

THE SOUTH AFRICAN ARCHITECTURAL RECORD

THE JOURNAL OF THE TRANSVAAL, NATAL AND ORANGE FREE STATE PROVINCIAL
INSTITUTES OF SOUTH AFRICAN ARCHITECTS AND THE CHAPTER OF SOUTH AFRICAN
QUANTITY SURVEYORS.

Vol. XLIII. No. 51.

SEPTEMBER, 1928

CONTENTS.

LOUIS THIBAUT. Officer of the Engineers and Architect at the Cape of Good Hope, 1788—1815	...	...	55—62
IDEALS IN ARCHITECTURE. By Rex Martienssen	...	...	62—63
UNIVERSITY OF THE WITWATERSRAND, SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE. Annual Exhibition and Prize Giving	...	...	64—66
PROFESSIONAL NEWS :			
The Central Council	...	...	70—71
The Chapter of South African Quantity Surveyors	...	...	71—74
The Natal Provincial Institute	...	...	74
Obituary. Mr. W. Street-Wilson	...	...	74—75
The Transvaal Provincial Institute	...	...	75
The Town Planning Association	...	...	75—76
News Items	...	...	76—77
Columbus Memorial Light House	...	...	77—78
R.I.B.A.	...	...	78—80
Competition for the Design of a Garage in the Theatre area of London	...	...	80—81

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.

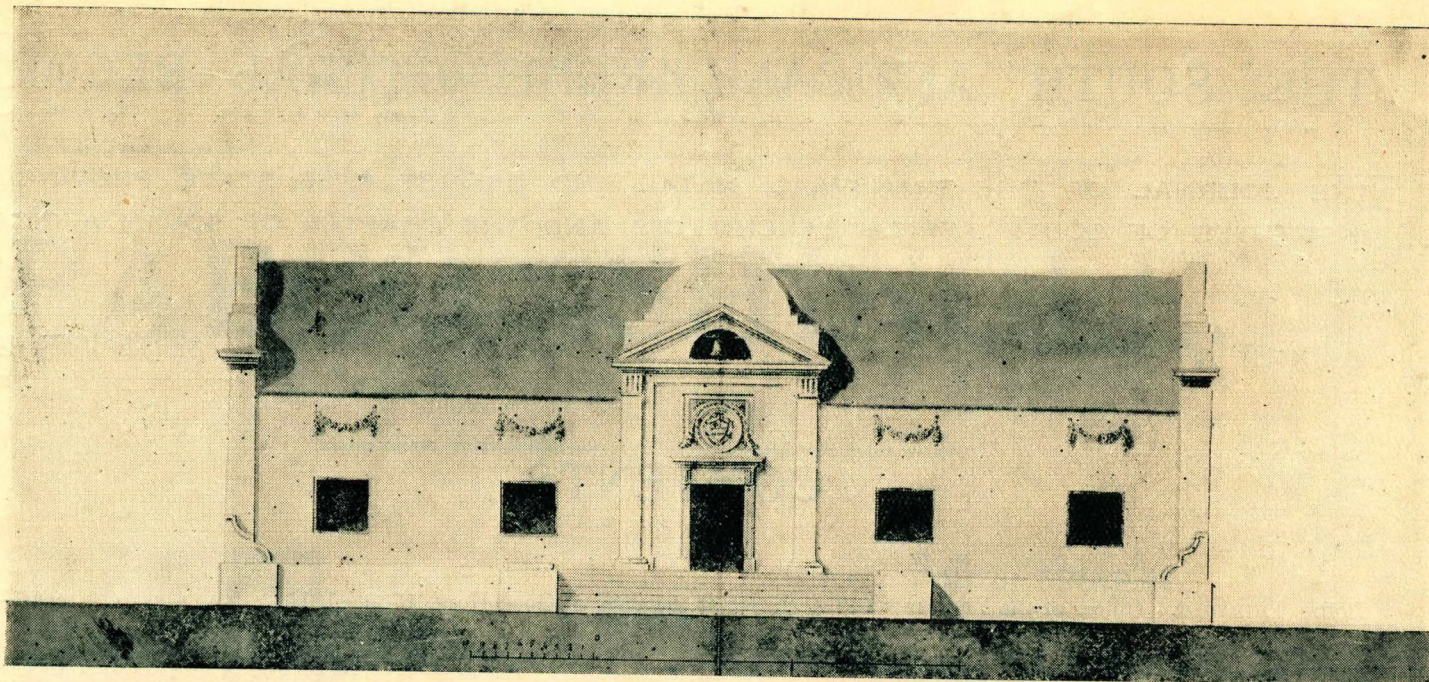
The Association does not hold itself responsible for the opinions expressed by individual contributors.

Annual Subscription per post 5s., direct from the Business Manager.

Hon. Editor—Professor G. E. Pearse.

Business Manager—A. S. Pearse.

67, Exploration Buildings, Commissioner Street, Johannesburg. P.O. Box 2266. 'Phone 5821.



DESIGN FOR THE DROSTDY AT GRAAF REINET.

*A delicately finished original drawing by
Louis Thibault. Presented to the University
of the Witwatersrand by Mr. John Perry,
F.R.I.B.A.*

THE SOUTH AFRICAN ARCHITECTURAL RECORD

Vol. XIII. No. 51.

SEPTEMBER, 1928

LOUIS THIBAUT.

OFFICER OF THE ENGINEERS AND ARCHITECT
AT THE CAPE OF GOOD HOPE, 1788 — 1815.*

In 1922 a richly illustrated work, entitled "Historic Houses of South Africa," appeared in London, and at the Cape of Good Hope.

The authoress, Miss Dorothea Fairbridge, gives a description of the old public buildings and houses in Cape Town and the neighbouring districts of Stellenbosch, Drakenstein, Tulbagh and Swellendam. She relates the circumstances in which these different monuments were built and, in the course of the work, recalls some biographical anecdotes of the persons who lived in them.

Now, among the names of the architects who practised their art at the Cape of Good Hope, the one most frequently mentioned by Miss Fairbridge is that of a Frenchman, Louis Thibault.

That one of our architects had, at the end of the 18th century and the beginning of the 19th, erected a few buildings at the Cape of Good Hope, some of which still exist to-day, is an event surprising enough, and one sufficiently little known as to warrant taking up the attention, for a few moments, of a Society, the object of whose studies is the many and varied activities of Frenchmen in countries overseas. The extracts taken from Miss Fairbridge's work have been amplified with information from other sources.

Mr. George Mac Call Theal, in his *Records of the Cape Colony*,† has referred to several very important documents dealing with the biography of Thibault, notably a long letter which the latter wrote on October 13th, 1800, to a certain William Huskisson, an official of the War Office and "Agent in London for the Cape Colony."

Finally, Mr. Graham Botha, archivist at the Cape of Good Hope, has been kind enough to give me some notes gleaned from the archives under his care.

I. ARRIVAL OF LOUIS THIBAUT AT THE CAPE.

In the first place, one raises the question: How did a Frenchman come to practice the art of architecture at the extremity of South Africa, one hundred and forty years ago? Louis Michel Thibault was born about 1750 at Picquigny, near Amiens. He chose the profession of an Architect; his name appears in the list of students in the proceedings of the Royal Academy of Architecture, at Paris, in 1775.** He was a pupil of the celebrated artist Gabriel, chief architect to the King and director of the Academy. Thibault evidently followed the course at the Academy and took part in the students competitions. Every month the Academy set the students a subject for competition. Thus the programmes for the *concours* set in January and March, 1775, were respectively "a gateway to a commercial town," and "an altar for the principal chapel in a circular building." Thibault won both of these; he obtained the honour of being permitted to present to Louis XVI., on September 21st, 1776, a model in terra-cotta of a French order of architecture conceived by himself. This model, 3ft. 6in. high, consisted of three columns arranged in plan on an equilateral triangle. Base, shaft and capital were enriched with an abundance of floral decorations: the whole being very original and pleasing.

The drawing representing this architectural *motif* is still preserved at the Cape in M. Kolbe's collection. Thibault has added the following inscription, recalling a memorable event in his life as a student:

"Plan of a French order designed by myself and a French engineer in 1774, and presented to the King, on September 21st, 1776. The model has been made by me in terra-cotta. I was then in Paris holding the position of *premier* student of the Royal Academy of Architecture."

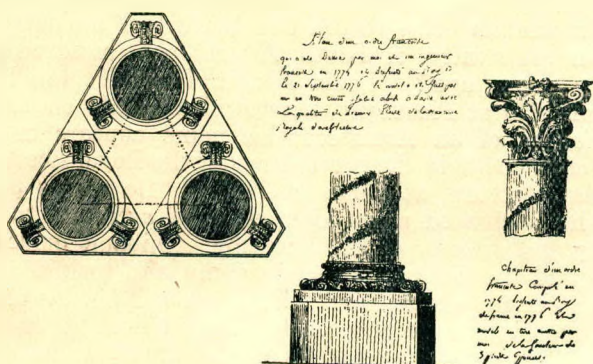
*A paper read in Paris, March 6th, 1924, by M. Henri Dehérain, translated from the French by G. E. Pearse to whom it was kindly lent by Mr. C. Graham Botha, Chief Archivist of the Union

†Vol. I, pp. 141-146; Vol. III, pp. 306-314; Vol. V, pp. 404-405.

**Procès-verbaux de l'Académie royale d'Architecture, published by Henry Lemmonier, Vol. VIII, p. 224.

Why did this pupil of Gabriel, whose future career was assured, give it up for these adventures? Why, especially, did he get in touch with a Swiss officer, Col. Charles Daniel de Meuron, who, in 1781, raised a regiment of Neuchâtel Swiss and became colonel, we have not, up to the present, been able to discover. We only know that in 1781, Thibault studied at Paris as a military engineer, comparatively simple work for an architect, at Col. de Meuron's expense, and that he joined his regiment.

In the struggle which France was carrying on at that time against Great Britain in support of the independence of the United States, we had as allies the United Provinces of Holland. With the sanction of the Royal Government and under the auspices of the Duc de Choiseul, Consul-General of the Swiss and Grisons, the Dutch East India Company took into its pay this Swiss regiment of de Meuron, which was mobilised on the Island d'Oleron, July, 1782, embarked on the *Fier*, and sailed from the port of the Island d'Aix, September 2nd, 1782, arriving at the Cape on January 6th, 1783. It is thus as a soldier that Louis Thibault arrived at the Cape in 1783.



THIBAUT'S DESIGN FOR A FRENCH ORDER.

(With acknowledgements to the "Builder & Engineer" and "Architect.")

The enrolment of this Swiss regiment by the Dutch East India Company was a part of the defensive measures taken at the Cape of Good Hope against the English. At this point it is necessary briefly to recall some of the historic events which took place in South Africa in 1781.

When, in the middle of the 17th century, the commercial and maritime Dutch empire commenced that development in the Indian ocean, of which you are aware, the Company realised the necessity of having, midway between the ports of Holland and Batavia, a port of call where the crews of their ships could obtain the necessary supplies. Thus was founded, in 1652, in Table Bay, at the Cape of Good Hope, simply a port of call, which was the embryo of a colony.

When in the second half of the 18th century, the Indian Empire of Britain commenced to develop, the British East India Company felt in its turn the need

of such a port of call for its ships; the possession of the Cape of Good Hope, therefore, became the object of its ambition. Great Britain, profiting by the state of war existing in 1781 between it and Holland, the ally of the United States, endeavoured to realise the projected conquest and establish herself at the extremity of Africa.

But the Dutch East India Company, supported by France, prevented it. On April 16th, 1781, the *bailiff* of Suffren, attacked, at Praia, a bay of the Island of Santiago (Cape Verde Archipelago), the fleet of Commodore Johnstone, who had orders to seize the Cape. The combat remained indecisive; on both sides the ships suffered damage and the crews losses, but in attacking by surprise the English fleet, Suffren succeeded in checking its advance and got to the Cape first, which was the essential object of his mission.

The Pondicherry regiment, commanded by Colonel de Conway was landed. Later other corps arrived and reinforced the defence: the Luxembourg regiment in May, 1782, the Waldemar regiment in February, 1783, and in between this de Meuron's Swiss regiment, which included Louis Thibault.

This historical digression was necessary to explain the circumstances of the arrival of this Frenchman at the Cape.

This regiment of de Meuron, which was, as I have said, in the pay of the Dutch East India Company, garrisoned the Cape until 1788, when it was transferred to Colombo, Ceylon, which belonged to the Company.

Louis Thibault had been promoted lieutenant in 1781, captain in 1788.*

But, instead of leaving with his regiment, he quitted the service in circumstances which are unknown to us, possibly because he had married into a Colonial family in 1786. He remained at the Cape, where he held certain public appointments and returned to his old profession of an architect.

The end of the 18th and the beginning of the 19th centuries were troublous times at the Cape. In eleven years the country passed under four successive administrations.

Up to 1795 it remained in the possession of the Dutch East India Company. On September 15th, 1795, the English, more fortunate than fourteen years previously, took possession. Article six of the Treaty of Amiens dispossessed them, it is true, and obliged them to hand it over to the Batavian republic, an article of the Treaty which they only adhered to in 1803, and then not without opposition. But in 1806 owing to a new state of war, the opportunity of a second conquest occurred; the English seized this and again took possession of the Cape, where they have remained to this day.

Louis Thibault, therefore, lived at the Cape under four different administrations, with whose representatives he had dealings.

*The information relative to the career of Louis Thibault, in de Meuron's regiment, has been obtained by the late Edouard Rott, a correspondent of the Institute.

II. PUBLIC APPOINTMENTS HELD BY THIBAULT AT THE CAPE.

When he left de Meuron's regiment Thibault entered the service of the Dutch East India Company. In 1795 he was chief of military engineers. It was in this capacity that he signed the inventories of the buildings, fortifications and estates of the company when handing over to the English officers.*

The conquest of the country by England deprived him of his official appointments. But where could he go? France in 1795 was very different from that which he left in 1782. The words "ghastly revolution" which he uses in a letter proves his aversion to the new regime. He appears, therefore, to have discarded all idea of returning, all the more because he liked being at the Cape. "I love this colony, I have lived here seventeen years," he writes in 1800. "I have resolved to remain here with my family, live in an honourable manner and make myself useful during the years that remain for me to work." He then took the oath of allegiance, that is to say, obedience to the King of England, and endeavoured, without ever forgetting that he had served under the late Government, to find favour with the English officers.

His technical knowledge opened the way for him. The English officers were completely ignorant of the geography of the Colony, which they had conquered so easily. Now Thibault had prepared maps and plans. "Twelve years of observation and work," he wrote, "enabled me to get together a very interesting collection of military maps. Major General James Henry Craig, having become Governor of the Colony, asked me through the engineer in chief, Mr. Bridges, if I could not give him the details which he required to enable him to send to the English court a faithful description of the places which his army had traversed or occupied in their march from False Bay to the Cape.

"The Colony had only been in possession of the English for two months and the locality no longer being a secret I was able, without compromising the authorities which I had served nor compromising myself, to open my portfolios to Mr. Bridges to whom I gave, for General Craig, the details which he required and which he returned to me afterwards."

After this courtesy constant relations were established between Thibault and General Craig, "I employed myself in finishing a general map of the Cape which General Craig would often come to see. He found this work so valuable, so unique, that he urged me to finish it and give it to him to present to his Royal Highness the Duke of York and offered to obtain for me in return the position and title of Royal Geographical Engineer for the Colony."

"Despite this gracious offer of the General, I could not accept it as it would, at that time, have been a breach of etiquette." General Craig returned to the charge in a less delicate manner by offering, unsuccessfully however, to buy this map from Thibault for one hundred guineas.

The loyal and reserved conduct of Thibault was appreciated by General Craig, Lord Macartney, who succeeded him, May 5th, 1797, and General Francis Dundas, interim governor from November 21st, 1798, to December 9th 1799.

"I have always been honoured by the protection of these gentlemen," he writes.

