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1918

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

http://hdl.handle.net/10539/18862

South African Architectural Record; Journal of the Transvaal, Natal and Orange Free State Provincial Institutes of South African Architects and the Chapter of South African Quantity Surveyors. 1918 vol 3: 1-4 p123-233

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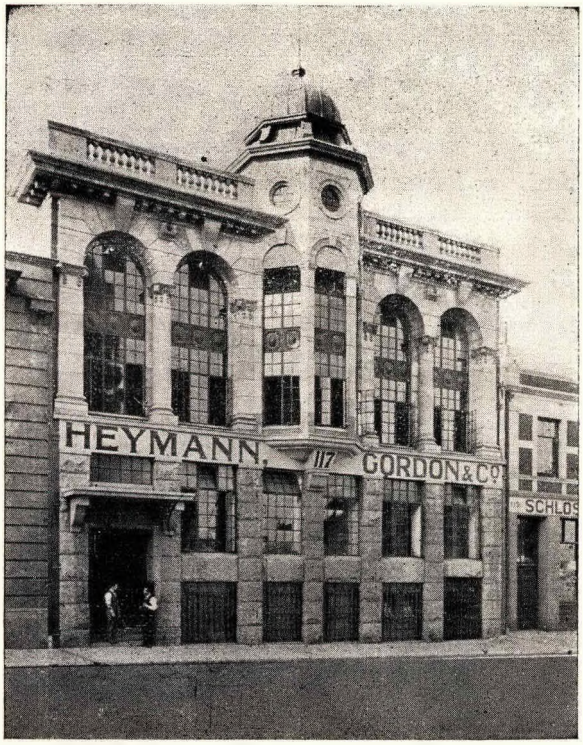
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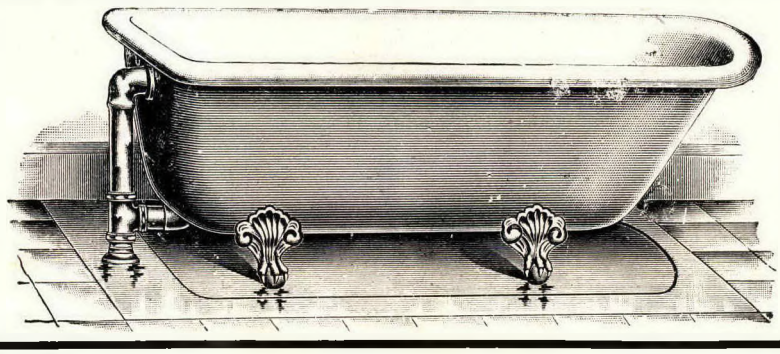
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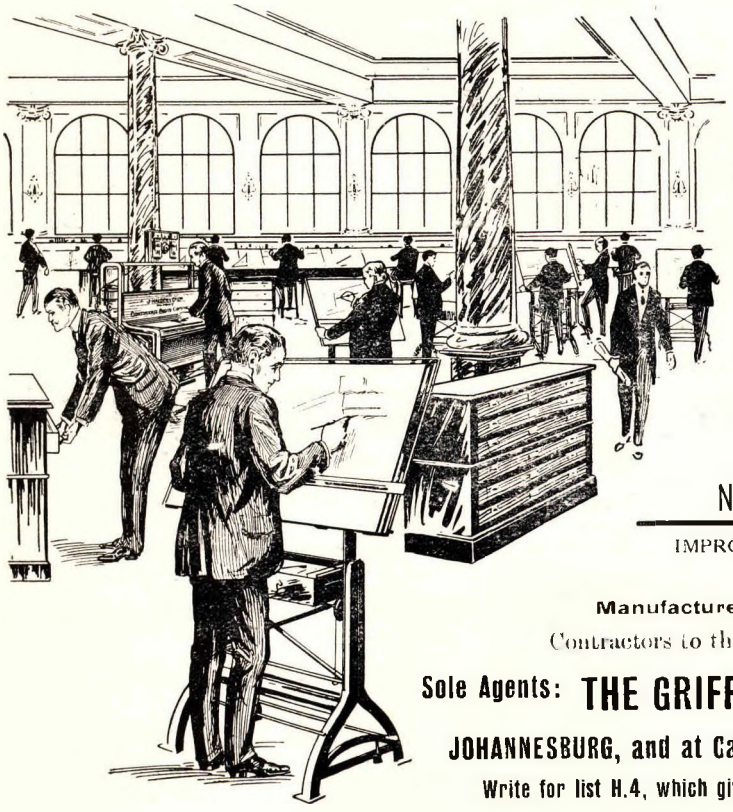
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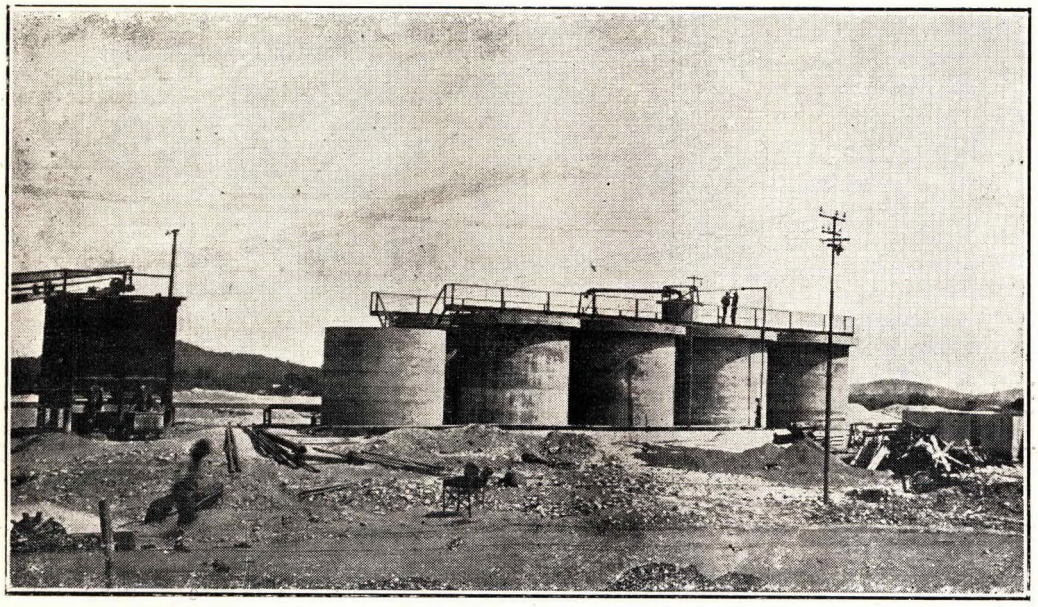


