth Acts have been passed in various countries to give the necessary powers to the governing bodies of towns for carrying out future developments on carefully considered lines. No longer need communities watch sites, which should be available for economical industrial growth, being used for housing because the land at the moment is cheap, no longer need they allow houses to be built on sites which are unsuitable either for reasons of health or accessibility.

That a definite scheme for future development is regarded as being essential is shown in Clause 46 of the Act of 1919, in England, which reads as follows :—

"The council of every borough or other urban district containing on the first day of January Nineteen Hundred and Twenty-three a population according to the last census for the time being of more than twenty thousand shall, within three years of that date, prepare and submit to the Local Government Board a Town Planning Scheme in respect of all land within the borough or urban district in respect of which a town planning scheme may be made under the act of 1909."

This scheme for development cannot properly be made without a survey, a statement of existing conditions which will affect future growth. Many surveys have been produced, those carried out by Prof. Abercrombie in conjunction with the local authorities, for Sheffield and the Doncaster Region being two of the best known. A survey of this kind falls into two parts, the first confining itself to existing conditions, the second to future development. Some of the more important points which would have to be considered are :—

Natural Topography.—Amenities to be preserved, climate and trees.

Geological Topography.—Position of mines existing and to be developed. The future of mining and its relation to civic development.

Dust Areas and Prevalent Winds.—In relation to residential areas and the reduction of dust storms.

Historical Survey.—Growth of the population and town. Errors in the past to be avoided and characteristics to be preserved.

Municipal Boundary.—In relation to future growth. Control of building areas just outside the boundary.

Zoning.—Existing centres of mining, industries, business, shopping, housing, etc. Future development and control to prevent depreciation of existing properties. Necessary legislation.

Industrial Survey.—Future growth of industrial area and consequent housing for workers. Railway communication and roads for heavy lorry traffic. Power plant and water.

Communications.—Roads, probable increase of traffic, parking areas, danger points, ring roads for lateral communication, traffic density, use of trams and buses, accessibility of suburbs.

Population.—Density and future increase. Colour question and segregation.

Housing.—Condemnation of slum areas, reconstruction and finance. Health conditions in various areas deduced from death rate. Redistribution. Sanitation and elimination or sanitary lanes.

Open Spaces.—Parks, recreation grounds, etc., and their distribution. Accessibility of playgrounds for children. Playgrounds for natives.

Suburbs.—Future development, creation of amusement and shopping centres in more distant suburbs.

The programme at first sight appears to be enormous and impossible to attain, but it must be remembered that it is an object to be aimed at, the final result only being achieved after years of gradual development, but on a definite plan and not as an ill considered patchwork. Without a diagnosis a cure cannot be effected. The work on a civic survey can never be completely finished, for new and unforseen circumstances will arise which will require further consideration. A great deal of research has already been accomplished and a large part of the work of the survey would be the collection and correlation of this material.

You will be acquainted with the Memorandum on the subject of a Civic Survey prepared by Mr. A. Stanley Furner on behalf of this Association.

The Memorandum dealt with the objects of and results to be obtained by a Civic Survey. It traces some of the difficulties and faults which have resulted from the lack of some settled scheme in the development of Johannesburg: attention was drawn to the critical epoch in the history of this Town when a change from a purely mining to an industrial town will take place and of grasping the present opportune time when many important considerations are being decided of evolving some settled scheme of development.

The Memorandum quoted an Act passed in 1919 in England, which compelled all boroughs of 20,000 inhabitants to prepare (by the beginning of 1926) a definite programme of development: and thus obtain the continuity of policy so essential for the economic growth and efficient planning of any town.

Mr. Furner then dealt in some detail with the two points into which a Civic Survey would naturally fall.

The first division of a Civic Survey should give a graphic illustration by a series of Maps of the past history of a Town: all existing conditions such as Topography, Engineering, Traffic, Population, Health, Trunk Roads and communications generally, Open Spaces, Industrial and Residential Areas. Much of this information in relation to the conditions as they exist to-day are doubtless already in the possession of this Municipality.