During 1799 it was proposed that "as architect he should take charge and superintend the repairs to the military buildings of the garrison." "Completely ignored for five years by Holland, to the States of which I had rendered most important services," says Thibault, "and having suffered considerably by the loss of my profession, I accepted the proposal."

Once more, but in the position of an architect, he had a public appointment conferred upon him, when a serious incident occurred between him and a new Governor, Sir George Yonge, who arrived at the Cape, on December, 10th, 1799. Thibault arranged that he should be presented to him. "The welcome I received from His Excellency," he writes, "was so cold, so icy, so different from that received from his predecessors that I was petrified by the comparison."

In the position of architect of military works, Thibault was placed under the orders of the personal aide-de-camp of the Governor, Lieutenant Colonel Cockburn. "Seeing that he was badly disposed towards me, I thought it wise to get on the right side of him," writes Thibault, "and to give him an idea of my knowledge, I invited him to my studio." After some delay Cockburn deigned to come. "The variety of attractive designs, which he hardly looked at, did not make me suspect that he was a connoisseur, but my military maps rivetted his whole attention and, being accompanied by the son of Admiral Curtis, he constantly expressed to him his astonishment; he bade me goodbye, very impressed with what he had just seen."

What a mistake on the part of Thibault! He thought he would excite admiration by his talent and knowledge: it was envy and suspicion that he provoked.

Some days after this visit Sir George Yonge asked Thibault to come and speak to him: "On arrival I received from Sir George Yonge so gracious a reception, he asked me to show him my drawings with so much politeness, that I at once offered to bring them to him." Without mistrust Thibault, as a result, brought his drawings. He very nearly lost them for ever. "From day to day, being constantly put off, I repeatedly presented myself at Government House for three weeks, without being able to see Sir George Yonge, who said that he would send for me when he thought fit."

Sir George Yonge, deeming it contrary to the security of the colony to allow the best plans to remain in the hands of a former officer of the Dutch East India Company, of French origin, had decided to confiscate them after obtaining them by a subterfuge.

*Inventory of all such Company's Buildings, Fortifications and Estates, etc., as were existant at the surrender of the Cape of Good Hope to the arms of his Britannic Majesty, and at present, according to the capitulation and by order of the undersigned commissary of this government are delivered by the major of Artillery, George Coenraad Kuchler and the Captain of the Engineers, Louis Michel Thibault for a receipt to the captain of the Engineers Bridges and the Lieutenant of the said Engineers Elphinstone commissioned for this purpose by the commanding officers of his said Majesty.

It required the energetic and personal intervention of General Dundas, commanding the colonial troops, to restore them to Thibault. Even then their return was accompanied by an insulting letter in which the Governor ordered Thibault "not to attempt to continue with similar plans without permission, which, for certain reasons, he did not consider expedient to grant at this moment."

Apropos of this serious incident, General Dundas, who held a position at the Cape morally superior to that of the Governor, wrote on October 15th, 1800, to William Huskisson, Colonial Agent in London: "The plans which Sir George Yonge wishes to possess have been, until now, considered the property of Thibault, and, as they are very well drawn, Sir James Craig offered him one hundred guineas for one of them, which he refused. On my advice permit poor Thibault to keep his plans which can do no more harm to the security of the colony than a wisp of straw."

Six months later, April 20th, 1801, Sir George Yonge, who was accused of incapacity and even embezzlement, was informed that he was relieved of his office.

The government in the interim was entrusted to General Dundas until the cession of the colony to the Batavian government. Thibault had a protector once more.

During the three years administration of General Janssens, who governed the colony in the name of the Batavian government, Thibault's position increased in importance. He was entitled "Inspector of Public Works." The construction of the drostdy at Tulbagh, which was entrusted to him as we shall see later, was a proof of the estimation in which his talents were held.

His title of Inspector was confirmed by General David Baird, the new governor of the colony, handed over to the English in 1806. He was commissioned, according to the instructions he received on April 16th, 1806, to suggest any necessary repairs to the public buildings, to estimate the probable expense, to sign the contracts with the contractors, to assist with his advice the barrack master or quarter master and finally to maintain in good condition the jetties in Table, Simon's and Plattenberg Bays.

General Dundas' opinion of Thibault is given in a letter of October 15th, 1800, to his friend Huskisson: "As an engineer officer his capabilities are mediocre, but he can be usefully employed in architecture, which has been his principal study and in which he has given proof of much taste."

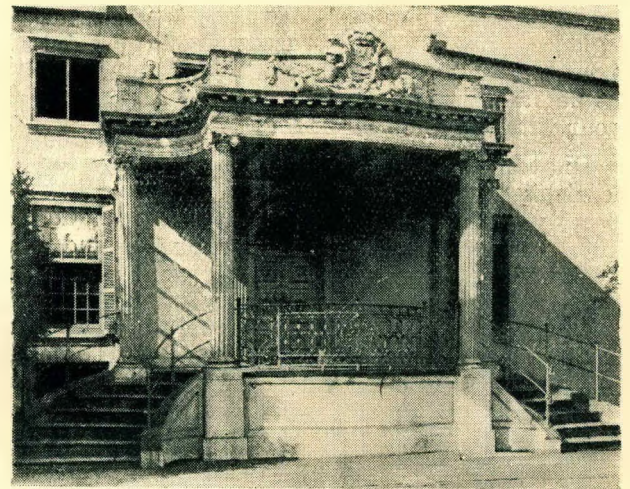
Architecture, such was the true profession of Thibault, military engineering had only been an accident in his life.

It is indeed as an architect that Thibault has left his mark at the Cape and it is in this capacity that it is principally necessary to confine our attention.

III. THE WORKS OF LOUIS THIBAUT IN CAPE TOWN AND THE NEIGHBOURHOOD.

Let us endeavour, therefore, to enumerate and describe the buildings which Thibault designed in the Colony.

He appears to have had for a certain period an office in the castle of Capetown. This Castle was not the first one erected by the Dutch on their arrival. When in 1652 Johann van Riebeeck landed at the Cape and founded a port of call, his first need had been to construct a fortress with four bastions. But this building lacked stability and in less than fifteen years it fell into ruin, so much so that in 1665 the Council of seventeen directors of the Company decided on the erection of another castle of five bastions, larger and stronger than the first. This was achieved in about ten years.



Photo

A. Elliott.

Then, in the course of time, the buildings in the interior underwent certain alterations. Louis Thibault had a share in these works. He designed notably a fountain in the garden. But one should notice in particular the state entrance leading to the great hall of Government House, because of the part Thibault took in its decoration. This architectural composition consists in the first instance of a portico approached by two flights, each of seven steps, and enclosed by a wrought iron balustrade. Above this portico is a balcony in the form of an irregular hexagon supported by six columns with capitals of the Ionic order. A stone balustrade, elegantly curved, surrounds the balcony. The front is ornamented with a somewhat complicated motive in which one can distinguish a child seated on a cannon and, in the centre, the heraldic lion of the Netherlands. The whole composition is graceful and in the best of taste.

The great hall entered from this portico is of earlier construction. At the end of the 17th century a religious service was celebrated here every Sunday. At the end of the 18th century more secular gatherings took place. It was here that the Colonial Secretary's wife

Lady Anne Barnard, famous for her wit and who later on held a literary salon in London, held receptions and balls from 1796 to 1803, to which she invited the society of Capetown with the object of attracting it to the newly established English regime.

In one of her letters Lady Anne Barnard describes these soirées in a manner piquant enough to merit the quotation of the passage: "The Dutch ladies (all of whom love dancing, and flirting still more) shall be kindly welcomed, and the poor ensigns and cornets shall have an opportunity of stretching their legs as well as the generals . . . I shall have supper, and that cold and desultory, with side-boards and no chairs, as I wish to make my guests happy without being ruined by their drinking half a hogshead of claret every party. Ducks and chickens, etc., they shall have, but as turkeys are one pound apiece, I shall not fly at any of their excellencies."

Thibault probably attended these assemblies in which hospitality was dispensed by this witty lady.

Let us leave the castle and enter the town itself and follow the principal street, Adderley Street to-day, called the Heerengracht during the Dutch regime. We find at the entrance of this street a square white building which served at the end of the 17th century as a slave lodge. In the court adjoining Louis Thibault constructed a building in which was housed the supreme court. Miss Fairbridge eulogises it as follows: "The little oval room at the entrance to the old Supreme Court has singular beauty of proportion."

Capetown possesses other monuments constructed by Thibault. The Mission Church in Long Street (built about 1800); the facade of the Lutheran Church; the Masonic Lodge of the Cape; a private house in Strand Street, now known as the Koopman de Wet Museum.

Leaving the town let us go into the country. Behind the town itself and on the slope of Table Mountain there were a number of villas which consisted of a long ground floor with a very steep roof and surrounded by a large garden or park. To Thibault is attributed the design of the villa called Nooitgedacht, that is to say "the unexpected," "the unimagined," a name which was given to this site probably as a result of the surprise caused by the charm of the landscape to the first owner, a certain Johannes Ossenbuil, who received the concession in 1708.

Behind Table Mountain runs a small river called the Liesbeek which flows into the bay to the east of the town. In this valley Thibault designed a villa called Papenboom, for Dick van Reenen. This house has been destroyed by fire, but an engraving enables us to visualise it. By its classical character, it is clearly distinguished from the type common to colonial houses. It was a large rectangular house with flat roof, the facade being pierced with five French windows and the first floor by five small windows. In the centre of the facade is a peristyle constructed with columns supporting an entablature, "the only house at the Cape having the air of a European house," wrote Lady Barnard. All around it is a garden, ornamented with beds of tulips and different flowers in which Dick van Reenen entertained visitors of standing.

These van Reenens were a large colonial family; one of its members, Jacob van Reenen, is known in the history of geographical discoveries in South Africa. An English ship, the Grosvenor, having foundered in 1782, off the Natal coast and a rumour having spread to the Cape in 1790, that some of those shipwrecked still survived, three colonists, of which one was Jacob van Reenen, decided to go to their assistance. They made a veritable voyage of discovery from the Fish River, the limit of European civilisation, to Natal. The account of this voyage, in the course of which was discovered a part of the South African coast bordering the Indian Ocean and where Europeans had never before penetrated, has been written by this Jacob van Reenen, who was a relation of Thibault's client.

Not far from Papenboom, there rises on the banks of a tributary on the left of the Liesbeek, an old country house of the Cape Governors, called Newlands, on which Thibault worked; this estate was the favourite residence of Ryk Tulbagh, "father" Tulbagh, as he was familiarly called, who governed the Cape from 1751 to 1771 with wisdom and kindness.

There he took our celebrated astronomer, L'Abbé de la Caille, who had been commissioned by the Academy of Sciences and the Government, as you are aware, to make a geodesical and astronomical survey at the Cape. "The Governor," writes the Abbé, on October 26th, 1752, in the diary of his voyage, "took me to see the garden of Newlands with the country house which he built last year. Newlands is a large garden where vegetables are grown for the supply of the Company's vessels. It was somewhat disordered when I saw it, but it is going to be one of the most beautiful in the neighbourhood."

Bougainville visited Newlands during his call at the Cape in January, 1769, at the end of his celebrated voyage round the world on board the frigate *La Boudense*. "We visited," he writes, "two country houses which belonged to the governor. The larger, called Newlands, has a garden much more beautiful than that of the Company at the Cape."

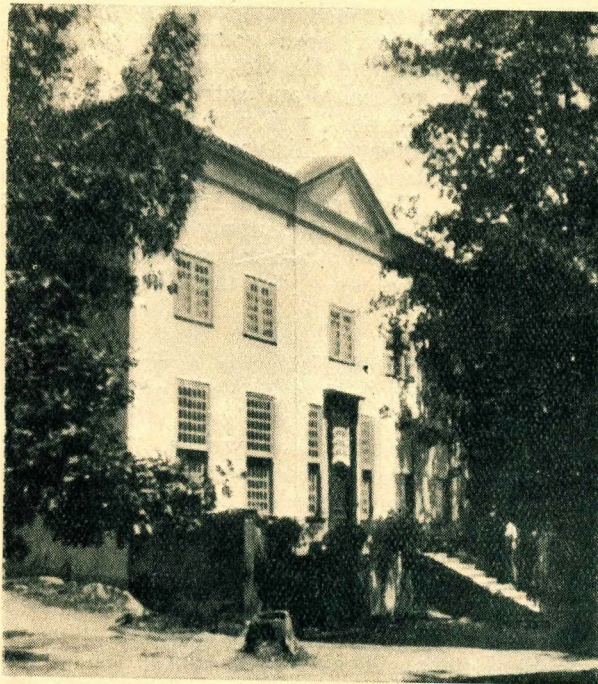
Newlands was also one of the residences of the Comte de las Cases and his son during the eight months they were detained at the Cape of Good Hope after leaving St. Helena. They stayed there from January 29th, to April 5th, 1817. Leaving the arid rock, where they had spent fourteen months, they were ravished by the view of this charming country house. "The well-kept apartments, the aviaries in the vicinity with birds of every kind, the flowers in abundance, the numerous groves and delightful walks, and the silence and solitude that prevailed—all presenting a somewhat magical effect," writes Las Cases in the *Mémorial de Sainte-Hélène*.

Reverting to Louis Thibault. Some ten years previously, in 1806, he had been instructed by the governor, Sir David Baird, to prepare a scheme for embellishing the house at Newlands. Typical of the colonial houses at the Cape, Newlands consisted of a ground floor pierced by four windows and a French casement, and a first floor with a single window in the centre of a gable. The embellishment proposed by Louis

Thibault, of which we have a drawing, consisted of erecting in front of the facade a peristyle composed of an entablature supported on two columns and supporting in its turn an arch in the centre of which is seen an allegorical figure. But this design was never carried out. Of this house of Newlands* visited by the Abbé de la Caille and Bougainville, inhabited by Las Cases and studied by Louis Thibault, from which emanate memories of old France, one might readily say "a perfume of old France, of which it is impossible not to feel the charm."

IV. HOUSES BUILT BY THIBAUT NEAR STELLENBOSCH AND TULBAGH.

If we leave the neighbourhood of Capetown and follow the railway which proceeds eastwards, we notice a station called Mulder's Vlei junction. From this junction one line goes south to the town of Stellenbosch, the other north to Rhodesia. At some distance from Mulder's Vlei, there is a villa called Uitkyk, that is to say "The View." "It was built by the colonist, Martinus Melck for one of his daughters on the occasion of



UITKYK.

her marriage. Thibault was the architect." It is a square house consisting of a ground floor, reached by a flight of nine steps, and a first floor. It has a somewhat solid appearance. It is treated in front in a classical manner to which I will refer again. The whole is very restrained. If Thibault could return to this building erected by him more than a century ago, he would be satisfied at seeing the care which is being taken of it.

*The design is preserved in the Archives at the Cape: It bears this inscription: "Geometrical view of the Mansion of the Estate Newlands, augmented with a portico, two columns and new windows, adjusted by the Inspector of Civil Building according to the desire of His Excellency Sir David Baird, R.C., Lieutenant General governor and commander-in-chief of the Cape of Good Hope and dependencies."

Its large rooms have been furnished by the present owner, Mrs. Sauer, with beautiful furniture of the period and around it is a garden adorned with clusters of flowers and pergolas of roses approached by an avenue of palms.

From Stellenbosch we now proceed northwards and this will be our last stage in this historic, artistic and colonial tour which I have invited you to make. We follow, in the first place, the course of the Berg River, which flows at the foot of the range of mountains called the Drakenstein. After crossing a neck of this range we arrive at a kind of vast amphitheatre which was called at the end of the 17th century the land of Waveren, and which marked at that time the boundary of European civilisation. It is called now the land of Tulbagh, the name of the early governor. Here is built one of Thibault's principal works, the drostdy, that is to say the residence of the landdrost of the district.