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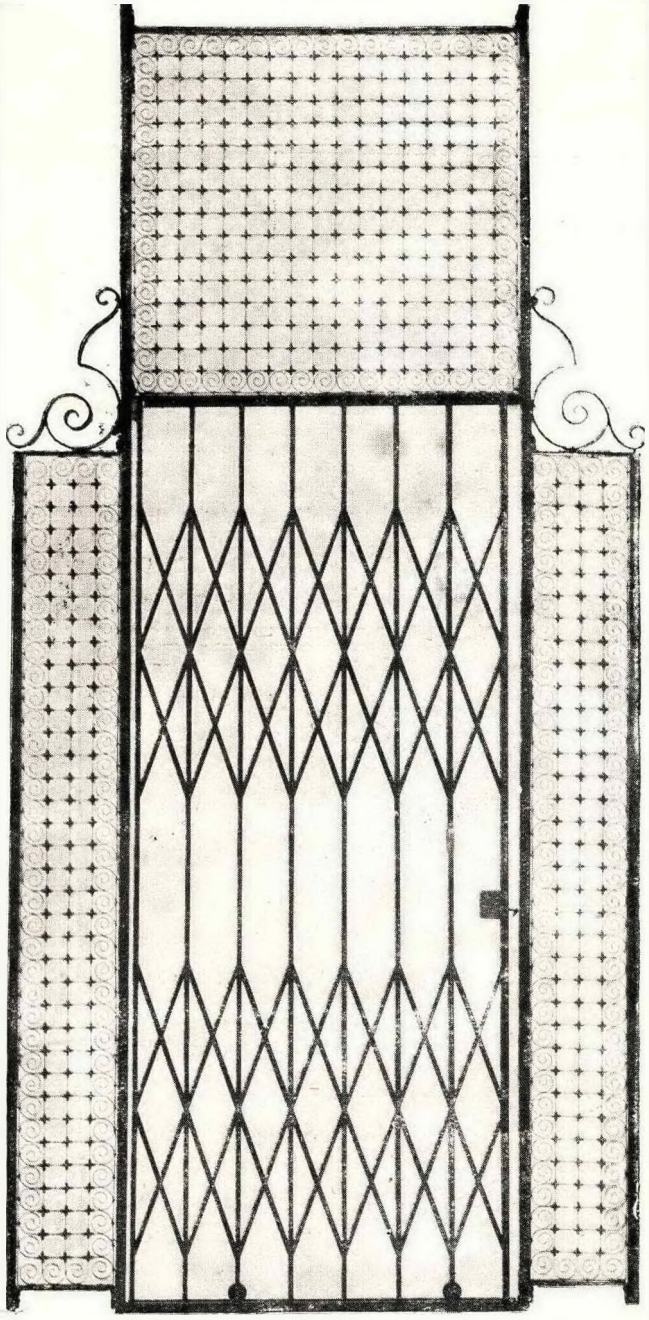
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No. 11. Vol. IV. DECEMBER, 1918. [ISSUED QUARTERLY] Price 1/-