The collection, correlation, and illustration by a series of comprehensive Maps placing each factor in relative position would be the first step in the Civic Survey of this Town.

On this foundation well and securely laid with accurate data would be built a scheme of future development.

It is this definite scheme of future development which would constitute the second portion of the Survey. Profiting by the mistakes of the past and by the experience of other cities and countries with accurate information carefully correlated means would be placed at the disposal of this community of devising an economic and efficient scheme of development on a settled plan with the addition of a most important factor—"continuity of policy."

Innumerable instances might be given in Johannesburg, as in any other city of this size, of changes in policy of bad road communications and the inaccessibility of one portion of a town to other portions—all of which could have been avoided or a least mitigated by a Civic Survey.

The traffic problem with the enormous increase in motor transport is already becoming a serious problem. There is no solution, but the provision of more arterial roads or the widening of the present thoroughfares, a problem immediately calling for a study of the distribution and classification of your population, your business sites in relation to your residential areas.

Increased population will naturally follow industrial development, and the present congestion in the centre of Johannesburg at week ends would point to the fact that the development of shopping and amusement centres in other portions of the town are becoming a vital necessity.

This Council has recently discussed the allotment of a definite area for industries and allocated an area for this purpose. This position has a settled population to the North and North East practically cut off from this area by lack of communications, the approach from the East will revive the problem of railway crossings.

Industries, on the other hand, are slowly developing in haphazard manner in what might be described as the "Mining area" to the south of the town. Here, as mining activities decrease more and more, ground will become available for use. It is an area covered by buildings, mine dumps and railway sidings, and one that might easily develop into an eye-sore and a dangerous vicinity in close proximity to the town. On the other hand a well-considered scheme conceived in good time might turn it into a valuable asset. Titles to land in proclaimed areas such as this are often complicated and duplicated by mining rights and surface rights. government rights and private ownerships. It may well happen that legislation would be required to deal with difficulties that will arise and a Civic Survey would indicate what further powers might be required.

The study of the density and classification of our population would have a very direct bearing on the development of our road system in general, and the lateral comunication or ring roads connecting our outlying suburbs would follow in natural sequence.

There is a striking fact in connection with roads in Johannesburg—that it has been left to the enterprise of a Private Corporation to develop perhaps the most interesting avenue to the North for the economic development of the Houghton Estate—the Munro Drive, at once a source of utility and pleasure to the inhabitants of this town, presenting a unique view of the beautiful country to the North of Johannesburg.

The adequacy of playing grounds and open spaces in the outlying suburbs is one that can only be determined by a general review of the existing conditions as shown by a Civic Survey.

It has not been considered necessary to stress the point of the immense advantage such a Survey would be to the Engineering Staff of this Council. The Economic value of the completed plans illustrating your population and its classification and much other valuable data in relation to your Public Services, such as Water, Light, Sewerage, possible Gas Mains, Telephone System and Storm Water Drains, is obvious, and in a short memorandum of this nature may well give place to other points of consideration.

It is with the first portion only of this Survey that this Council would immediately be concerned. Without detailed knowledge of the machinery at the disposal of this Municipality, it is difficult to estimate the cost, but this Association feels that with the addition of possibly one or two draughtsmen, the first portion of this Survey could be carried on at comparatively small expense to the Town and with a view to arriving at a close estimate of the cost it is suggested that the officials of the Municipality be requested to collaborate with this Association on the details and cost of the survey.

The second portion of the Survey—that is the scheme for future development—naturally follows on the completion of the ground work. In the preparation of this portion of the Survey it will be necessary for the Town to avail itself of the best talent obtainable and have the advice of a man or a committee who has made a close study of the problems and their solution which have faced other countries.

Such a scheme should be comprehensive and yet elastic enough to meet changing conditions. It would enable this town to anticipate obvious difficulties and face other problems with all their information in its correct relative position.

THE ARCHITECTS' LICENCE.

In the Annual Report of Council to Members for last year reference was made on page six to the communication to the Minister for Finance respecting the new professional taxation in the form of a licence. To that communication the following reply was received and is published for the information of members.