As European colonisation extended eastwards, the Cape government divided the country into districts, at the head of each of which was placed a landdrost, an official who combined the various public, administrative, judicial and military duties. In 1804, during the short period in which the Cape belonged to the Batavian republic, the governor Janssens, who considered that the district of Stellenbosch was too large, decided to divide it into two. In the northern area he constituted a new district to which he gave the name of Tulbagh. It was necessary to provide a residence, a drostdy, for the new landdrost appointed to administer this district; Thibault was placed in charge of the work.

The Council of the Cape government was generous. A sum equivalent to eight thousand pounds sterling was set aside for the enterprise.

An estate called Rietvlei was purchased from the colonist Hercule du Pré, a descendant, as is indicated by the name, of the French Huguenots, who had emigrated to the Cape in the 17th century, and it is there that Thibault erected this house for the landdrost.

Miss Fairbridge has described it in terms of admiration which I cannot do better than quote. "So he planned the Drostdy at Tulbagh with large, high rooms opening into each other by means of folding doors, and he built a wide loggia with rounded arches, each framing a scene which would be Italy if it were not South Africa. I know of no house which for spaciousness and airy coolness can compare with the Tulbagh Drostdy. Through the loggia you pass to a wide hall, fifty feet long and twenty feet in height—the height of the rooms throughout the house . . . On the right of the great hall lie a morning room, a long dining room and a library. On the left is a large drawing room . . . When these five rooms are thrown into each other by means of their folding doors they form a suite of dignified reception rooms in which the Landdrost of a

century ago dispensed the hospitality for which the Cape was famous. Beyond the drawing room are two large guest chambers, and two parallel sets of rooms—divided from the front by a long corridor—afford more bedrooms and kitchens and pantries.

"The ground plan of the house is unlike anything else at the Cape. Thibault was apparently unfettered by any convention in designing it, and the result might well be copied by architects of to-day. Large and lofty rooms, ample accommodation, and not an inch of waste space anywhere . . . The exterior of the house is very dignified, with simple end gables and the arms of Ryk Tulbagh above the entrance, with the date 1804."*

For about twenty years the landdrost of Tulbagh district occupied this residence, but in 1823, the governor, Lord Charles Somerset, moved the official residence of the province to the village of Worcester. "Thibault's stately house and the wide lands that surrounded it fell from their high estate and were leased out to neighbouring farmers. For more than eighty years the Tulbagh Drostdy lay forgotten by the world, and little by little the dust of oblivion settled on it until it became a forlorn and dreary barn—the great hall a winnowing place for grain and the pleasant rooms a hunting ground for rats."

Some years ago the house was bought by Sir Meiring Beck. Miss Fairbridge, who takes a delight in these old monuments of her country, joyfully exclaims: "The old Drostdy stands to-day in all its early beauty."

Thibault also built at the Cape a few other works but the more important, we believe, have been mentioned.

To complete this biographical sketch, we will add that Louis Thibault was married at the Cape. On April 2nd, 1786, he espoused Miss Elizabeth van Schoor, born February 25th, 1753, who belonged to a family settled at the Cape for more than sixty years. The founder of the family, Jan van Schoor, arrived in 1719. This family had prospered. Elizabeth van Schoor had no less than nine brothers and sisters, of whom several, it is true, died in infancy. The father in law of Thibault, Evert van Schoor, occupied the position of secretary to the administration of Cape Town. An uncle of his wife, Adriaan van Schoor, was landdrost of Stellenbosch.**

Thibault himself had four children, three daughters and one son.†

Nothing prevents us from assuming that the descendants of this Frenchman still live in South Africa.

Louis Thibault died in Capetown, November 14th, 1815.

V. THE ART OF THIBAUT.

One should now, in conclusion, attempt briefly to characterise the art of Thibault to illustrate what new ideas he brought to the Cape.

*The English traveller William Burchell, who visited Tulbagh, in April, 1811, pays this eulogy to the Drostdy: "There is a large spacious hall in which are held public gatherings and audiences of the judges during their annual circuits." *Travels in Southern Africa*, I, p. 128 129. An illustration depicts the drostdy of Tulbagh.

**G. C. de Villiers, *Geslacht register der oude Kaapsche Familien*. Vol. III, under the name: Von Schoor.

†Catherine Everdine, born January 7th, 1787; Maria Johanna Luisa, born November 30th, 1788; Elizabeth Mijndarine, born September 12th, 1790; Louis Michel Adriaan, born December 16th, 1792; *ibid*: Thibault.

The houses which the well to do colonists built in the second half of the 17th and during the 18th centuries consisted of a long ground floor covered by a steep roof: this type is general.

The house would have been somewhat commonplace and devoid of architectural interest if a gable was not added to enhance the character. It is this gable which gives private houses at the Cape their originality.

In the centre above the entrance, the house is always adorned by a gable which projects beyond the roof. At Groot Constantia, a house built by the famous governor, Simon van der Stel, the very steep gable



THE WINE CELLAR, GROOT CONSTANTIA.

Attributed to Thibault.

has over the window a niche containing a statue. Very often also, the house is enriched, in addition to the front gable, with side gables. The outlines of these gables are not rectangular: they are formed with curved lines often complicated and very graceful. It is in the design of the contour of the gables that the Cape architects gave full vent to their imagination for one hundred and fifty years.

Now, the architectural style of the houses built by Thibault differs completely from the Dutch colonial style. There is no resemblance between his art and that existing at the Cape when he arrived. The monuments which he erected belong to the neo-classic style.

This will not surprise us, if we consider the models which Thibault had in mind, and if we reflect on the artistic influences dominating France during the period in which he was a student, that is to say during the last years of the reign of Louis XV and the first of those of Louis XVI. These models we have not to search far to find. They are the masterpieces of his master Gabriel, which even to-day, contribute to the beauty of Paris, we refer to the Ecole Militaire and the two monuments which magnificently adorn the north side of the old Place of Louis XV., to-day the Place de la Concorde.

Now, the characteristics of these monuments are, as a reaction against the rococo style which predominated during the first half of the 18th century, an adaptation of the forms of antiquity to the great art of the preceding century.

And as the years pass, this influence of antiquity is accentuated. Two works which were published at that time contributed in the same way to influence the taste of the connoisseurs, the nobility, the dilettante and the artists. One is the famous *Receuil d'Antiquités* by the Comte du Caylus which appeared from 1752-1767 the other *l'Histoire de l'Art chez les Anciens*, by Winckelman, which appeared in 1764 and soon became known in France. Let us not forget, on the other hand, that the excavations of Herculaneum, commencing in 1750, discoveries made in the small town of *Campanie* buried by the lava of Vesuvius, were followed with keen interest in France.

Archaeology enters into the fine arts; public taste is all for the antique.

Such is the atmosphere of Art which one breathed in Paris and notably at the Royal Academy of Architecture during the years in which Thibault was one of the students.

Thus is explained the nature of the style of the buildings erected or projected by him.

At Papenboom and at Newlands for example there are no high ornate or fantastically curved gables, but antique columns, finished as is usual with capitals and supporting rectangular entablatures.

To make this clearer let us compare two monuments still standing in France and at the Cape. Not far from Paris, hidden in the woods, is a work of

Gabriel, which is not as well known as it deserves to be. It is the charming pavilion in the Forest of Butard, situated between Versailles and La Celle St. Cloud. This hunting lodge was constructed by Gabriel for Louis XV. in 1750.

The central portion of this charming pavilion is crowned by a very characteristic triangular pediment. Now, the villa Uityk at the Cape is surmounted by exactly the same type of triangular pediment. One cannot help comparing these two architectural forms. Had Thibault seen this pavilion at Butard, had he studied the plan in Gabriel's studio, or was this triangular pediment an architectural type in favour in the school during the latter part of the 18th century, all these are plausible hypotheses. But the affinity between these two ornamental details appears to be certain.

Briefly let us conclude then that Thibault remained faithful to the tuition he had received in Paris, and that he took to the Cape the neo-classic style in vogue at the time he left it. In many parts of the world there probably exist material vestiges left by those Frenchmen who, in the course of the centuries, were scattered in large numbers in exotic countries.

At one of the first sessions of this Academy, it had been remarked that the research into and a description of these monuments, which we have thus scattered throughout the world, would constitute, among many others, one of our subjects for study. That is why I have taken this opportunity of attempting to sketch the personality of this French artist who, through circumstances, was planted in South Africa and has left there examples of our architectural art.

IDEALS IN ARCHITECTURE.

REX MARTIENSSEN.

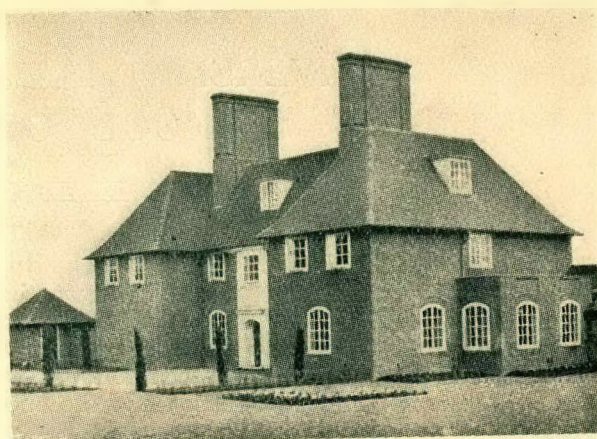
No formula has yet been devised to obtain beauty in architecture. For beauty is not dependent on pure design. Forms nearly approaching the ideal, but bounded by unsympathetic materials will lack the essential quality. Nor will fine materials, out of harmony with the surroundings, by virtue of their own properties create a work of art. The ultimate test of an architect lies in his ability to weld these fundamentals of form, material and site into one harmonious whole. If these elements are successfully combined the building will have an air of inevitability. Analysis is unnecessary if our feeling on contemplation is one of intense enjoyment. Should we not have pleasure in looking at a building, it will usually be found that one or more of the three fundamental conditions of beauty have not been satisfied. In general there is only one conception of beauty, it is necessary only to realise that beauty in architecture transcends style. We must not limit our outlook at the outset by too close a scrutiny. A broad view will disclose far more than a searching study for the individual forms used. Pure aesthetic

appreciation will admit of no prejudice. Architects are too prone to classify buildings, to group, to generalise, and to obscure their vision with preconceived ideas.

There seems to be a certain confusion between the ultimate values of architecture and the processes which are merely the means of producing that architecture. When we consider building as an art there is only one thing that matters, and that is the building itself. In the business of an architect the satisfactory handling of his routine work is of great importance to his client and himself; but the building alone remains. Regardless of its purpose, it stands either an eternal memorial to beauty, or an ugly mass, a heap of incongruous forms, a perpetual reproach to a system which places commerce above art.

Architecture is first an art and then a business. It is the business part of it which is the difficulty. When a sculptor works he does not have a client telling him to remodel his figures. When a composer is in the mood he creates music which is complete in itself. It is

crystallized, as it were, before anyone hears it. Sculptor, painter and composer are free to preserve the freshness of their ideals. Their unity is assured. Outside influences will not mar or affect a note or line. Painting and music are approached with reverence. The work of an architect is sacred to none. This difficulty we cannot completely surmount, for the architect's work necessarily originates with a client. All clients think they know something about building. They may never venture an opinion on music or painting, but they will never hesitate to make known their views on architecture. They tamper with an architect's conception. They call upon him to design their building and then tell him how to do it, and are disappointed because it fails. A great work of architecture is almost invariably an instinctive creation. And it is this very quality of instinct which appeals to us. If a building must have its advantages tediously balanced with its disadvantages it will not stand the test of greatness. It must be right without doubt. It must look inevitable. It is his ability to create his building as a whole, not to regard it as an assemblage of diverse forms, which stamps the master. Nothing is too unimportant to receive attention, and yet every element is complete in its relationship to every other element. It follows then that the nearer we approach the methods of the sculptor in practising architecture the more likely are we to produce works of art. It is reasonable to suppose that if an architect considers his building first in terms of the plan, then with regard to the sections and elevations, he will be tending to destroy his unity of creation at the outset. A house must be considered as a three dimensional form, plastic while still in the mind and crystallized in two stages, from paper to brick. The paper stage is only a convention and has very little significance to a true architect. It will be argued that very few architects are capable of picturing a house in this form without the help of working out on paper. I agree. That is the reason why there are so few architects who produce really beautiful work. Architecture is a thing of instinct like painting and sculpture. Training will discipline a natural ability to create. It will never make a great architect. A Chopin or a Crot could never be made, and everyone admits that musicians and painters are born with the instinct for their work. And yet for some reason or other they expect that men with no aptitude can be trained to create beautiful buildings. As an art there is no fundamental distinction which will allow of architecture to be more easily practised than music or painting, so I fail to see why people are surprised that there are so few great architects to-day. Indeed the fact that they can be counted without difficulty on the hand, has no significance other than that this century is no richer in instinctive architects than any other century has been. In practice, however, there is a fundamental difference between the arts. Economical conditions enforce certain types of buildings, so that a low standard of design in architecture is inevitable. This is hardly architecture, as an art, but the fact that a building is used for commercial or other purposes has no effect on the ultimate values as a work of art. There are some modern buildings which approach more closely perhaps, than any others, the forms of a purely aesthetic architecture. We are discussing great architecture, and



CHUSSEX.

Sir E. Lutyens, Architect.

With acknowledgments to "Country Life."

the fact that we are agreed that it transcends style or the economical limitations defines the range within which we may argue.

I have in mind a house by Sir Edwin Lutyens. Chussex is one of his later houses, and more austere than those of his earlier period. There is more restraint and the quality of beauty is found in the exquisite sympathy between the materials and forms, in the texture and colour of simple brickwork. The forms have breadth rather than variety, but the quality is stronger, intensified by the very simplicity of their expression. Chussex, the name gives a sense of the crispness, the dignity of the house. There is an air of complete repose about the plain brick walls, the white casement windows, the sweep of tiled roof, and the two massive chimneys. Two chimney stacks which make one think of fierce winds and serene protected hearths. There is no conscious form of decoration, the forms required for the building are beautiful in themselves and their relationship.

The house is massed, carved as it were out of some plastic substance. The chimneys do not shoot through the roof at random. The flues are collected and rush upward in a magnificent gesture. They play an important part. They define the atmosphere of home. In an English house they express traditionally the focal point of domestic life. Sir Edwin has a divine instinct for rightness in grouping and modelling. Chussex looks inevitable. It has the appearance of having been wrought by a master hand, twisted and shaped by a power which knew not the limitations of material and money. It is sculptural in the singleness of its expression. Its unity binds every element in a harmony which is permanent. It is the whole that counts, the individual parts are significant only in that they strengthen and define the unity.

Perhaps one day we shall have a critical vocabulary with range enough to express our joy in fine architecture, to give a picture of what we feel, rather than what we see. Perhaps a time will come when we shall all have the good fortune to be able to enjoy beautiful building as an art, and not consider it an appendage to civilisation. When that time comes Chussex will take its place with the masterpieces of painting and sculpture.

UNIVERSITY OF THE WITWATERSRAND SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE.

ANNUAL EXHIBITION AND PRIZE GIVING.

The annual exhibition of students work was held in the University Assembly Hall, Milner Park, on Thursday and Friday, August the 16th and 17th. The prize-giving took place on Thursday afternoon and was well attended by the architectural profession and the public. The members of the first elected Central Council of the South African Institute of Architects and of the Council of the Transvaal Provincial Institute were entertained to tea by the Principal of the University.

The drawings, which were well arranged by the staff and students, included the work of the current session, the work submitted to the Royal Institute of British Architects for recognition and some of the work done by students who visited the Cape at the beginning of the year. Included in the latter were a number of photographs taken by students and several drawings done by South African architects in the past.