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TOWN PLANNING REFORM.

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

This country, like many others, is beginning to awaken to the moders movement for some coherent action in planning towns. The feeling of the community is as yet too vague and beyond a general wish to improve, most people are quite uncertain in what direction to move. My object is therefore to try and show why steps should be taken and of what nature they should be.

THE NEED OF REFORM.

Let us take Johannesburg for our example, and give a number of illustrations, known to most of our readers, to show that some better method is required at once. Johannesburg is a modern town just over 30 years old, and if it had been planned comprehensively would to-day be a very different city. One of the cardinal and probably most important points for a town planner is that of the main lines of communication, for the question of transport of people and goods must hold a supreme place, and other questions

such as health and beauty and — also of great importance—can be made to fall into place to the first consideration. The want of a comprehensive scheme of arterial roads from the centre is making itself felt more and more each year. Councillor John Abram Moffat's great scheme of a grand trunk road from Eloff Street, overhead across the Wanderers Ground and through a cut under the Old Fort, bifurcating to the west to Auckland Park and to the east to Parktown and Hillbrow and Houghton Estate, is a boldly conceived attempt to lessen the evils of roads overcrowded with trams and motor cars. The exception of the more recently executed arteries southwards to Turffontein and west to Vrededorp, the earlier planning shows a marked deficiency in main and direct routes to the larger outside towns and the greater suburbs. Look at the way to Germiston and Benoni—along Main Street, a too narrow thoroughfare, continuing into awkward right angled bends. Consider the layout to the north-west, through Braamfontein, where similar conditions obstruct and decrease the freedom of access.

Then examine the cross communications—the inconvenient and indirect connections between Auckland Park and Houghton Estate and Parktown and Yeoville, and also those between Jeppes and Braamfontein and in innumerable other places the awkward junctions between the roads of adjoining small townships. These all show a lack of overhead supervision in the past and the need of a Town Planning Board.

Another great defect in Johannesburg is the severing of the city in two by the railway and the lack of sufficient cross access, which owing to the extreme powers given to the S.A.R. enables the Administration to cry *non possimus* when efforts are made by the local authority to improve matters. Between Harrison Street and the Vrededorp Subway—about a mile—there is no cross connection between thickly peopled areas. Persons in Newtown have to make great detours to reach an opposite point a few hundred yards across the line.

Similar difficulty exists in reaching Troyeville from town, widely separted subways causing great loss of time to the public.

If it were practicable to estimate the loss of time due to the bad planning resulting from the railway line alone it would represent a loss in money amounting to a very large sum per annum. This applies to the transport of goods and to that of individuals.

I think with these facts in mind it will be conceded that this town purnishes a very good case for reform in authority so that the railways could not be allowed to unfairly hold up the town, and where its Administration would be subject in this respect to the overriding authority of a Town Planning Commision, who would not permit one section of the people to be allowed to ignore the wants of another section. The remarks about Johannesburg apply in varying degrees to other towns.

It has often been said that Johannesburg lay-out is finished and that nothisg can be done to amend matters, but is this so? Schemes like that put forward by Mr. Moffat show the possibility of altering matters at least to some extend in the future.

All towns yet to be planned—and the country is young and ought to grow into the far centuries to come—require an expert planning board such as does not yet exist.

PRESENT METHODS.