> "In reply to your letter of the 22nd ultimo, on the subject of the licences to be imposed upon Architects and Quantity Surveyors, I have the honour to inform you in regard to the points raised as follows:—
>
> 1. Architects who prepare Bills of Quantities in connection with any work or building of which they are architects will not require to be separately licensed as Quantity Surveyors.

2. If, however, they prepare Bills of Quantities independently of any works of which they are the architects they will be required to be licensed both as Architects and Quantity Surveyors.

3. These licenses will be required by every person so practising. If a firm or partnership carries on the profession each individual partner must be separately licensed. This alters the law as it presently exists in the Transvaal, and brings it into line with that now existing in the Cape and Orange Free State.

4. With regard to your suggestion that registered Architects should be protected against competition by un-registered persons, I am instructed to inform you that it is considered that this is hardly a matter for inclusion in a Licensing Bill, under which any person, whether registered or unregistered, who actually carries on business as an architect will be liable to the license duty imposed."

THE ORIENT.

SKETCH No. 7.

By G. W. NICOLAY, F.R.I.B.A.

Of all the pleasures which are characteristic of humanity, perhaps there is not one that equals that which the traveller experiences from time to time, as he passes through unknown countries and mixes with strange peoples.

Useless as it may be to speculate what appeal was made to the traveller in times past by such things; it is hard to think that the exalted mental and physical, which cannot be denied them as artists. may be taken as proof that the eyes which governed hands that could guide the brush with such faithfulness, the pleasure which, even the uncultured so keenly appreciate.

At all events the present editor gathers from his notes that Lucas Tudril and his friend De Bruil, never failed to notice the fine views frequently presented as they rode through the hills that stood between "The Rock" and their rendezvous with Wi-Hi. At one time they seemed stuck to the side of the world, like flies on a wall: the dangerous state of the road, and the narrowness of it, claiming their whole attention. Then, as they went over the top of a bluff, the whole expanse of the universe seemed stretched out at their feet; and De Bruil would point out a porcelain dome that glittered in the light, though eighty miles away, or a sheet of water sent forward a sunflash that illuminated the hillside just in front of them, from a greater distance. Or they would pass through a dark valley; the hills on either side excluding the sunlight except during the noon-tide, the road circling round the end of a pool, still and fathomless, and blue as the ethereal vault above.

And so they journeyed on through pleasant places: their escort appearing from time to time, and disappearing and some times an orderly riding up to them, to deliver a report or to receive orders, tell them where their next meal would be served, or their next bivouac prepared; and where, couched on skins, in the fragrant air, and under the clear sky they slept the unconventional sleep, undisturbed, sound and invigorating, and which the more usual arrangements seldom allow.

As they travelled, much time had been devoted to the settlement of time and place for their future meeting, and the route by which they would travel home together. Communication was difficult and trustworthy agents scarce, and they decided to take Wi-Hi into their confidence.

On the morning of the fourth day they arrived at the place, near the border where they expected to hear from Wi-Hi. As they finished their mid-day meal, a messenger was brought in by the officer commanding the patrol. He was not expected, and in those times and places, that was to be suspected, and the messanger stood between two soldiers.

De Bruil turned and looked at the messenger, thinking he knew his face, and spoke as he rose; "whom have you there Roland?" "A messenger from Wi-Hi, I think he was in Wi-Hi's company when you last saw him." Tudril recognised him at once, and De Bruil demanded the message. The messenger bowed low and as he approached said earnestly, "I give this into the captain General's own hand." De Bruil assented, opened and read the letter, and handed it to Tudril. Then taking from his belt a small package, gave it to the messenger who was immediately conducted to the border.

The following morning the two friends found Wi-Hi, in good health and spirits at Fan-ta-si, which was much farther West than where their meeting was previously intended.

Wi-Hi though not at home, was surrounded with the luxuries which he seemed to regard as necessaries, his rather ceremonious hospitality was accompanied with a charm of manner that quite redeemed it from a sense of formality, and kept them from even a moment's irritation while earnestly discussing during the whole of the next day the routes, stations, and means of communication, for the journey which Wi-Hi and Tudril proposed to prosecute as far as Alexandria and for De Bruil, who would eventually join them there, en route for Venice.