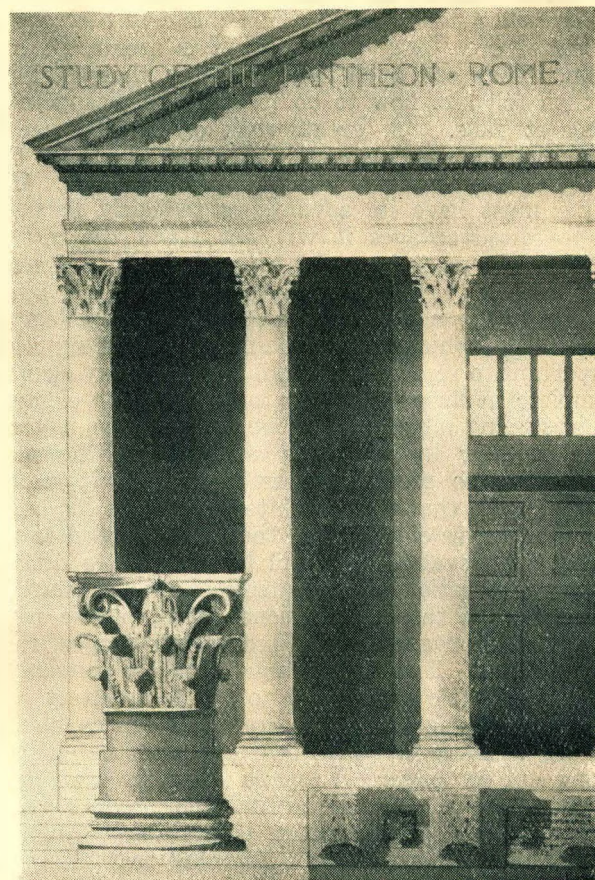
The prizes, which were awarded by the Transvaal Provincial Institute, Messrs. D. M. Burton and Gordon Leith, were presented by Mr. R. Howden, first President of the South African Institute of Architects, who was supported on the platform by the Principal, Mr. H. R. Raikes, Mr. F. Williamson, President of the Transvaal Provincial Institute and the Professor of Architecture.

In his annual report Professor Pearse said: "The past year has been a significant one in the history of the Architectural profession in South Africa. The Architects and Quantity Surveyors Act has become law and we are honoured to-day by the presence of the President in Chief and Members of the first elected Central Council of the Institute of S.A. Architects.

"It is gratifying too to know that this is the first public function, which the President in Chief has attended in his official capacity. We also have with us the President and Members of Council of the Transvaal Provincial Committee, successors to the Association of Transvaal Architects, and it would not be out of place to mention their activities in developing Architectural education in the Transvaal.

"The late Association was legally established in 1910, and since that time it has steadily worked for a properly organised scheme of education. Members of the Association have given up a good deal of time and money in establishing and conducting classes, first with the old Technical Institute then with the School of Mines, and finally they were responsible for establishing a Chair of Architecture at the University.

"One of their members, Sir Herbert Baker, has founded the first Architectural Scholarship, valued at £300, and awarded at present every two years. In the near future, it is hoped, this will be an annual award.



THE CORINTHIAN ORDER.

First Year.

N. B. Pryde.

"The Society of Architects awarded valuable prizes and one or two scholarships for a number of years, until their amalgamation with the R.I.B.A.

"Others have given generously in books and prizes since the inception of the school.

"The School of Architecture at this University was established in 1921, and the course was commenced in May that year with one Degree Student and a number of students attending evening classes.

"In 1922 there were three Degree Students and during that year a properly organised Diploma course for part time students was introduced. Messrs. Spicer, Williamson, Heir and Leith assisted me in the organisation and instruction. We worked in the old Tin Temple with few facilities and little or no equipment.

"Again, owing to the generosity of the Association of Transvaal Architects and private donors, including Lady Phillips and Mr. D. M. Burton, we obtained the fine library of the late J. M. Solomon.

"In 1925 we were fortunate in obtaining the services of Mr. A. S. Furner, who has devoted his whole time to organising the studio work in the school with the extremely gratifying results you see exhibited here.

"In 1926 we moved to our more palatial and comfortable premises up here and we now have some 50 students, 22 taking the Degree Course. Naturally our career as a school has met with a certain amount of criticism and ridicule from members of other Universities and from laymen who know nothing about the intense technical training required by an Architect and even the local press a few years ago commented on the fact that we had five students with a staff of two. The figures quoted were hopelessly inaccurate.

"To-day we can say we have fully justified our existence and the fact that the R.I.B.A. have this year recognised our Degree Course speaks for itself.

"In England there are only three fully recognised University Schools of Architecture out of eight, and in the Dominions only three including ourselves out of seven.

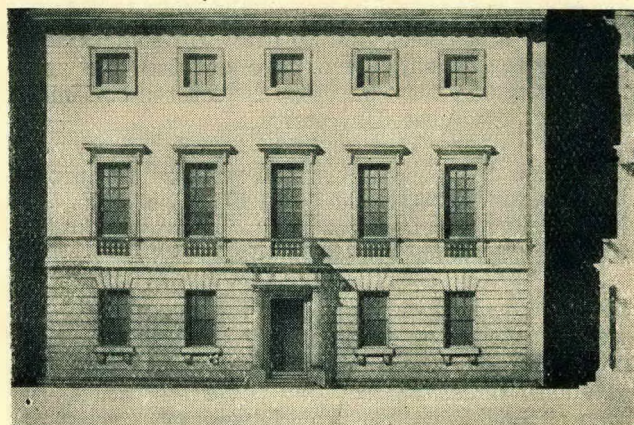
"I should like, at this stage, to stress the value of the Degree Course as opposed to the Diploma. This is borne out by the fact that the R.I.B.A. were not inclined to consider the Diploma Course and it was only after pressure was brought to bear on them that they recognised it for their Intermediate Examination. Recognition was refused not so much on the grounds that they did not like the course, but that they were opposed to the principle of part time training. It stands to reason that students fully occupied during the day and often with overtime work cannot be expected to produce the best results.

"Under the circumstances the work produced by the Diploma students is excellent. I would therefore urge Architects to emphasise this fact in advising prospective entrants to the profession. In support of this I might say that already some of the Diploma students have complained of these handicaps and actually given up their holidays or their posts in offices in order to take a studio course here.

"Since our last exhibition the President and Secretary of the Carnegie Corporation of New York, visited our school and displayed considerable interest in the work done. I am pleased to report that as a result of this visit a gift of photographs and books to the value of over a thousand pounds has been presented to the department. It is hoped that this collection will arrive in the near future.

We were also honoured by a visit from Sir Herbert Baker, who was much impressed by the work of the school and gave the students an inspiring address.

"The first Degree in Architecture at this University was awarded to Mr. H. C. Tully, the son of an Architect, and this year the second Degree was conferred on Mr. McIntosh, also an Architect's son.



A FACADE TO A TOWN HOUSE.

Second Year.

N. Finkelstein.

"One of our third year students, Mr. E. C. Gilham, left for England to complete his course at Liverpool University last year, and within a month or two of his arrival succeeded in winning a travelling studentship, which had never previously been won by a third year man. Since then he has had a series of successes in winning various prizes.

"Mr. H. G. Porter is leaving for London next month to complete his final year there and we feel sure that he will be equally successful and reflect credit on our school here.

"Mr. Tully intends leaving for Spain in the near future to make a thorough study of the work in a country with a very similar climate to our own. We wish him luck and look forward to seeing the results of his research on his return.

"Two Diplomas in Architecture have been awarded, one to Mr. H. G. Tomkyns, the other to Mr. R. A. Bruce, who completed the course last year.

"At the beginning of this year we had a very successful tour in the Cape Peninsula, and brought back with us many valuable records, some of which are illustrated in the exhibition. It is hoped to publish these results in the near future and thus establish a permanent record of our historic buildings in this country. I regret to say that Mr. Furner is leaving us to take up practice. We shall miss him not only in the Department very keenly, but in the University generally, as he and Mrs. Furner have devoted so much time to the various activities here, especially in connection with the Dramatic Club.

"On behalf of the School I should like to wish him the very best of luck in his new venture and ask him to keep in close touch with us. Fortunately he will be practising in Johannesburg so we hope to worry him quite a lot.

"It will be difficult to replace him and I feel sure we shall never get a man of his calibre and capabilities. Finally I should like to make an appeal to the newly appointed Architectural bodies to make every effort to

further the cause of Architectural education by scholarships, grants and books, and to draw up some scheme whereby those students, who have devoted five years to intensive study, may be properly catered for immediately they leave the University.

"This is a responsibility which rests on the profession and every effort should be made to see that they should be given preference in any important public or private professional appointments."

Mr. R. Howden, in presenting the prizes said that great strides had been made during the last few years in the Architectural profession of South Africa, but that students must realise that the registration that has been effected is not for the Architects of to-day, but for the coming generation. The advantage of this registration is that in the future the qualified student will not have to compete against the unqualified man, but only against the qualified. He congratulated the University on the way in which the Chair of Architecture had been founded and maintained and the staff upon the amount of work they had put into the school.

In proposing a vote of thanks to Mr. Howden, Mr. F. Williamson, President of the Transvaal Provincial Committee of the South African Institute of Architects, said that he did not think that Mr. Howden's work had been appreciated at all. He had put in an

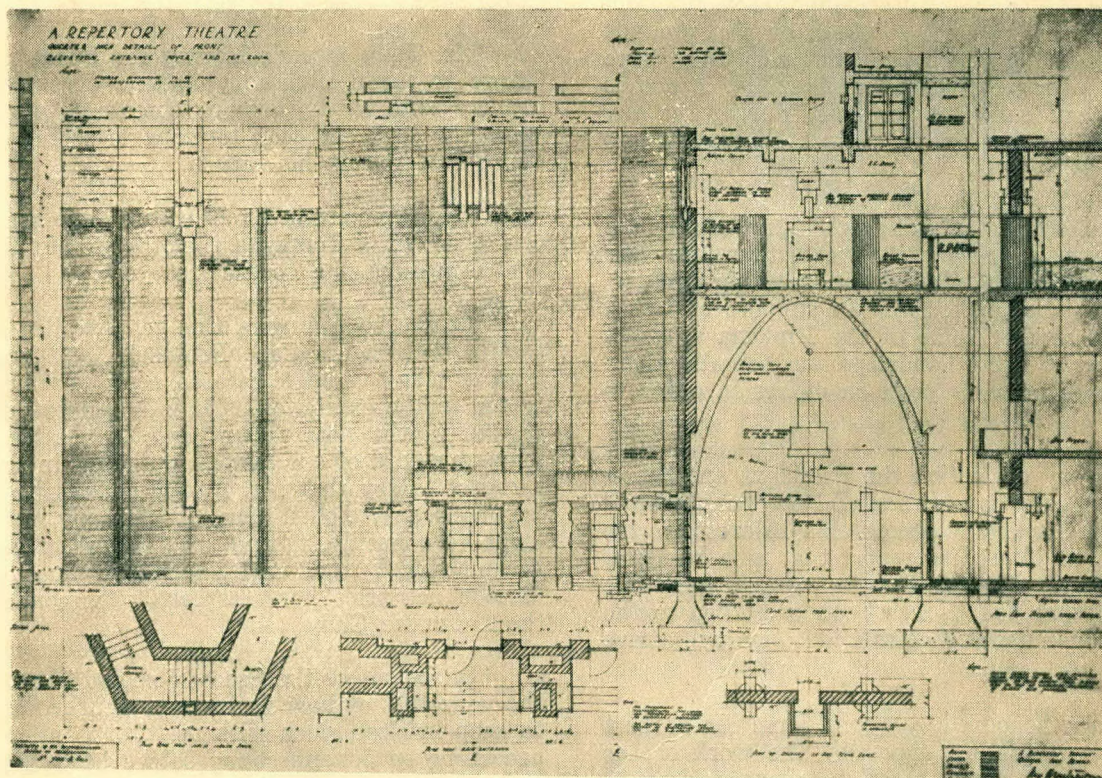
enormous amount of work in connection with the framing of the regulations governing the profession and which had just been made law. All architects were indebted to him, he said, but more especially those of the rising generation. Talking of the School of Architecture at the University, Mr. Williamson said that the growth of the school as he had known it had been phenomenal. It had developed on new and different lines, and actually it had developed far beyond his original ideas.

Mr. H. R. Raikes, principal of the University, in a short speech, thanked those members of the architectural profession who were present, and expressed gratification at the work exhibited by the students, which he considered due to Professor Pearse and Mr. Furner. He regretted that the University was soon to lose the services of Mr. Furner, who had done invaluable work.

The prizes were awarded as follows:—

First year: Mr. Posthuma, 1; Mr. Finkelstein and Mr. Jenkins, 2. Second year: Mr. Shaw. Third year: Mr. Slade, 1; Mr. Porter, 2. Fifth year Diploma: Mr. Bruce.

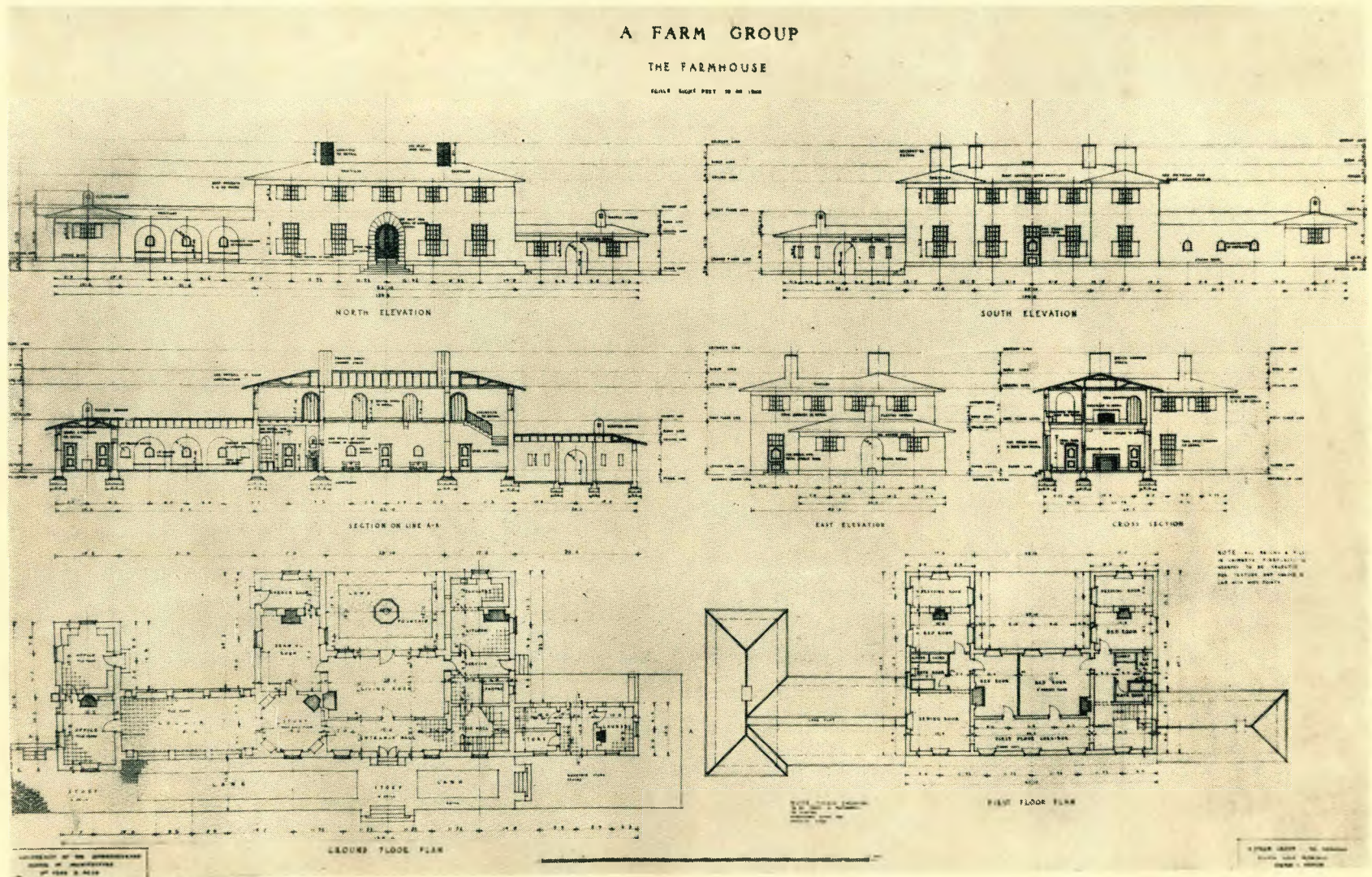
Cape work: Mr. Eaton, 1; Mr. Martienssen, 2. Photographs, Mr. Hanson.