Two acts styled "The Townships' Act, 1907," and the "Amendment Act, 1908," govern the actions of the Government on this most important question. Under these Acts there is a Township Board with *ex-officio* the Surveyor-General as Chairman, and the Registrar of Deeds as a member and, in addition, the Administrator has appointed others. Amongst them, I believe, is Dr. Arnold, the Union Health Officer and others. There appears to be no person specially qualified in town planning on the Board at all. The Surveyor-General is from the nature of his calling versed in some technicalities of the matter, as is the M.O.H. What qualification a Registrar of Deeds has in town planning it is hard to say. Men, like experienced Town Engineers, should be on the board, and certainly it should have an architect.

Under the Act, this Boardhas certainly done some good work and improved many things within its confined limits. The composition of the Board is not satisfactory, as the men likely to know most about the subject are not on it at all. The Statutory composition of the Board should be made to include civic engineers and architects, and it should not be possible to leave them out as is now done. The chairman should be an official highly trained town planning expert, and it should be in the power of this Board by means of this expert to suggest re-planning of schemes coming before them which are for good reasons not entirely satisfactory. Where local authorities are concerned with any lay-out they could have a representative for that particular case. The local authority should be invested with more definite interest and power than they at present possess.

The local authority should not, however, be left with too much power, as it sometimes happens that in small places local jealousies will obscure the merits of schemes. The Town Planning Board becomes, for this and other reasons, a very useful factor where a scheme embraces portions of two adjoining local

authorities as well as for schemes entirely in a local area or outside altogether.

RECENT MOVEMENTS.

Western Australia recently framed an Act where under the Minister there will be a Central Board, consisting of a Town Planning Commissioner, who shall be a permanent paid executive official, skilled in town planning, who will be chairman. There will also be a person skilled in finance, an architect, an engineer and a licensed surveyor. (There is no provision for an M.O.H. in this, probably because his work comes in after the plan is framed).

South Australia has a Board of three, and temporary members are also appointable from affected local authorities, and in advising capacity permanent officers of such bodies may be included in addition.

These movements indicate the lines on which our Architects' Association should develop their action. The Administrator has lately indicated his intention to bring in a Town Planning Act, and it should be made certain that proper men are put on the Board. The present Townships' Board has been of use, but it should now make way for a Board on more modern lines with more extensive powers than it possesses; such as the power to initiate schemes and to fully correct or improve schemes initiated or proposed by private persons or local authorities. The Architects' Association should at once approach the Administrator and urge these points, and also consider the desirability of the Act having a Union Status so that the Board can control the arbitrary methods sometimes adopted by the S.A.R. to local detriment.

DEAN OF GUILD.

It is encouraging to note that the Association of Transvaal Architects has made a beginning with regard to the establishment of a Town Planning Committee and also a Dean of Guild. The scheme has been approached with a big spirit and a large outlook. Its horizon is wide and its ideals are pure and unselfish.

To me it is a matter of very great satisfaction that the Architects have decided to put their efforts into such civic channels, and it is to be sincerely hoped that these efforts will be earnest and sustained.

The gradual awakening and increasing interest which the public are taking in architecture, Town Planning and such like important matters should be a great encouragement and incentive to the formation, without delay, of Deans of Guild in the Transvaal and others in Natal and the Cape Province. The recent outbreak of an influenza plague has without doubt given rise to very serious thought as to how best to prevent, as far as possible, similar outbreaks in the future. It is realized that deceases and crime are fostered and enhanced by reason of the want of proper control of persons and premises which obtain in many parts of the larger towns and even in some dorps. And we all realize that were it not that South Africa is constantly bathed in sunshine, epidemics and plagues would be of far more frequent occurrence. This last visitation has opened the eyes of many people to the appalling conditions under which so many of our fellow citizens are compelled to live. Social workers and others for years have been crying out but without gaining much attention. It has been so clear to them that the crowding of dwellings would ultimately lead to grave outbreaks of decease for which the whole community would have to suffer; and now, when we see the result of slackness and want of foresight, there may be a danger of a revulsion of feeling leading perhaps to misdirected efforts and unsatisfactory results and conclusions.

A Dean of Guild, properly constituted by the Government, would be the body to direct and keep control over new townships and the reformation of existing townships, and to prevent congestion of dwellings.

A Dean of Guild would be the body to see to it that every building should be so designed so as to fulfil its object adequately.