Their plans settled to their entire satisfaction, they spent the remainder of the day, and sooth to say the greater part of the night over the general news of the times, and with the dawn they had breakfast together; De Bruil returned to the duties of his command, and the others settled down to the business with which they were jointly concerned.

Lucas Tudril was beginning to expect that wherever he stayed, some building would be accessible, of sufficient interest to occupy him during those delays which the dilatory habits of the East brought forth in such profusion, and here again his desire was satisfied.

Fan-ta-si, in times past had been a place of great importance, and the residence of one of the magnates of the country: but the rough of war had robbed it of all political interest, and for a long time past, the place had been nothing more than an important trading centre.

The surrounding country was an undulating and extensive plateau, and in an outcrop of rock on some of the higher ground, showing like a low rough ridge on the rise, a strong perennial spring gushing out among a clump of trees fed the brook which supplied the town with water.

The road passed about two miles away from the stream: but the stream after getting to the lower ground by the easiest way, made a turn near it and continued close by for nearly three miles, and the town lay on the opposite side along this reach.

The old caravansary, which enclosed a very large area, stood close to where the stream neared the road, and across the road near the spring, stood the ancient palace of the "Magnate," which had been turned to useful purpose, as the rest house of the wealthy class of travellers.

Here Wi-Hi was established in the easy comfort which he deemed essential, and had arranged so that he could entertain his friends (as it were), in his own house; and he kept about him his personal servants, who, though like him, travelling on horseback, and armed, marched in the same order and discipline as when they escorted him from the silk factory to Fu-san-su.

Both the caravansary and the palace claimed Tudril's attention. They were planned on similar lines, although the former enclosed a vast parallelogram the length of which was about three times the dimension of its width; and the palace a true square of about three hundred feet, within a spacious walled enclosure, formerly the palace gardens.

The caravansary appeared to a spectator, stationed near one end of the enclosure, like a part of a street which was the beginning of a town being built by farsighted, or ambitious people. The buildings looked so low and mean that the mind was troubled to account for the possibility of accommodating the crowds of people that must have gathered there full often; and which he could, mentally, place as in a vision.

A place of the kind and of such magnitude he had never seen or thought of. At one end a large open space provided those arriving to halt to make the necessary arrangements entitling them to enter: the other a similar space, where they could having settled their accounts, get their property and personnel into order for departing. The gate at each end was twelve feet wide and nine feet high. Each was flanked by rather dumpy towers which were connected by a massive round arch carrying a parapetted platform, whence the watchman could overlook both the enclosure and the road.

Along the sides of the enclosure, the buildings consisted of a continuous arcade of two alleys, each nine feet wide, clear of the columns; and behind it, accommodation suitable to the merchants of those days. The whole length was divided into equal bays of fifteen feet from centre to centre.

The front arcade had pointed arches; but the shafts on which they rested were separated by a pier three feet wide which projected two feet and a half from the wall face, and was two feet above the parapet which crowned the wall head. The inner arcade had round arches, carried by the same shafts that supported the transverse arches which were pointed.

Tudril notes that this arrangement enabled the builders to keep the heads of the arches at the

same height, and the difference between the longitudinal and transverse dimensions, arranged, "because the Roman cement floor could be conveniently concreted over a space of about nine feet. "The floor was laid with coarse red" potter's slab, and ceiled on the underside with cement. The space covered by these arcades was floored with the same course material as the floor above.

The walls of the ground storey were three feet and a half thick to the height of the floor above the arcades; fifteen feet from the ground. On both sides of the enclosure, that is, from the one gate pier to the other.

At this height the wall, from the gate to the arcade was covered with a coping of "potter's work," flat over the inner foot of the wall, and then sloping quickly to the outer face.