Fifth Year Degree.

A THEATRE.

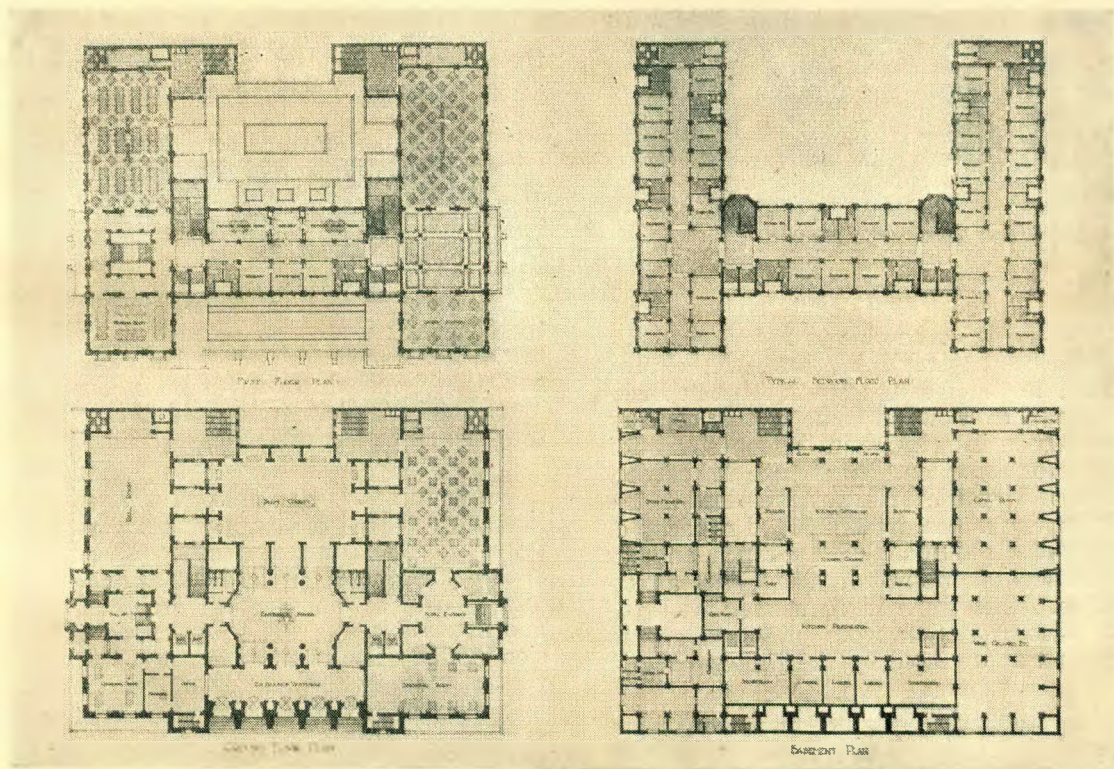
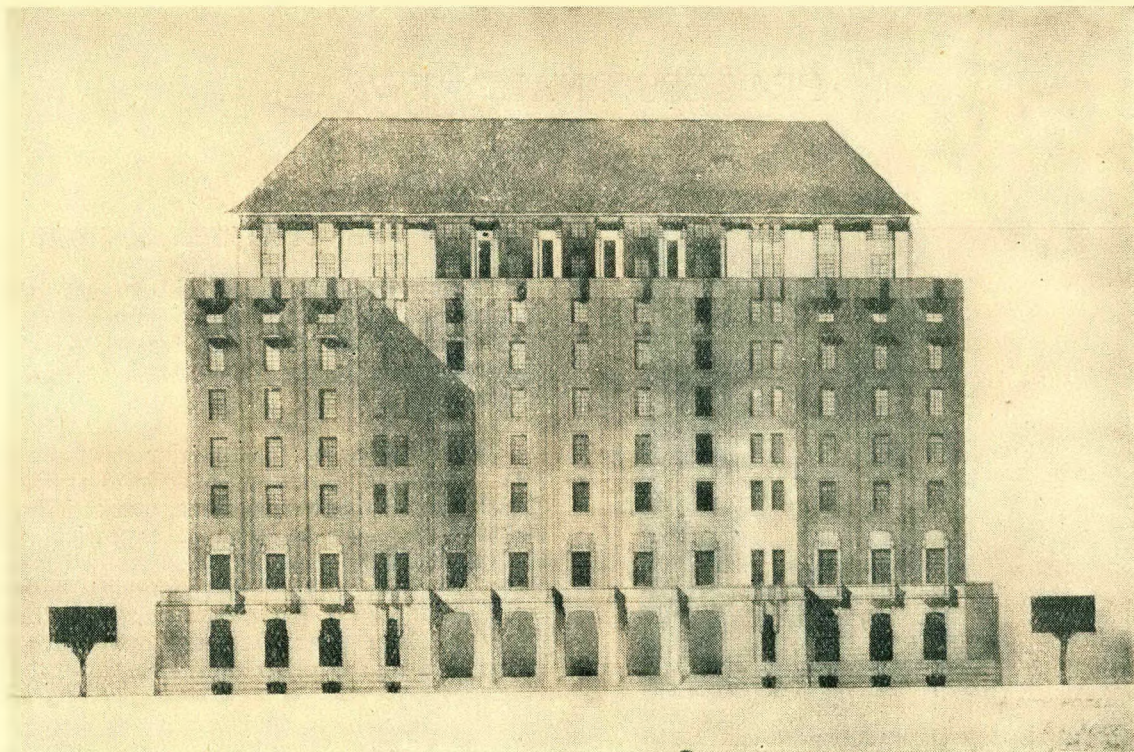
R. D. Martienssen.



Third Year,

A FARM GROUP.

N. Hanson.

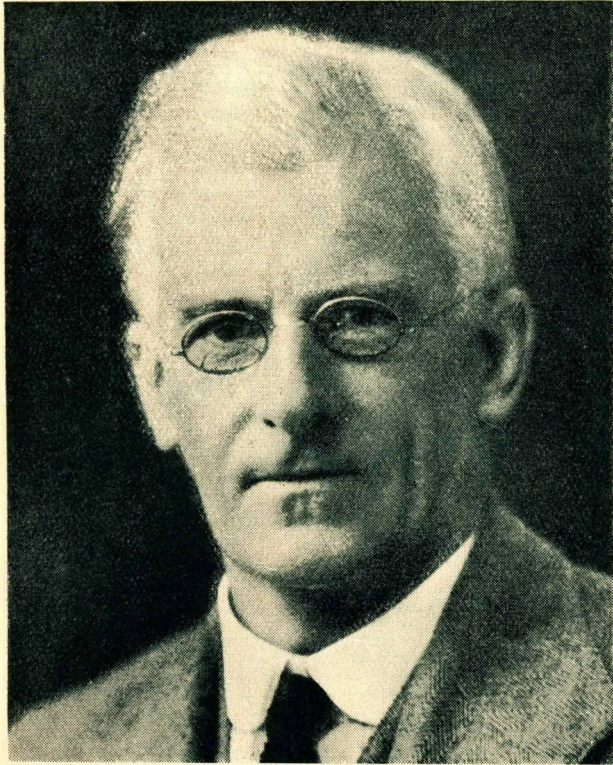


Fifth Year Diploma.

A CITY HOTEL.

R. A. Bruce.

PROFESSIONAL NEWS



MR. R. HOWDEN.

*First President-in-Chief,**South African Institute of Architects.*

It is very gratifying to be able to report that Mr. R. Howden, F.R.I.B.A., A.R.V.I.A., has been elected the first President in Chief of the South African Institute of Architects. Mr. Howden came to this country in 1893. He has been in practice in Johannesburg for the past 35 years, for a portion of that time in partnership with Mr. A. J. Stewart. He was president of the Association of Transvaal Architects 1911, President of the Society of Architects (London) S.A. Branch, and has always taken the keenest interest in all matters affecting the profession. His work in connection with the Architects and Quantity Surveyors Act will always be remembered and appreciated by the profession.

He is responsible for the design of many important public and commercial buildings in Johannesburg notably the University College Buildings, Eloff Street, the Wesleyan Central Hall, St. George's Presbyterian Church, Mappin and Webb's premises, extensions to Messrs. Mackay Bros.' premises, and Anstey's Building, carried out in collaboration with Mr. W. H. Stucke. He was associated with Sir E. Lutyens in the erection of the Johannesburg Art Gallery.

THE CENTRAL COUNCIL.

During the third week in August the Central Council sat in Johannesburg; being the representative body of the Provincial Institutes and Chapter it dealt with matters affecting the profession throughout South Africa.

The Minister of the Interior has been approached with a view to obtaining a definite status regarding qualifications and examinations, and it is hoped shortly to have the whole question of education, examination and qualification generally on a sound basis. Certain aspects of recognition and reciprocity have yet to be declared, and it is felt as a result, that the status of the South African architect and quantity surveyor will be equal to that of other countries.

The Council had an interview with the Federation of Building Trade Employers, which, it is hoped may lead to a more amicable understanding regarding the many questions in dispute; though the unanimity of the architects over the question of tendering in endorsed envelopes was such that the Federation nevertheless remained adamant, it is yet hoped that an amicable arrangement will be arrived at.

The Council devoted considerable time to the question of Competitions and drafted certain standard conditions, which it is hoped will in future be the means of eliminating the dissatisfaction that previously existed.

Among the matters recommended to architects are the Standard System of Quantities and that an architect's final certificate should be final in every respect and should include every item in question; also that immediately tenders are opened, if not opened in public, they should be disclosed to the tenderers forthwith.

The question of a Congress of Architects and Quantity Surveyors was discussed, and it was agreed that towards the end of this year or the beginning of next, a Congress should be held in Johannesburg. An invitation will be sent to every architect in South Africa, and if possible this will be arranged during the excursion period; if the members of Johannesburg rise to the occasion in the matter of hospitality, there need be no excuse from the point of view of expense to prevent a successful and thoroughly representative Congress.

It is regretted that Mr. Carpenter, who has been associated with the Registration movement since its inception, was unable to accept the position of Registrar of the Institute. The appointment has since been offered to and accepted by Mr. J. S. Lewis, of Stanley House, Johannesburg.

The following members were present:—

The Cape Provincial Institute:—W. A. Ritchie-Fallon, A.R.I.B.A., P.O. Box 120, Cape Town; C. Percival Walgate, A.R.I.B.A., A.R.C.A., The Rhodes Building, St. George's Street, Cape Town.

The Natal Provincial Institute:—W. S. Payne, A.R.I.B.A., Chancery Lane, Smith Street, Durban.

The O.F.S. Provincial Institute:—Fred. W. Masey, Lic. R.I.B.A., 115, St. Andrew Street, Bloemfontein.

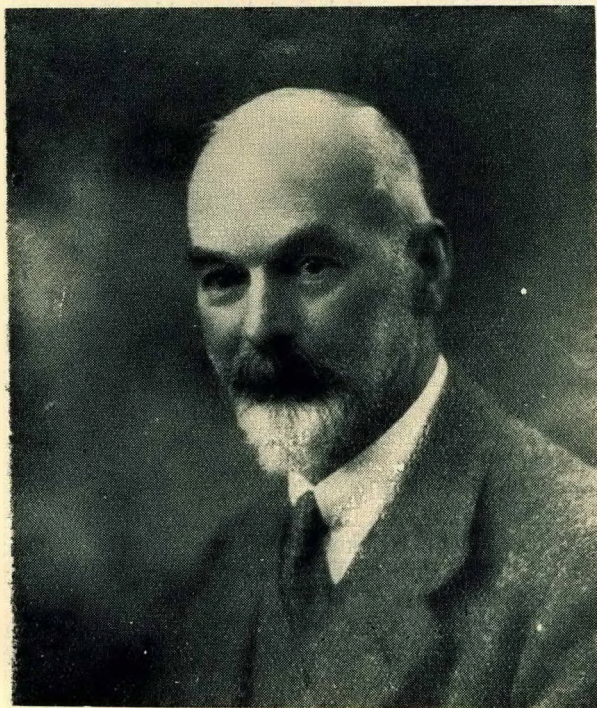
The Transvaal Provincial Institute:—Allen Wilson, F.R.I.B.A., 18, Milan Court, Kerk Street, Johannesburg. Robert Howden, F.R.I.B.A., P.O. Box 2366, Johannesburg; D. M. Sinclair, F.R.I.B.A., P.O. Box 4492, Johannesburg; F. Williamson, A.R.I.B.A., P.O. Box 1603, Johannesburg.

The Chapter of South African Quantity Surveyors:—F. D. Hickman, P.A.S.I., Stanley House, Commissioner Street, Johannesburg; T. Moore, F.S.I., 32, Connaught Building, St. Andries Street, Pretoria.

Chief Government Architect:—J. S. Cleland, O.B.E., F.R.I.B.A., P.W.D., Union Buildings, Pretoria.

Chief Government Quantity Surveyor:—W. E. Puntis, Lt.-Col., O.B.E., V.D., F.S.I., P.W.D., Union Buildings, Pretoria.

THE CHAPTER OF SOUTH AFRICAN QUANTITY SURVEYORS.



MR. H. ROWE ROWE.

*First President,
Chapter of South African Quantity Surveyors.*

First Annual General Meeting, held at the Scientific and Technical Club, Johannesburg, on Thursday, 28th June, 1928, at 3 p.m.

Present.—Messrs. H. Rowe Rowe, President (in the Chair), N. L. Brampton, N. T. Cowin, J. A. Cowling, J. W. Cowling, P. C. Dicey, E. B. Farrow, A. S. Griffiths, F. D. Hickman, R. Howden, A. Leitch, T. Moore, W. A. McKechnie, W. E. Puntis, W. Reid, J. P. Smyth, A. Stratton, F. Williamson, A. Wilson and A. M. Loots (Secretary).

Apologies for absence were read from Dr. H. Reitz and Messrs. J. Harrison, D. J. Laing, W. Rhodes-Harrison, A. W. Springthorpe and W. G. Thompson.

The President extended a hearty welcome to all present especially to the new members.

The Secretary read the notice convening the Meeting and the President, after enquiring as to whether all members present had handed in their Ballot Papers, declared the Ballot closed.

The Secretary then asked for a ruling from the Chair in connection with the following points:—

- (a) Legality of unsigned Ballot papers.
- (b) The right of members on the Retired List to vote.

to which the President gave the following rulings:—

- (a) As the use of, and the signing of the envelopes is principally for the protection of the voter, but who may inadvertently sign the inside envelope, or the ballot paper instead of the outside envelope, I rule that provided either of the envelopes or the ballot papers bears the signature of the voter, to enable the Secretary to report as to whether all be in order in respect to such voter, such ballot paper shall be accepted. The voter should not be disenfranchised by such an accidental slip. Therefore if the outside envelope be not signed, it shall be ascertained if the inside envelope be signed. If signed and all be in order it shall be accepted. Should that not be signed it shall be opened to see if the ballot paper be signed. Should the ballot paper not be signed, it shall be rejected, but if signed and all be in order the ballot paper shall be placed in the ballot box;

and

- (b) Members on the Retired List, if in order, being subscribers to the Chapter and amenable to the Act and the Regulations, are entitled to vote and take part in General Meetings.

Appointment of Scrutineers.—After being duly proposed and seconded Messrs. N. L. Brampton, J. A. Cowling, P. C. Dicey and J. P. Smyth were elected Scrutineers.