A Dean of Guild would be a body to disallow unsuitable, inadequate, unsightly or incongruous structures to be erected in our thoroughfares.

It is obvious that the duties thus outlined for a Dean of Guild are by no means light or academic. They would be eminently practical and strenuous, and a man serving on such a body should be imbued with a strong and earnest conviction that the scope of his duties would demand great asd unselfish demands on his time and perhaps at times trials of unappreciation of his efforts.

No popularly elected body, dependent upon votes for their seats, would meet the case, nor should we have persons upon such a board with axes to grind or personal ends to serve. The Dean of Guild should be constituted on perfectly independent lines, and composed of gentlemen quite independent of the popular vote. For instance, members of Municipal Councils, as such, would be quite wrong persons to appoint.

I feel that architects are particularly interested in the formation and constitution of a Dean of Guild, and therefore I would welcome the receipt of any views which members of the A.T.A. have on the subject. In the initial work the single man cannot do so much as two and two cannot do so much as three.

My idea of the constitution of a Dean of Guild—whose duties would be roughly as previously outlined. is as follows:—

1. An eminent Lawyer, as Chairman.
2. Two Doctors—nominated by Medical Society.
3. Two Ministers of Religion.
4. Two Architects—nominated by Architects' Institute.
5. One Land Surveyor—nominated by Surveyors.
6. One Social Worker.

These persons should be appointed by the Government to sit as a permanent Board. The Board should be vested with powers to fearlessly deal with the matters before mentioned. A provisional committee could be appointed by Government to draft comprehensive rules and regulations for the guidance and observance of the Board. These working rules to be agreed upon is consultations with Town Councils, Land Corporations, Village Councils, etc., etc.

It think we should look upon a Dean of Guild, which controls the civic development of our towns in the light of an insurance against disease and crime.

The crowding together of dwellings on that wretched fetish the 50 x 100 stand will be strenuously opposed, and it is time that ground landlords will therefore have to be content with smaller prices for stands, and rack landlords will gradually be eliminated.

In this movement the first stage is one for better conditions rather than artistic revolution. The latter largely represents the first and will be reached is time. Practical matters are more quickly realized than matters which do not have an immediate practical aspect. Only it must be borne in mind that in practical suggestions the trend must always be towards artistic development in townships as well as building operations; for it is time that the suitable and artistic environment of a community go more to the making of happiness than anything else. Give a man and woman good living conditions in the way of decent housing—good food, gardens, facilities for good music, and the children of such people may be expected to grow up worthy and reputable citizens.

After all, we are all living to obtain as much happiness out of life as it is possible, and although it is right and proper to allow every person to seek happiness in any legitimate direction desired, there is no doubt good living conditions are of the principal importance. That should be the object for a Dean of Guild to attain. There are further objects for pleasure, happiness and culture, such as museums, art galleries, cathedrals, music halls, theatres, well ordered streets asd many another thing to bring about ideal conditions of a city and now it seems possible for the world to settle down for a long period of peace, surely all our arts may be directed to apply to peace, good Government, and may one hope, good living.

H. G. V.

HOUSING SCHEME FOR POOR WHITE PEOPLE.

The recent serious epidemic has more forcibly than ever brought home the real and urgent necessity for something to be done in the direction of altering the conditions under which poor people are living within a stone's throw of the centre of the city. I have given this matter a good deal of consideration, and it seems to me that the subject requires tackling in a very different manner to the way in which it has been dealt with in the past. I submit that the process of condemning buildings and obtaining closing orders does very little good unless adequate provision is made for the proper housing of the ejected people *before* the condemned buildings are closed. Whilst there is no doubt that some of the old buildings erected in the early days of Johannesburg have become unfit for habitation, it cannot be denied that in many cases they have been made so by the filthy habits of the people using them. There are, unfortunately, people in this world who would turn a clean well-built room into a veritable slum within a few days, and it is this class of individual who requires a great deal more than the usual supervision. Much has been stated at different times about air space and the number of buildings that should be allowed on one stand—my own opinion is that whilst aequate air space is very essential it does not prevent slumming. There are many slum properties in this town with considerably more air space than is provided for some of the most important residential buildings. The real difficulty is the shameful overcrowding that takes place in buildings which cannot be maintained in a healthy state under such conditions. A well-built room on the open veld becomes insanitary if it is used by a larger number of people than is permitted under recognised hygienic rules.