The buildings behind the arcade were precisely the same in each bay. No advance upon the most ancient arrangement of a house of two stories. A single room below and two above: one of the upper rooms being reduced in width, to make space for a narrow stairway: which in this instance, was taken out of the room farthest from the enclosure: and very likely to provide, that should an undesirable visitor approach either from the flat over the arcades or from the stair (the merchandise being in the smaller room, the occupier might expect to defend his property.

The lower rooms were twenty-four feet from front to back, lighted at the back by "three little windows" and had a wide round arch opening into the arcade, this was fitted as shopfronts, after the manner of the times.

Upstairs, the front room, fifteen by twelve, had "a door and three windows" in front, and at the back two strong doors, one to the back room and one to the stairs. On this floor also, there were three small windows, one to the stair and two to the room. None of the windows were glazed, but as the least thickness of wall was two feet, by taking the sills with a steep upward slope to within a few inches of the inside of the wall, but little rain came in: at all events to the thinking of those who had the building of the place. The floors were of the same make as that over the arcades and so were the stairs.

Tudril estimated that there must, in its palmy days, have often housed six or seven thousand people.

All that can be gleaned as to materials and details generally amounts but to little, although Tudril notes the stone shafts with their "simple" capitals and bases, the arch rings and window sills, the brick walling also; and adds,—"all so like those at Fu-san-su that they probably came from the same places.

What claimed successfully Tudril's attention here was the general arrangement of the place,, the monumental character of buildings in themselves almost trivial, the value of the place as a commercial centre when (as he conjectured) a large portion of the shops were permanently occupied by those who both bought and sold and served as distributors.

Beyond the arcades, the only refinement which attracted his attention particularly, was the balustrade to the "flat," which gained delicacy by contrast with the square piers doing duty as buttresses.

This was well arranged, as was all the rest of the work. It was well done, the flooring slabs were continued to the face of the arches below, where the weathering of a simply moulded cornice began, and upon the slabs a row of small shafts, each (with cap and base) cut out of a single stone, was set: the intervals between them being eight or nine inches. Upon these was set a plain coping. The half shafts against the piers were cut out of the solid and the remainder housed in the brick work.

Nothing further can be extracted from Tudril's notes, he even passes by the roof, apparently not noticing it.

His stay at Fan-ta-si did not exceed a month, and his business more engrossing.

The building he was lodged in, externally interesting, had had so many alterations made internally, at many times, and for different purposes. that the original arrangements of the rooms could not be traced.

A remarkable similarity between the two buildings when Tudril saw them perhaps accounts for his somewhat apathetic interest in them.

In general conception the plans were identical: two sides occupied by the buildings proper, and the others by gates and their appurtenances. Not by any means similar in other respects, either in appearance or visible materials.

A public entrance in the side towards the public approach; and grouped with it accommodation for the porter and other servants. On the right hand of the courtyard the official, and on the left the private buildings. In the further side, a gate similarly planned gave entrance to the public section of the gardens.

The rooms attached to both gates had been divided in an haphazard way, one as the residence of the proprietor, and the the other for his counting house and principal servants. In the process alterations were made outside as well as in, the notes give nothing further about them except that they agreed well with the other parts.

The principal buildings substantially alike in external appearance, the frontage was approximately three hundred feet, and divided into five principal sections. The centre of each chief feature of fifteen feet in width, differed from the rest. Between these, were four divisions of about eleven feet. Five of these special features in each facade, and between them the smaller units. This part of the work was about thirty-six feet from front to back in three divisions, but the chief features only occupied two of them, and covered a space of fifteen feet by twenty-four. Beyond the last of these each way, there was one of the smaller divisions, and a similar division returned towards the centre of the court. These projecting features were enclosed with walls and contained stairs to the floor above.

All the small divisions were covered with "Roman" vaults and on these vaults a floor was laid like that at the caravansarai.