On examination of the envelopes it was ascertained that 83 members had voted; that three papers were spoilt through not bearing or containing the voters' signature and that twenty five were not in order due to the member's subscription being unpaid.

The Scrutineers then retired to count the votes of the remaining 55 members that were in order and subsequently reported the result to the Chair.

The President read the result and figures as follows:

Lieut. Col. W. E. Puntis	..	..	52	Votes.
Mr. E. B. Farrow	..	..	51	"
Mr. F. D. Hickman	..	..	51	"
Mr. H. Rowe Rowe	..	..	49	"
Mr. R. Howden	..	..	47	"
Mr. D. J. Laing	..	..	47	"
Mr. T. Moore	..	..	47	"
Mr. A. W. Springthorpe	..	..	47	"
Mr. H. G. Labdon	..	..	44	"
Mr. S. Waters	..	..	44	"
Mr. W. G. Thompson	..	..	43	"
W. F. Ritchie-Fallon	..	..	39	"
Mr. J. W. Cowling	..	..	28	"

and declared Col. Puntis, and Messrs. Farrow, Hickman, Rowe Rowe, Laing, Moore, Springthorpe, Labdon, Waters, Thompson and Ritchie-Fallon duly elected.

Minutes of Nineteenth Annual General Meeting.—These having been circularised by the Secretary previously, Mr. Stratton proposed and Mr. Hickman seconded they be taken as read and confirmed.

This was agreed to subject to their being amended by the insertion of the words "President's Address" on page 5, and the insertion of the words "to give this matter their very serious thought and to consider" after the word "Board" in the fifth paragraph thereof, and the omission of the words "with head quarters" after the word "appointed" in the same paragraph.

Mr. Cowling stated that at the previous Annual General Meeting Mr. Cowin had moved that it be an instruction to the incoming Board to discontinue its subscription to the *Architectural Record*, and he saw no record of this in the Minutes.

The President pointed out that Mr. Cowin's motion was in reference to our Association with the Associated Scientific and Technical Societies of South Africa, which duly appeared in the Minutes and had subsequently been acted on and that the reference to the *Architectural Record* duly appeared in the Board's Report.

Statement of Accounts.—The Secretary's interim Balance Sheet and Revenue and Expenditure Accounts were received, giving the Chapter's financial position as at the 31st May, 1928. It was pointed out, in reply to Mr. Cowling's enquiry, that these were entirely *pro forma* accounts as the Revenue derivable from subscriptions could only be estimated and not accurately ascertained until the Membership Cards previously sent out had all been returned; that this statement had been prepared by the Chapter's Auditor from all the information available.

Auditor.—Mr. J. W. Cowling proposed that Mr. J. Donald Robertson, of Pretoria, be appointed Auditor for the ensuing year. Mr. T. Moore seconded.

Mr. F. D. Hickman moved that Mr. D. C. McCulloch, of Johannesburg, who had in the past audited the Chapter's books and accounts free of charge be re-appointed. Mr. A. Leitch seconded. On a show of hands Mr. McCulloch was declared elected.

It was decided that the Auditor's remuneration be left to the next Annual General Meeting.

Qualification of Members of Board.—Mr. A. Leitch raised the question of the position of any elected member of the Board whose subscription might be unpaid at the time of election, and asked for a ruling from the Chair on the point.

After several members had expressed their views the President ruled:—

"That there was nothing either in the Act or in the Regulations laying down that candidates for membership of the Board must be in good standing before nomination or election."

Presentation of Dies.—The President informed the members present that at a recent Board Meeting it was decided to present the old S.A.I.Q.S. dies suitably mounted to Captain Harry Bell-John as the senior living past President and founder of the old Institute, and to Messrs. A. T. Babbs and T. Moore, in appreciation of their services and labours on the Registration Executive Committee and Inaugural Board in connection with the Architects' and Quantity Surveyors' Act. These dies had now been suitably mounted and he expressed great pleasure in making the presentations.

"Mr. Moore, in acknowledging the gift, stated that Mr. Harm Oost, in acknowledging a similar gift from the Institute of Architects, had stated that nothing would give him greater pleasure than adding a Codicil to his Will enjoining his son, who was at present training as an Architect, to maintain his die in memory of the work done by his father on the Inaugural Board."

Surveyors' Institution Annual Report.—Col. Puntis read an extract from the Annual Report of the Surveyors' Institution, Great Britain, referring to the statutory recognition the Chapter of S.A. Quantity Surveyors had received, and expressing the hope that such recognition would not mean cancellation of the affiliation arrangements at present existing between the Institution and the Chapter.

Finances.—Mr. J. W. Cowling moved that it be an instruction to the Incoming Board that they so arrange their finances that a minimum subscription be chargeable next year.

The President stated that he could not accept the motion as the Central Council, not the Board, had the fixing of the amount of the Annual Subscriptions.

Vote of Thanks to President.—This concluded the business of the Meeting, but before dissolving Col. Puntis asked to convey, on behalf of the members present, a vote of thanks to the President for the work done on behalf of the Chapter during an exceedingly onerous half year. Mr. Moore seconded the motion, which was agreed to with acclamation.

THE CHAPTER OF SOUTH AFRICAN QUANTITY SURVEYORS.

First Board Meeting, 1928 Session (Second), held at the The Scientific and Technical Club, Johannesburg, on Saturday, 14th July, 1928, at 10.30 a.m.

Present.—Messrs. Henry Rowe Rowe (President), E. B. Farrow, F. D. Hickman, H. G. Labdon, D. J. Laing, T. Moore, W. E. Puntis, W. G. Thompson, A. W. Springthorpe and A. M. Loots (Secretary).

Mr. S. Waters was not present owing to absence in Europe, and apologies were read from Mr. R. Howden and Mr. W. F. Ritchie-Fallon.

The President, in opening discussion, tendered a hearty welcome to all members present, especially to the new coastal members, Messrs. Thompson and Labdon, who had travelled a long way to attend the Meeting.

A vote of condolence with Mr. D. J. Laing on the recent loss of his father was moved from the Chair, all members present standing.

Minutes of Sixth Board Meeting, 14th June, 1928.—These had been circularised by the Secretary previous to the Meeting and were taken as read and confirmed.

The Enrolment Record Book was laid on the table for members' inspection.

Minutes of First Annual General Meeting, 28th June, 1928.—These also having been duly circularised by Secretary prior to the Meeting, were taken as read.

Presentation of Dies—Mr. Labdon stated that the die presented to his partner, Mr. A. T. Babbs, had been received, and on behalf of the latter who was at present in Europe, he sincerely thanked the Board for the presentation.

Financial—The Secretary rendered *pro-forma* Balance Sheets and Revenue and Expenditure Accounts giving the Institute's financial position as at the 31st May, 1928. It was pointed out that as many members had not yet returned their identification cards, he was unable to give an accurate budget of the Chapter's affairs for the current year.

After a long discussion on this matter Mr. Hickman moved "that the Secretary write to all members who had not yet returned their cards impressing upon them the urgency of the matter and drawing their attention to Regulation 34, Sub-section (3)."

Mr. Moore supported the motion, but drew attention to the fact that the Chapter was now a Statutory Body and had to act strictly according to the Regulations; all delinquents in his opinion, should, therefore be considered "Practising Members" and taxed as such.

After further discussion the motion was agreed to unanimously.

Election of President.—Mr. Hickman proposed that Mr. Henry Rowe Rowe be re-elected as President for the current year; Mr. Farrow seconded. Further nominations were asked for, but as none were forthcoming, Mr. Rowe was declared elected.

The President, in replying, thanked members for the honour and continued confidence shown in him; he took it, he stated, not only as a personal compliment, but as one to both the professions he was representing on the Board, namely the dual professions of Architect and Quantity Surveyor, and stated that he could only repeat his remarks made on a similar previous occasion, and that this re-election further exemplified the good feeling existing between both such professions and was a happy augury for the future.

Election of Vice-Presidents.—Mr. Laing stated he considered it advisable that two Vice-Presidents be elected, and after discussion this principle was agreed to unanimously.

Nominations for the post of Senior Vice-President were then asked for by the Chair.

Mr. Labdon proposed Lieut.-Col. W. E. Puntis.

Mr. Moore seconded, and as no further nominations were forthcoming, Lieut.-Col. Puntis was unanimously elected Senior Vice-President.

As Junior Vice-President, Mr. Farrow proposed Mr. W. G. Thompson, Mr. Springthorpe seconded. No further nominations being forthcoming, the President declared Mr. Thompson duly elected.

Lieut.-Col. Puntis, in accepting the post of Senior Vice-President, thanked members for the honour bestowed upon him, but which he thought should have gone in the first place, to a practising member.

Mr. Thompson also expressed his thanks and pledged himself to do his best for the profession.

Election of Members of Board as Representatives on Central Council.—A letter was read from the Registrar to the Central Council asking for the names of the Board's two nominees and their alternates. Mr. Moore stated that Col. Puntis had been declared the Government Nominee on the Council and was therefore entitled to a permanent seat.

Lieut.-Col. Puntis stated that his Chief Assistant was Mr. W. M. Warne, who would therefore be his alternate and the Secretary was instructed to notify the Registrar to the Council accordingly.

As Representatives from the Board Mr. Laing proposed (a) Mr. T. Moore; Mr. Farrow seconded and Mr. Moore was declared elected.

Col. Puntis proposed (b) Mr. H. G. Labdon and Mr. Hickman seconded.

Mr. Labdon in expressing his thanks to the members for the honour shown him regretted that owing to his partner's absence in Europe he felt he could not accept nomination. He suggested Mr. W. G. Thompson.

Mr. Thompson thought that a Transvaal member should be appointed. After further discussion Mr. Labdon agreed to accept nomination and was unanimously elected.

As alternate to Mr. T. Moore, Mr. Laing proposed Mr. W. G. Thompson. Mr. Farrow seconded and Mr. Thompson was declared duly elected.

Mr. Farrow proposed Mr. F. D. Hickman as alternate to Mr. H. G. Labdon. Lieut.-Col. Puntis seconded and Mr. Hickman was declared elected.

Both the elected nominees and their alternates expressed thanks at the confidence and honour shown them and hoped that the Board Meetings would be held at such a time as would enable their delegates on the Central Council carrying with them if necessary, a mandate from the Board.

Mr. Moore asked that the Registrar to the Central Council be requested to notify the alternates as well as the principals of all Council Meetings, and that copies of Minutes be sent to both principals and alternates.

Future Address of Office and Appointment of Secretary.—Mr. Moore suggested that the matter be left in abeyance pending the election of the Finance Committee.

Mr. Hickman disagreed with this view stating that the matter had already received enough consideration and should be brought to some finality as Mr. Loots had found, owing to pressure of other work, he could not now continue the Secretaryship of the Chapter.

Lieut.-Col. Puntis was of opinion that as the Chapter was a South African Institute, the Office should be located at Pretoria, the Administrative Capital. Mr. Moore supported Col. Puntis.

Mr. Laing stated that in his opinion Johannesburg was more suitable and a more central position especially for members attending from other centres. Mr. Hickman supported Mr. Laing and brought forward an

application from Mr. McCulloch, the Manager of the African Board of Executors, undertaking to provide all the necessary office accommodation and other clerical assistance.

He therefore moved that the Office be located in Johannesburg, and that Mr. McCulloch be appointed Secretary on the terms mentioned in the said application. Mr. Farrow seconded.

Mr. Moore moved as an amendment that the Office of the Chapter be located at Pretoria and Col. Puntis seconded.

On being put to the vote the amendment was lost by five votes to three.

The original motion was then put and carried unanimously subject to Mr. McCulloch resigning the post of Auditor to the Chapter and further that the appointment be terminable by the giving at any time of three months' notice on either side.

Appointment of Committees and Definition of their Duties.—It was unanimously decided to appoint and constitute the following Committees, viz.:—

1. *General Purpose or Standing Committee.*—
H. Rowe Rowe (Chairman and Convenor), E. B. Farrow, R. Howden, F. D. Hickman, D. J. Laing, T. Moore and W. E. Puntis.
2. *Finance Committee.*
D. J. Laing (Chairman and Convenor), E. B. Farrow, A. Stratton, The President (*ex-officio*).
3. *Practice Committee.*
T. Moore (Chairman and Convenor), A. W. Springthorpe, S. Waters, The President (*ex-officio*).
4. *Education and Examination Committee.*
W. E. Puntis (Chairman and Convenor), H. Bell-John, A. W. Springthorpe, The President (*ex-officio*).

The powers and duties of the Committees were decided on as follows:—

General Purposes Committee. To have full powers to deal with all matters which could or would normally be dealt with by the Board, or to delegate such powers to any sub-committee to deal with and report.

Finance Committee. To deal with all matters relating to revenue and expenditure referred to it by the General Purposes Committee.

Practice Committee. To deal with all matters referred to it by the General Purposes Committee.

Education Committee. To deal with all matters educational or appertaining to Examinations as may be referred to it by the General Purposes Committee.

The Meeting terminated at 6.45 p.m.

THE NATAL PROVINCIAL INSTITUTE.

The first Annual General Meeting of Members of the Natal Provincial Institute was held in the Board Room of the Durban Chamber of Commerce, Salisbury House, Smith Street, Durban, on Friday, 29th June, 1928.

Present: The President, Mr. Wallace Paton, in the Chair, Messrs. E. M. Powers, W. S. Payne, R. N. Jackson, J. A. C. Moffat, L. T. Obel, H. H. Grant, W. M. Jones,

D. C. MacDonald, G. T. Hurst, A. G. Cross, W. G. Moffat, T. Read, S. W. McLaren, J. H. Buckley, W. Barbour, A. A. R. McKinlay, B. V. Bartholomew, J. E. Connelly, A. S. Frost, F. Bowcock, W. B. Oxley and the Secretary, T. H. Chaplin.

The Scrutineers, elected to take the ballot, were Messrs. W. B. Oxley, L. T. Obel, C. S. M. Taylor and A. G. Cross, submitted their return of Nine Members to the Provincial Institute Committee for the ensuing year and the Chairman formally declared the following gentlemen elected, in accordance with the ballot cast:—Messrs. Wallace Paton, F. J. Ing, G. T. Hurst, R. N. Jackson, W. B. Oxley, W. S. Payne, W. G. Moffat, H. E. Chick and E. M. Powers.

Mr. E. M. Powers was elected President, and Mr. W. B. Oxley, Vice-President, for the ensuing year.

OBITUARY.

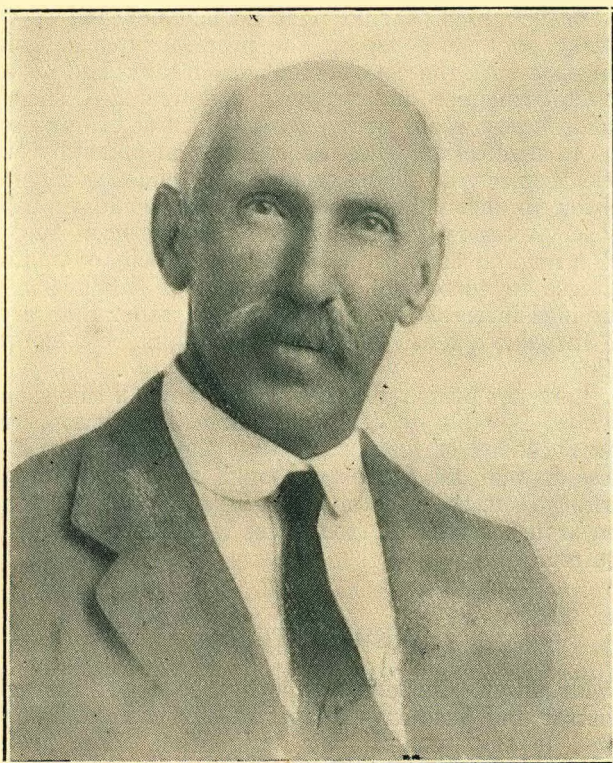
MR. W. STREET-WILSON.