The first step to take in my opinion is to obtain full particulars of all slum properties within the Municipal Area. Whilst this is being done property should be acquired for the erection of suitable buildings to accommodate the peiple who have to vacate insanitary dwellings. The site should be as near to the centre of the town as are the slum properties. Immediately a sufficient number of buildings are ready for occupation the closing down of the insanitary dwellings could be commenced. It may also be necessary to obtain powers to prevent more than a certain number of people sleeping in one room, and the owner of the property or his outhorised agent should be liable to heavy penalties for any continued breah of the Law. There might be difficult cases to deal with, such as a single tenant subletting to many others, or a very poor married man

with a wife and large family who cannot afford to pay for more than one room, but there would be no harm done if the owner or agent had to know more of what was going on in the first case, and the second difficulty should be overcome by a suitable Government grant, because after all children are a national asset, and if the parents are unable to support their offspring the State should, and be glad to do it.

I have two or three sites in mind that would be very suitable for the housing of poorwhite people, and although the valuation of the ground may be considered high, this should not militate against the scheme. There is one thing very certain, that if any attempt is made to provide for people of this class on ground far enough away to be cheap, it is bound to end in failure. The people who herd in slum properties cannot afford to live far away from the town, and unless their requirements in this respect are catered for, it would be very difficult to prevent slumming. My idea is that the slum landlord should not only be forced by law to stop overcrowding, but this should be backed up by healthy competition by erecting clean and habitable dwellings at a reasonable rental. The planning of buildings suitable for poor white people is a simple matter, but these things cannot be done unless the principle is adopted and the necessary funds provided. The expenditure would naturally depend on the amount of accommodation that would have to be provided, and this cannot be ascertained until full particulars have been obtained as to the extent of the overcrowding. Once the principle of a Municipal Housing Scheme is affirmed, suitable ground should then be obtained and plans drawn up for the required buildings. It is suggested that a sum of £20,000 would be required for land, the balance should be sufficient to provide single room accommodation for about 150 to 200 persons.

I am sending these notes to you in the hope that you may be found useful when dealing with this matter.

GLADIATOR.

WANTED: A TOWN PLANNING ACT FOR THE UNION.

The following letter from the President of the Cape Institute of Architects appeared in the "Cape Times" on 22nd November, 1918:—

Sir,—The horrors of the recent epidemic have brought prominently before the public mind the necessity for improvement in the conditions under which our population suffered the grievous losses which now chasten our joy in victory. As a result, local authorities in all parts of the Union are devising measures for the relief of overcrowding and its attendant evils. The sentiment behind such action merits nothing but praise. It is, however, necessary, for that very reason, that a maximum of efficiency should result from these efforts.

Under existing conditions this is not likely to be the case, for no effective legislative machinery exists for the co-ordination and guidance of such efforts of our local government bodies, or for the direct provision of the funds necessary for carrying these laudable aims into effect. Reflection on the immediate local position will emphasis this lack. Our City Council has under construction cottages for its own employees which are to cost £50,000, and to this expenditure proposes to add a further £250,000, if the sanction of the ratepayers can be obtained. It is extremely unfortunate that there is neither an approved plan for the city's extension nor any legislative power in existence for implementing such intended improvements.

The sites of the cottages now being erected and under consideration are not related to any definitely allocated industrial area, nor can it be assured that they will not in the future obstruct the inevitable growth of our Mother City's population to its effective limit of about five times the present total. We cannot be sure that these sites will be in accord with future requirements in the matter of traffic and air-space arteries, or factory and noxious trades areas, or, indeed, any of the thousand and one essential space allotments of the well-planned modern city. Nor can we be sure that, if Cape Town cleans the area within her present boundaries, neighbouring local authorities will be equally industrious and public-spirited.

We might go further, and say it is not enough to contemplate even the entire cleansing of the Cape Province, if the rest of the Union does not fall into line. The recent pandemic makes it obvious that breadth of vision and organisation are essential, in view of the probability of a recrudescence of this or the appearances of some other similar world-scourge. To such a counsel of prudence we surely have enough patriotism to add such other considerations as spring from a proper civic pride and a sense of duty to the present and future population.