The five wide divisions were covered with plain pointed vaults, springing from a cornice enriched with foliage, supported by the arches at the ends of the Roman vaults. These vaults were of the shape though graceful which has acquired the ungraceful name "Ogee"; and would have been unstable, but for their careful construction. Externally the ogee form was completed and finished with a ridge composed of rich foliage freely pierced, light and elegant. Internally, the reflex (upper) part of the curve was struck from a more distant centre, and truncated by a small, full segment, and so the constructors devised a serviceable key. This work was only eight inches thick; and so, apparently to make assurance doubly sure, it was keyed together as cleverly as the foundation of Eddystone Lighthouse. The front and back arches had the outside members of their mouldings carried up in agreement with the outside curve, and the inner members conforming to the underside of the vault, leaving a triangular space which was filled with foliage; and here a refinement was introduced, which Tudril notes with approval, by making the small segment three parts of a circle, and below it bringing the same member gently forward to meet it, in a manner reminiscent of some gables to be seen in Japan. The backs of these arches form a point a little above the balustrade, which stopped against their inner half, carried foliage like that on the ridge, and at the apex this gathered round a pedestal, upon which stood a draped figure. The balustrade was similar to that in the caravansarai, but with details as refined as the work on these vaults.

All this work was of porcelain with all the exposed faces glazed.

The walls of the other parts of the palace were faced with glazed bricks, the windows, rather small, but in the large rooms grouped closely together, and plain; the lintels only being "ornamental."

Tudril was impressed with the colour, which he notes as very fine:—pale green in the mass "differenced with sympathetic blue and gold."

The day of parting came: and Lucas Tudril, riding beside Wi-Hi with his attendants in the same order as formerly, bid farewell to Fan-ta-si.

REVIEW.

Builders Estimates and Pricing Data. Their Preparation and Analysis, by Henry A. Mackmin, F.S.I., M.R.San. I.

Published by Chapman and Hall, Ltd., 11, Henrietta Street, Covent Garden, London, W.C.2. Price, 9/6 net.

This volume, one of the Directly-Useful **D.U.** Technical Series, although prepared primarily for the Builder and Contractor, will be found of considerable use to Architects and Quantity Surveyors. We recommend its careful perusal and study to students and the younger practitioner. The methods are those in practice in London and the South of England, such as measurement of brickwork by rods, and timber by standards, but the system shown of arriving at the cost of each item is so very clear that it is easily adaptable to any local conditions. Instances are given suiting the practice in the North of England and also in the Midlands, in the use of the standard yard instead of the rod. A most useful chapter to the contractor is that dealing with pricing for shuttering in reinforced concrete work, thus showing it is well up to date. All calculations are worked out at cost (London prices) and the percentage of profit required by the builder is to be added to each item or at the end of the Bill. An instance of the careful and accurate methods adopted in order to ascertain the actual cost of the mortar

required in a rod of brickwork, the cubical contents of the horizontal joints, vertical cross joints and vertical longitudinal joints are measured, and then the capacity of the frogs, one or two to each brick as the case may be.

In chapter 17 it is interesting to read that in the examination for Quantity Surveyors under the Surveyors Institution (Quantity Section), it is now required that all candidates must take papers in "Analysis of Pricing," this new subject being introduced for the first time in 1923, therefore, this book should be closely followed by the quantity surveying student. The information is also given that candidates from certain building establishments of sufficient standing are now accepted for examination by the Surveyors Institution, it being considered that the training in a builder's office is of great value to Quantity Surveyors but it must be noted that such candidates, if successful, cannot become members of the Institution until they are in actual practice as Quantity Surveyors. Some typical or rather actual copies of recent examination papers are inserted in this last chapter.

Although the prices in this book are based on London data, chapter two includes tables which will enable the data given to be used in any district whatever the wage paid, or to enable adjustments to be made in the event of any increase or decrease in wages.

To the builder who is in the habit of pricing his tender with care and accuracy, the hints obtained in this volume should be invaluable.

H.R.R.

SIGNS

In the olden days the shop signs made a sort of jolly, herbaceous border for the streets. Every trade had its symbol, which the tradesman proudly displayed above his doorway; and these gaily-painted traditional devices stuck out from the fronts of the houses like banners, creaking drearily in the stillness of the night and often falling on the heads of passers by.