On Saturday, June 23rd, the death occurred of one of Natal's leading architects, Mr. William Street-Wilson, F.R.I.B.A., of the well-known firm of Street-Wilson & Paton. Mr. Street-Wilson, who was 73 years old, practised his profession actively until his illness a few weeks ago. He leaves a married daughter to mourn his loss.

Mr. Street-Wilson had been practising in Natal for over 40 years, and with his partners had been associated in the erection of many of the most important buildings in Durban and Maritzburg. Always devoted to his profession, in the early days of the Colony he set up a standard that has won the admiration of many visiting architects. He has left behind him many permanent monuments to the conspicuous part he played in building up Durban and Maritzburg and to his technical and artistic skill.

Born and educated at Surrey, Mr. Street-Wilson was articled to Mr. McVicar Anderson, of London, and started on his own account as a young man in London. In 1886 he came to Natal and practised in Durban and Maritzburg. His first partner was the late Percy Barr, and later he was associated with Mr. Arthur Fyfe. Just over 25 years ago he was joined by Mr. Wallace Paton, F.R.I.B.A., and the present firm of Street-Wilson & Paton established. One of his earliest designs in Natal was the Town Hall, in Maritzburg. When that fine building was destroyed by fire Mr. Street-Wilson's firm was commissioned to design the present Town Hall in the City. Some of his early work in Durban was the Railway Station, the Fire Station, Police Station, Market Hall and the Old Bank of Africa, now Barclays' Bank—all dignified buildings of a distinctive character. Other admirable examples of his work are the Emmanuel Cathedral and the Congregational Church, in Musgrave Road. In the country districts of Natal Mr. Street-Wilson designed many church buildings and residences, while in Durban his firm was responsible for the erection of a number of dignified homes on the Berea.

More recently Mr. Street-Wilson and his partner have been kept busy planning several modern buildings, which have added to the architectural beauty of West Street and Smith Street. Notable illustrations of their work in the reconstruction of West Street are



THE LATE MR. W. STREET-WILSON.

Randle Bro. and Hudson's building, Anstey's and Stuttaford's, three distinctive types of commercial architecture which are outstanding in the Union.

Too actively interested in his profession to devote time to politics or public life, Mr. Street-Wilson was nevertheless remarkably well informed on South African and British politics, and took more than a passing interest in public affairs. As one of Durban's oldest citizens he was well known and respected by a large circle of friends in Natal. Many who appreciated his sympathetic and understanding nature will miss the courtly gentleman who was so long identified in an unobtrusive manner with the life and growth of Natal, while charitable and benevolent institutions will mourn a generous friend.

(From the "Natal Mercury.")

THE TRANSVAAL PROVINCIAL INSTITUTE.

The first Annual General Meeting of the Transvaal Provincial Institute of Architects was held at the Scientific and Technical Club, on June 29th, 1928. As a result of the ballot the following members were elected to the Council of the Provincial Institute: Messrs. F. Williamson, Harold Porter, F. L. H. Fleming, D. M. Sinclair, N. T. Cowin, R. Howden, C. C. Deuchar, J. S. Cleland, S. C. Dowsett, Allen Wilson, J. Lockwood Hall and Professor G. E. Pearse.

Mr. Howden addressed the members on the provisions of the Act and Regulations.

THE TOWN PLANNING ASSOCIATION.

The Ninth Annual General Meeting of the Association was held at 67, Exploration Building, Johannesburg, on Thursday, 6th September, 1928, at 5 p.m. There were present Mr. C. P. Tompkins, President, Professor G. E. Pearse, Messrs. E. H. Waugh, H. Sharpe, B. W. Brayshaw, A. Stanley Furner, Harold Porter, J. Wertheim and the Secretary.

The minutes of the last Annual General Meeting were confirmed and the Balance Sheet and Accounts for the past year accepted.

The following were elected to Council for the current year: Messrs. B. W. Brayshaw, P. T. Easton, T. S. Fitzsimons, A. Stanley Furner, W. E. S. Lewis, A. J. Marshall, Professor G. E. Pearse, Mr. Harold Porter, Dr. Charles Porter, Mr. H. Sharpe, Professor W. G. Sutton, Messrs. J. B. Tucker, C. P. Tompkins, J. Wertheim, A. Wilson.

The retiring President, Mr. C. P. Tompkins, thereafter delivered the following address:—

The object of the Town Planning Association is to promote the interests of people who live in congested areas such as towns, and as far as possible to mitigate the evils contingent on such a mode of life. In older countries the efforts of the Town Planning enthusiast are directed to a great extent to the mitigation of evils already existing while in newer countries his efforts are directed more in the direction of guiding the course of development so as to avoid these evils.

In either case he is often looked upon with suspicion and is bound to make enemies. Nothing can be done without coming up against the sacred rights of property. The slum landlord draws much greater returns from his property than the owner of better class premises, and why should these meddling cranks want to cut down his nice income.

Then we have the owner of land who wishes to cut it up and sell in any manner he thinks fit, without considering how it will affect his neighbour and how the place is likely to develop. He has very unkind words to say about the cranks.

The rights of property have become very much modified as the ages go on. At one time only very few people held land—and the landowner was the absolute owner of everything, including the people on the land. Gradually these rights have become somewhat modified until the rights of one property owner are becoming subservient to those of other owners and of the community in general.

Townships Acts and Town Planning Legislation are based on the now generally accepted rule that no man has the right to use his property in such a manner as will interfere with the rights of others.

The land owner who cuts up his ground in such a manner that it must inevitably become a slum is depreciating the value of his neighbour's property.

To cut up ground and lay out streets so as to make bad grades or dangerous corners may cost the community more money in a few years than the whole amount realised by the sale of the property, to say nothing of valuable lives which may be sacrificed.

We see the effect of the unrestricted rights of the owner to cut up his property as he pleases in many places where lanes ten, twelve or even twenty feet wide are the only means of access from a fine main road to a large number of houses, and some of these lanes are not even straight.

Those who claim that a man's land is his own and that he may do as he wishes with it, overlook the fact that the land is there for ever and the man is only a passing tenant, who owns it for a few years out of the ages, and "the evil that in their lives men do lives after them."

In order to control to some extent the indiscriminate subdivision of land in the townships and to protect the rights of the community, Townships Acts have been passed and Boards established for the purpose of enquiring into such schemes.

This has led to a lot of opposition and criticism, but on the whole the effect has been good. It is at least no longer possible for two adjoining owners to lay out their ground in such a manner that the streets are not on speaking terms with each other.

Unfortunately the Townships Acts do not get at the root of the evil. They attempt to reform at the tail instead of at the head. A small area is brought under control, but the surrounding district is not affected.

Where supervision should commence is in the subdivision of larger areas.

The Drought Commission found that one of the causes of poverty was the injudicious subdivision of land. Land is often subdivided in such a manner as to be incapable of beneficial occupation. Large areas are sometimes held by a family in undivided shares, and these interests are often expressed by fractions where the denominations runs into the hundreds.

Land is not all of the same value and it may happen that the area is an oblong, with the ends on hilly ground and the middle part in a fertile valley.

The owner of a 1/128th share of this farm would demand his exact proportion of the area and he would also demand his full rights in the good ground, and each other owner would do the same. The usual way then is to sample the ground from end to end, taking a strip of approximately 1/128th of the width. He then finds himself the owner of a piece of ground which is almost useless and would not pay for the cost of fencing.

A notable example of this is a farm where some of the subdivisions are six miles long and a few feet wide.

This is traversed by roads and assuming that the owners of some of the smaller portions had sources of income other than from the land which would enable them to buy the necessary wire to fence their ground and erect gates across the roads, it would be necessary for a driver of a wagon and team of oxen to have at least two gates open at the same time. Incidentally it would be cheaper to fence both sides of the road than to fence across it and provide gates.

This is a case where some authority might well take control and strictly speaking it comes within the definition of a township under the Transvaal Act.

To control farm subdivisions under the Townships Acts is, of course, undesirable. It is too cumbersome and costly and no Board has yet been convicted of exceeding the speed limit.

The best form of control would probably be by means of a comprehensive scheme of roads throughout the country.

As a start all main roads should be straightened out and graded. The route of a main road should be as carefully selected as that of a railway.

Branch roads should next be laid out and as the country gets more settled the necessary roads should keep pace with the development, each being laid out on correct principles and properly demarcated. Then if fencing across roads were prohibited, most of our problems in connection with the subdivision of land would settle themselves. There would be a tendency for subdivision to follow the road lines. It would probably still be necessary to prohibit the subdivision of land in such a manner as to be incapable of beneficial occupation and also to encourage the principle of subdivision of undivided interests in terms of value rather than area.

In value a tenth of 100 morgen might be 2 morgen or 20.

I am not prepared to-day to say how all this should be done. Possibly by local Government Legislation, with central control of main roads, but the point I wish to stress is that all planning should be on the lines of working from the greater to the less. First main roads then branch roads and from these to subsidiary roads as required.

NEWS ITEMS.

Mr. M. K. Carpenter, who has been our energetic registrar and business manager of our journal, has, we regret to say, tendered his resignation. The profession in the Transvaal will miss him and we owe him a great debt for the splendid work he has done in connection with the new Act, the South African Academy and the many activities connected with the profession in the Transvaal. We wish him luck and prosperity in the future.

Mr. A. S. Pearse has been appointed Secretary of the Transvaal Provincial Institute.

Mr. A. F. Lawrie, A.R.I.B.A., who left South Africa, some two years ago, to take up an appointment at Singapore, has returned to the Transvaal and is assisting Mr. Leith in the erection of the new Technical College at Pretoria.

Mr. F. L. H. Fleming, F.R.I.B.A., Past President of the A.T.A., who has been a member of the Council of that association, now the Provincial Institute, for so many years and was recently elected a member of the Central Council, has, acting on medical advice, had to resign from these various activities. We trust that he will soon be restored to health.

Mr. A. S. Furner, A.R.I.B.A., who is leaving the University of the Witwatersrand to take up practice in partnership with Messrs. Kallenbach and Kennedy, has resigned from the editorship of the *South African Architectural Record*. Professor G. E. Pearse has been appointed editor.

We are glad to welcome on the Journal Committee representatives of the Quantity Surveyors Chapter.

Mr. Gerard Moerdyk, A.R.I.B.A., has left Pretoria on a trip to the U.S.A.

We regret to announce the death of Mr. B. B. Reid, brother of Mr. Walter Reid, F.R.I.B.A. The late Mr. Reid had been associated with his brother for many years and was a well known figure in Johannesburg.

We should like to make another appeal to those members of the profession and others who knew the late Mr. George Ness, for subscriptions to the Ness Memorial Bursary fund. The object of this fund is in the first place to commemorate the name of a fine old craftsman in metalwork and secondly to provide an annual bursary at the local School of Arts and Crafts. Subscriptions may be sent to Mr. A. Winter Moore, Secretary of the Institute of Art, Box 3293, Johannesburg.

The University of the Witwatersrand are advertising the position of Senior Lecturer in Architecture in our current number of the *Record*.

An interesting competition is being organised by the Royal Institute of British Architects for a Garage in the Theatre Area of London. The first prize is a sum of £350, and in addition £140 will be divided at the discretion of the Assessors between competitors whose designs are considered especially meritorious. The competition is open to all Architects and Architectural Students of British Nationality. Full particulars can be seen at the offices of the Transvaal Provincial Institute and also at the Department of Architecture, University of the Witwatersrand. The drawings must be despatched by January 31st 1929.

To bring out the Quarterly issue of the *Record* regularly necessitates always having a large amount of matter in hand for publication. The Editor will be glad therefore if members could supply him with articles, photographs and items of professional interest. Members, we feel sure, will quite understand that, owing to lack of space, it is not always possible to publish articles in the succeeding issue of the *Record*, but they will nevertheless be published as soon as possible after they have been received and if considered suitable by the Journal committee.

Mr. Denys Lefebvre, who has always been a friend and supporter of the architectural profession in the Press and on our Art and Education Committee, was unfortunately knocked down by a cyclist recently and had to be taken to hospital. The accident was not very serious and he has been recuperating on the South Coast, Natal.

Members are advised that copies of a booklet entitled "An Epitome of the Building Bye-laws of Johannesburg," price 5/-, can be obtained from the Secretary, Box 2266. This booklet should be of great assistance to the practising architect in his work. The proceeds of the sale of this publication will be handed over to the Architect's Benevolent Fund. Pamphlets giving the scale of professional charges can also be obtained from the Secretary at 6d. per copy. Members are urged to take every opportunity of submitting these pamphlets to clients when undertaking a commission.

COLUMBUS MEMORIAL LIGHT HOUSE.

The Permanent Committee of the Governing Board of the Pan American Union on the Columbus Memorial Lighthouse has fixed September 1st 1928, as the date on which the architectural competition for the Columbus Memorial Lighthouse, will begin. The Lighthouse

will be erected in the Dominican Republic, in accordance with the terms of a resolution adopted at the Fifth International Conference of American States, through the co-operation of the Governments and peoples of all the nations of the world.

The architectural competition for the lighthouse will be divided into two stages, the first of which will be opened to all architects without distinction of nationality. The second stage will be limited to the ten architects whose designs are placed first as a result of the first competition. The first stage of the competition will continue until April 1st, 1929, when all drawings must be in Madrid, Spain. An International Jury of three, to be selected by the Competing architects, will meet in Madrid on April 15th, 1929, for the first award. The authors of the ten designs placed first in the preliminary competition will each receive two thousand dollars and these winners will then re-compete for the final award. There will also be ten honourable mentions of five hundred dollars each.

In the second competition ten thousand dollars will be paid to the author whose design is placed first, who will be declared the Architect of the Lighthouse; \$7,500 to the author of the design placed second; \$5,000 to the design placed third; \$2,500 to the design placed fourth; and \$1,000 to each of the other six competitors.

In announcing the dates of the first competition, the Chairman of the Permanent Committee of the Governing Board Pan American Union, Hon. Orestes Ferrara, Ambassador of Cuba, at Washington and representative of Cuba, on the Governing Board, said:

"The Permanent Committee has fixed these dates for the first stage of the competition in order that architects throughout the world may have ample opportunity to inform themselves of the conditions governing the competition, to prepare their drawings, and to have them in Madrid in time for the first award. As the Memorial to the Discoverer will be erected through the co-operation of the Governments and peoples of all the nations of the world, the Permanent Committee is most anxious that architects of all countries participate in the competition. It is for this reason that the opening date of the competition has been set for September first. New applications to compete are constantly being received, and as other architects may wish to enter, it is desired to give them ample opportunity to file their applications before the competition is inaugurated.

"The Committee of the Governing Board of the Pan American Union now has in preparation a report containing complete details of the conditions that will govern the competition. The report will be issued in Spanish, French and English. In order that the competing architects may have this book at approximately the same time, no distribution of the book will be made until just before the competition is scheduled to begin on September first. It is also proposed that the books intended for those competitors residing in more distant countries shall be mailed sometime prior to those intended for competitors nearer Washington. Given the world wide nature of the competition, it is the desire of the Permanent Committee to establish conditions that will ensure equal opportunity to every architect, irrespective of where he may reside."

It has also been decided by the Permanent Committee that the Memorial will include, besides the Lighthouse feature, a memorial chapel and a museum. It is believed that it will be possible to secure for such a museum a large number of objects including manuscripts connected with the great navigator's life and voyages.

Full particulars are being forwarded to the Institute of South African Architects and can be obtained on application to the Secretary, South African Institute of Architects, Stanley House, Box 7322, Johannesburg.

R.I.B.A.

A letter has been received by the University stating that the Council of the R.I.B.A. has decided, on the recommendation of the Board of Architectural Education:—

- (1) That the five years' Diploma Course be recognised, under the usual conditions, for exemption from the R.I.B.A. Intermediate Examination.
- (2) That the first three years of the Degree Course be recognised, under the usual conditions, for exemption from the R.I.B.A. Intermediate Examination.
- (3) That the full five years' Degree Course be recognised, under the usual conditions, for exemption from the R.I.B.A. Final Examination, except that portion relating to Professional Practice.

I am to draw your attention to the fact that Schools of Architecture recognised for exemption from the R.I.B.A. Intermediate Examination are required to hold a written examination at the end of the course which is recognised, to the approval of one External Examiner, who should be a member of the R.I.B.A., in the subjects of (1) History of Architecture; (2) Applied Construction; and (3) Theoretical Construction. Schools of Architecture also recognised for exemption from the Final Examination are required to hold an examination to the approval of two External Examiners, preferably members of the R.I.B.A., in the following subjects:—

- (1) Design.
- (2) Advanced Applied Construction.
- (3) Advanced Theoretical Construction (including structural steel and ferro-concrete).
- (4) Materials.
- (5) Sanitation.

Schools recognised for exemption from the R.I.B.A. Intermediate Examination are required to submit annually for exhibition at the R.I.B.A. one design from each student who is exempted. Schools recognised for Final exemption are required to submit annually for exhibition at the R.I.B.A. two designs (one of which must be carried to the stage of working drawings) from each student exempted.

Estimates for Reinforcement

for all classes of Construction

Free. — Designs prepared.

Large Stocks of Steel

Rounds on hand.

Quotations from

Stock or

Import.

THE REINFORCING STEEL CO., LTD.,
(REINFORCED CONCRETE ENGINEERS)
 Head Office: JOHANNESBURG, Box 1158, Phones 4881 and 2.
 Branches: CAPE TOWN, Box 1260. Phone 4643. DURBAN, Box 478. Phone 450.
 Also at SALISBURY, RHODESIA. P. O. Box 117. Telephone 2274.

Sole Agents for:

Self Sentering, Trussit,

Herringbone Metal Lath,

G.F. Waterproofing Paste,

and Mastic Cement.

I would point out to you that the exhibitions are usually held in October or November, and that the drawings should be sent so as to reach the R.I.B.A., 9, Conduit Street, London, W.1., at the latest by October 10th annually.

EXHIBITIONS OF DESIGNS.

In accordance with a Resolution of the Council R.I.B.A. Schools enjoying Intermediate exemption are required to submit annually for exhibition at the R.I.B.A. one design from each student who is exempted. Schools with Final exemption are required to submit annually for exhibition two designs (one showing construction) from each student exempted.

The following regulations have been laid down for these Exhibitions:—

1. In the case of the Intermediate Examination one design to a School programme of as many sheets as are necessary must be submitted.
2. Each School of Architecture recognised for exemption from the Intermediate Examination shall, from those of its students eligible for such exemption, nominate annually one student whose work, other than that required under regulation (1), will be considered by the Board of Architectural Education for the award of the R.I.B.A. Bronze Medal and £5 in books, and for this purpose may submit as further evidence one portfolio containing a selection of the work of the first three years of the course. *The competition for this medal is limited to nominated candidates only.*

3. In the case of the Final Examination two designs of as many sheets as are necessary must be submitted, one of which must be carried to the stage of working drawings suitable for signing a contract. This latter should be of an unambitious character. The working drawings are to be accompanied by an outline specification, or if the building involves a considerable amount of steel or ferro-concrete the calculations upon which the latter are based may be submitted instead of the specification. The subjects for these designs, which are to be selected from the work of the 4th and 5th years of the course *may* be programmes set by the students but these programmes must be approved by the School.

4. Each School of Architecture recognised for exemption from the final Examination shall, from those of its students eligible for such exemption, *nominate annually not more than two students* whose work, other than that required under regulation (3), will be considered by the Board of Architectural Education for the award of the R.I.B.A. Silver Medal for Recognised Schools. In the case of those students, portfolios of their 4th and 5th years work may be submitted on their behalf for the consideration of the Board of Architectural Education. *The competition for this Medal is limited to nominated candidates only.*

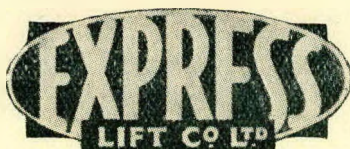
LIFTS

The last word in design and reliability.

SELF-LEVELLING Attendant Controlled Lifts, and
ACCURATE-LEVELLING Automatic Push-Button
Controlled Lifts.

|| We undertake the responsibility of the
erection of our lifts and supervision of
maintenance thereafter ||

Express Lift Equipments
are British throughout



Estimates and all par-
ticulars given on request

THE BRITISH GENERAL ELECTRIC CO., LTD.

Box 2406.

MAGNET HOUSE, C/O LOVEDAY & ANDERSON STREETS,
JOHANNESBURG

Phone 2962/5
Tel. "Current"

Branches: CAPE TOWN, PORT ELIZABETH, EAST LONDON, DURBAN, and Stenmark & Valler Ltd., BULAWAYO

5. Drawings for a Prize external to the School may not be submitted as one of the designs mentioned in regulation (3), but may be included in the portfolios mentioned in regulation (4).
6. In the case of the working drawings, blue prints or tracings may be submitted.
7. The programmes, which should state the time taken for each subject, shall be attached to each set of drawings submitted. The subjects in all cases to be of two or more weeks' duration.
8. Drawings must be sent in by the Schools concerned and not by individual students, and must be stamped with the School's stamp and counter-signed by the Head of the School.
9. Drawings for both Intermediate and Final Exhibitions are to be despatched so as to reach the Secretary to the Board of Architectural Education *not later than the 10th October annually.*
10. The Intermediate and Final Exhibitions will be held at the end of October and the beginning of November.

COMPETITION FOR THE DESIGN OF A GARAGE IN THE THEATRE AREA OF LONDON.

The Royal Institute of British Architects invite Architects or Students of Architecture of *British* nationality to submit designs for a Garage in the theatre area of London in accordance with the following conditions and instructions.

The Royal Institute of British Architects have appointed:—

The President of the Royal Institute of British Architects,

Mr. Robert Atkinson, F.R.I.B.A.,

Mr. T. P. Bennett, F.R.I.B.A.,

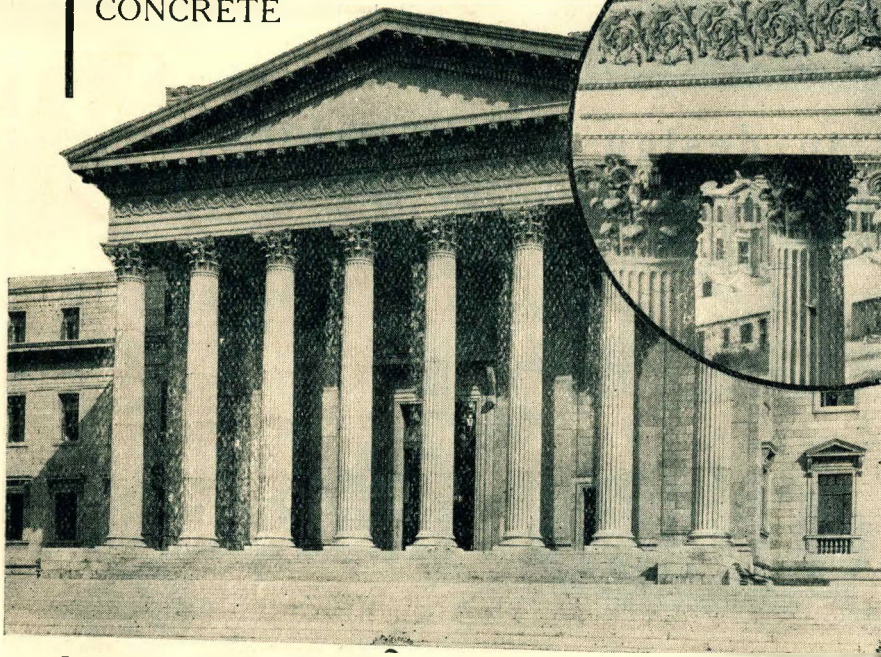
Mr. J. E. Forbes, F.R.I.B.A.,

Mr. William Rootes.

To advise them on the conduct of the Competition, to act as their Assessors and to adjudicate on the whole of the designs submitted and to make the award.

No Assessor nor any employee of the Assessors shall compete or assist a competitor.

Various Architectural Designs
now Possible with
CONCRETE



The achievement of unusual and artistic architectural effects has been made possible by the employment of concrete. Its versatility has furnished builders with a material that has enabled the designing, interior or exterior, of homes, industrial and public buildings, to attain the rank of an art.

**PRETORIA -
PORTLAND-CEMENT**

because of its uniform qualities, is specified by Architects throughout South Africa. It has been used on the most notable buildings in South Africa, such as the Union Buildings, Witwatersrand University etc.

PRETORIA PORTLAND CEMENT CO., LTD.

Box 3811.

JOHANNESBURG.

Tel.: "Cement."

The award of the Assessors will be accepted by the Royal Institute of British Architects and shall be final and binding on all competitors.

The author of the selected design will receive the sum of £350. The remainder of the Prize money to a total of £140 shall be divided at the discretion of the Assessors between competitors whose designs are considered especially meritorious.

A design shall be excluded from the Competition for any of the following reasons:—

- (a) If sent in after the period named, accidents in transport excepted.
- (b) If it does not give substantially the accommodation asked for.
- (c) If the site is varied.
- (d) If the Assessors shall determine that the probable cost of the scheme will exceed by 10 per cent. the estimate of the competitor.
- (e) If any of the conditions or instructions, other than those of a suggestive character, are disregarded.
- (f) If the competitor shall disclose his identity or attempt to influence the decision.
- (g) If the scheme does not comply with the Conditions of the Control Board of the London County Council and the London Building Act.

Each design must be sent in without name, motto, or distinguishing mark of any kind, and accompanied by a letter signed by the competitor, properly sealed, stating that the design is his own work and that the drawings have been prepared in his own office and under his own supervision. The successful competitor must be prepared to satisfy the Assessors that he is the bona-fide author of the design he has submitted.

The design of each competitor is to be contained in one package and is to be sent in, carriage paid, addressed to the Secretary of the Royal Institute of British Architects, 9, Conduit Street, London, W.1., and endorsed "Design for a Garage," not later than the 31st January, 1929, after which no design will be received. Overseas competitors may, however, despatch their drawings in their various localities not later than the 31st January, 1929, but they must forward a Forwarding Agency's certificate of despatch of the drawings to prove that they have been despatched by the 31st January, 1929.

No questions whatever will be answered in connection with the competition.

The Royal Institute of British Architects will communicate the award of the Assessors and will return the designs, carriage forward, to their respective authors.

The Royal Institute of British Architects will exercise every reasonable care of the drawings, but they will not be responsible for any loss or damage that may occur.

The drawings shall, at the discretion of the Royal Institute of British Architects, be subject to exhibition in London in the charge of the Royal Institute, and also at non-Metropolitan centres under the charge respectively of the Societies allied to the Royal Institute.

Copies of the Programme can be obtained from the Secretary, Box 2266, Johannesburg.

UNIVERSITY OF THE WITWATERSRAND, JOHANNESBURG.

SENIOR LECTURERSHIP IN ARCHITECTURE.

Applications are invited for the above post.

The salary will be at the rate of £516 per annum rising to £726 by annual increments of approximately £26 5s.

Participation in the University Teachers' Provident Scheme is compulsory. The scheme provides for a contribution by the members at 6% of their substantive salary (the scale for this purpose being £450—25—£650); the fund contributing the same amount.

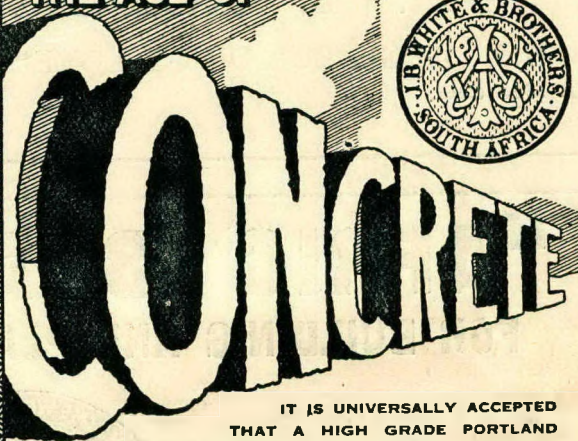
The appointment, which is a full-time one, is subject to all the conditions and rules now in force, and duty is to be assumed on 1st March, 1929, or as soon as possible thereafter.

Applications, which should be in duplicate, accompanied by testimonials, should reach the undersigned not later than 13th October, 1928.

The Registrar,
University of the Witwatersrand,
P.O. Box 1176,
Johannesburg.

H.W.J. v.d. BRUGGE,
Registrar.

THE AGE OF




IT IS UNIVERSALLY ACCEPTED
THAT A HIGH GRADE PORTLAND
CEMENT ENSURES CONSIDERABLE ECONOMY
IN ALL UP-TO-DATE METHODS OF BUILDING OPERATIONS

WHITE'S SOUTH
AFRICAN
PORTLAND CEMENT

EMBODYING ALL THE LATEST IMPROVEMENTS
IS OF THE HIGHEST QUALITY. EXPERIENCED
USERS PROFIT BY THE SAVING IN TIME AND
MATERIAL AND INSIST UPON "WHITE'S"

COMPETITIVE PRICES FOR ALL STATIONS

White's South African Cement Co. Ltd.

(REGISTERED IN ENGLAND.)

ADDRESS ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO
HEAD OFFICE:
LOCARNO HOUSE, LOVEDAY STREET, JOHANNESBURG.

P. O. BOX 2484. TELEGRAPHIC ADD.: "PORTLAND." TELEPHONE 5786.

FACTORY: WHITE'S, ORANGE FREE STATE.

DeVilbiss
Spray-painting System



"RECORD"
CORK TILING

We are the South African Distributors and Installers of these three fine products.

DeVilbiss Spray-painting Equipment. Will apply all kinds of oil and water paints to exterior and interior walls five times quicker than the old hand-brush way. Leaves the surface smooth and even, with no sign of lines or runs.

Vitrolite. The new beautiful vitreous material for wall finishes, shop fronts, counter and table tops. Will not crack, craze or darken with age. VITROLITE is permanently new.

"Record" CORK TILES. Make a splendid long service, silent and resilient flooring for the home, office or restaurant. Can be laid in a variety of pleasing designs.

WE SHALL BE GLAD TO QUOTE FOR EVERY DESCRIPTION OF MARBLE AND TILE WORK.

R. T. RODDA (PTY) LTD.,

27/31, AEGIS BUILDINGS, LOVEDAY STREET, JOHANNESBURG.

PHONE 1315 Cent.

TELEGRAMS: "RODART."

"AFRIC BRAND" LIME

FOR BUILDING AND PLASTERING PURPOSES.

THE MARK OF



HIGH QUALITY.

EVERY BAG GUARANTEED

AND WORTHY OF YOUR

SPECIFICATION.

Our Dark Blue Building and Plastering Limes have been long and favourably known to the Architectural Profession throughout Southern Africa. The reputation of our Lime has been built up by careful attention to every detail in the process of manufacture. Our factory at Natalspruit is equipped with the most modern and best machinery obtainable. We have had over a quarter of a century of experience in the manufacture of Lime, and our product is by common consent the highest grade on the market.

Our Lime has been used in the construction of the University of the Witwatersrand, Appeal Courts Bloemfontein, Cape University, Mowbray, Cape Town. Addington Hospital Durban, and in all the most important building contracts in the Union.

COMPLIES WITH THE BRITISH STANDARDS SPECIFICATION.

STOCKED BY ALL LEADING MERCHANTS.

USED BY ALL PRINCIPAL CONTRACTORS.

Descriptive Pamphlet on request to the Secretary.

AFRICAN LIME WORKS, LTD.,
JOHANNESBURG.

P.O. BOX 169.

Telegraphic Address: "AFRICBRAND."

PHONE 6634 Central

Journal of the SA Architectural Institute

PUBLISHER:

University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg

LEGAL NOTICE:

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

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