The accidents were so many and the noise so great that in 1762, by Act of Parliament, all London signboards were removed—except those that were fixed firmly to the front of the buildings. But this rather sensible interference seems to have crushed the spirit of sign painters and makers, and from the nineteenth century onwards our streets have been afflicted with the most monstrously ugly notices, proclaiming the fact that here trades, not a barber or a pharmacist, but Jones, Brown or Smith.

The Victorian signs—still, alas! ubiquitous—are the sorriest examples of publicity. They have no colour, no charm or design. They favour a fearful combination of opaque glass and fat, bastard lettering, "embellished" by iron mountings that wriggle and writhe with a most indecent lack of restraint. Still worse, from the standpoint of salesmanship they are seldom noticed. They are far too monotonous and uninviting to arrest the attention of the thousands of potential customers who promenade the streets. True, they do not fall upon our heads, or creak and moan on a windy night. But these virtues are negative; while their positive value as a form of gay, arresting salesmanship is nil.

Bond Street—that Mecca of sybarites—has, perhaps, half a dozen signs among some hundreds that are worthy of their situation, or add any inviting touch to this historical highway; but in London, or any other city, it is only here and there that public institutions and shops have shown either taste or advertorial flair in the notices they displayed in order to tempt or to inform pedestrians.

But these few are making an impression—such an impression that one is certain a signboard *renaissance* is about to take place. Certain commercial and municipal magnates, and lesser individuals with trading genius, have awakened to the value of good lettering, and have found that colour "talks."

In the happy past, artistic snobbery did not prevent Holbein, Morland, Hogarth, Corregio and David Cox from painting signs, though usually for inns. And there are rare occasions to-day when the signboard manufacturer, who too often knows nothing of design, is not invited to make proposals while fine artists like Llewelyn Roberts, Macdonald Gill and McKnight Kauffer are eagerly sought for and given freedom of expression.

They can take an ordinary trade title and imbue it with the most startling significance and beauty, while retaining, in fact emphasising, the characteristic note—a bank's dignity, a perfumer's elegance, an omnibus company's service, or a *restaurateur's*

invitation. Their signs are seen and commented on; and, even more important, their message sticks. They have the full advertorial value of their purpose, and they add not only to the prestige of their owners, but to the gaiety and beauty of our streets.

The London General Omnibus Company have recently put up new bus stop signs all over London, which are entirely utilitarian and yet attractive. These signs were designed and made by The Birmingham Guild Ltd., whose work is very prominent in London. The note, of course, was legibility, and the makers, by their clever use of bronze frames and enamelled steel, have produced a notice that needs no upkeep, since its materials are not affected by climatic conditions, and, therefore, will not fade or crack. Everything about that sign is pleasant and effective, and shows us that the most utilitarian objects can add their quota of distinction to our streets.

Mr. J. S. Cleland, Chief Architect, Public Works Department, Pretoria, has been elected a Fellow of the Royal Institute of British Architects.

Mr. J. E. Simmons, of Phoenix Buildings, Escombe Street, Witbank, and Mr. F. Carstairs Rogers, Stockdale Street, Kimberley, have been elected members of the Association of Transvaal Architects and registered as architects in the Transvaal.

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In the recent competition for a new Town Hall at Bethlehem, O.F.S., twenty designs were submitted and the Assessor, Mr. Wallace Paton. F.R.I.B.A., of Durban, awarded the premiums as follows:—

First, Messrs Walgate and Elsworth, A.A.R.I.B.A., Capetown.
Second, Mr Clement Seneque, Durban.
Third, Mr. F. W. Masey, Bloemfontein.

The South African Reserve Bank are calling for competitive designs from architects in private practice in South Africa for a new branch bank to be erected at Cape Town.

Premiums of £300, £200, and £100 are offered to the authors of the designs placed, first, second and third respectively. The designs are to be assessed by Mr. J. S. Cleland, F.R.I.B.A., Chief Government Architect, Pretoria.

Applications for the Conditions of Competition should be made to the Secretary of the South African Reserve Bank, Pretoria and each application should be accompanied by a deposit fee of £2 2s. 0d.

The sending-in date is 30th April, 1926.

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