It is difficult to imagine how the Union can better show its gratitude for victory than by remedying the present evils. I venture to suggest that we come into line with up-to-date communities overseas, and that we press for the passing of a Union Town Planning Act, which shall be threefold in operation. It should provide:

1. For the principles upon which new townships may be laid out.

2 For the lines upon which areas may and should be added to existing townships, and

3. For the improvement of the areas now existing in established townships.

Part one should be under the entire control of the Central Authority, working through a Town Planning Commission in permanent session. The Commission should cosist of at least one representative each of medicine, engineering, architecture, land surveying and law, as being those callings primarily interested in constructive civic betterment. The Commission should advise the local authorities controlling parts two and three, or called into being by the operation of part one. The duties of local authorities under parts two and three should be obligatory, and should be joined to ample powers (including that of local taxation) for the purposes set forth. The necessary expenses in connection with the Commission and part one of the proposed Act shoudl be found from general taxation.

It is not suggested that this outline proposal covers the whole ground; but it is submitted that it concerns a fundamental provision, without which the unrelated, though well-meaning, programmes of isolated tive. Modifications of the policy outlined are known to be necessary—for instance, the State itself should local government authorities are likely to prove aborprovide areas and habitations for workers it employs —but unless provisions are framed and carried out for the common good, inefficiency cannot but result.

The matter is one involving grave and immediate public necessities, and it is suggested that the Government should forthwith appoint a Commission, similarly constituted to that suggested, and armed with the powers necessary for framing an Act, to serve the indicated needs, for presentation to our Legsilature as soon as possible.

The needs reflected in the proposal outlined have already received partial consideration locally. The Cape Provincial Council published last session a draft Town Planning Ordinance; but this was of such a nature that it was withdrawn shortly after publication, as a result of well-founded technical criticism of an unofficial character. The Cape Town Corporation has also proposed certain town planning requirements, admirably drafted by the City Engineer. It is within the writer's knowledge that other local authorities have made similar attempts in the past; these serve but to add emphasis to the plea now made. The proposal will, if adopted, take time to carry into effect. Herein is no loss. Present ihgh prices militate against any comprehensive, economical and effective constructive programme being adopted just now. It is even now possible for local authorities to clean up the areas and habitations under their control, and so safeguard citizens against such epidemic risks as are avoidable.

In the United States powers, such as those advocated, are given to the State Housing Commission, which is in permanent session; while similar provisions are made in Great Britain, whereby the Local Government Board itself effects, or enables local authorities to carry out, those schemes of civic betterment which are among the most pressing needs of our times. If such necessity exists and has been met in countries where a hiatus in local government is more difficult to find than in our own, surely it is advisable that we should adopt such a policy also. Our needs are not less in proportion to our population.

It is in the writer's opinion that, when devising such provision, we should:

"Design the structure well—finish the fabric,
See it complete in every part ere mortar dab brick."

—I am, etc.,

W. J. DELBRIDGE, A.R.I.B.A.

Parliament Street,

Cape Town, November 12.

CORRESPONDENCE.

The following letter received from the Witwatersrand Master Builders and Allied Trades' Association is published for general information.

The Secretary,

Association of Transvaal Architects,

P.O. Box 2266, Johannesburg.

Dear Sir,—My Association desires to draw the attention of the members of your Institute to the fact that a large number of members of the Master Builders and Allied Trades' Association, Witwatersrand, specialise in painting, decorating and renovating work.

The Master Painters' Section thinks that this business is peculiarly its own, and in many cases the Master Painters are not invited to tender. This appeal is therefore made to Architects, who may have work of the above description, to give the Master Painters' Section an equal opportunity to tender for such work.

We trust you will put this before your members at the earliest opportunity.

Yours faithfully,

R. TWEEDDALE HOGG,

Secretary.

Street Architecture.

By M. J. Harris.

Street architecture—the buildings that enclose our range of sight in city precincts, should not be such as to limit our vision. Since so large a portion of humanity must necessarily spend their lives in towns and cities, the creations of the architect must play a great part in influencing mentality and character. Who does not remember the depression and monotony of barrack-like streets, the lines of tall flat brick walls perforated for windows and doors, and endlessly alike? And who so dull that has not felt the uplift of noble building? Some day it will be more generally realised that, as the architecture, so the people.

In this article, the writer inaugurates a series which he hopes other architects will continue in future issues of this Journal. There are ideals in Street Architecture. We may differ about them. But we



CUTHBERT'S BUILDINGS.

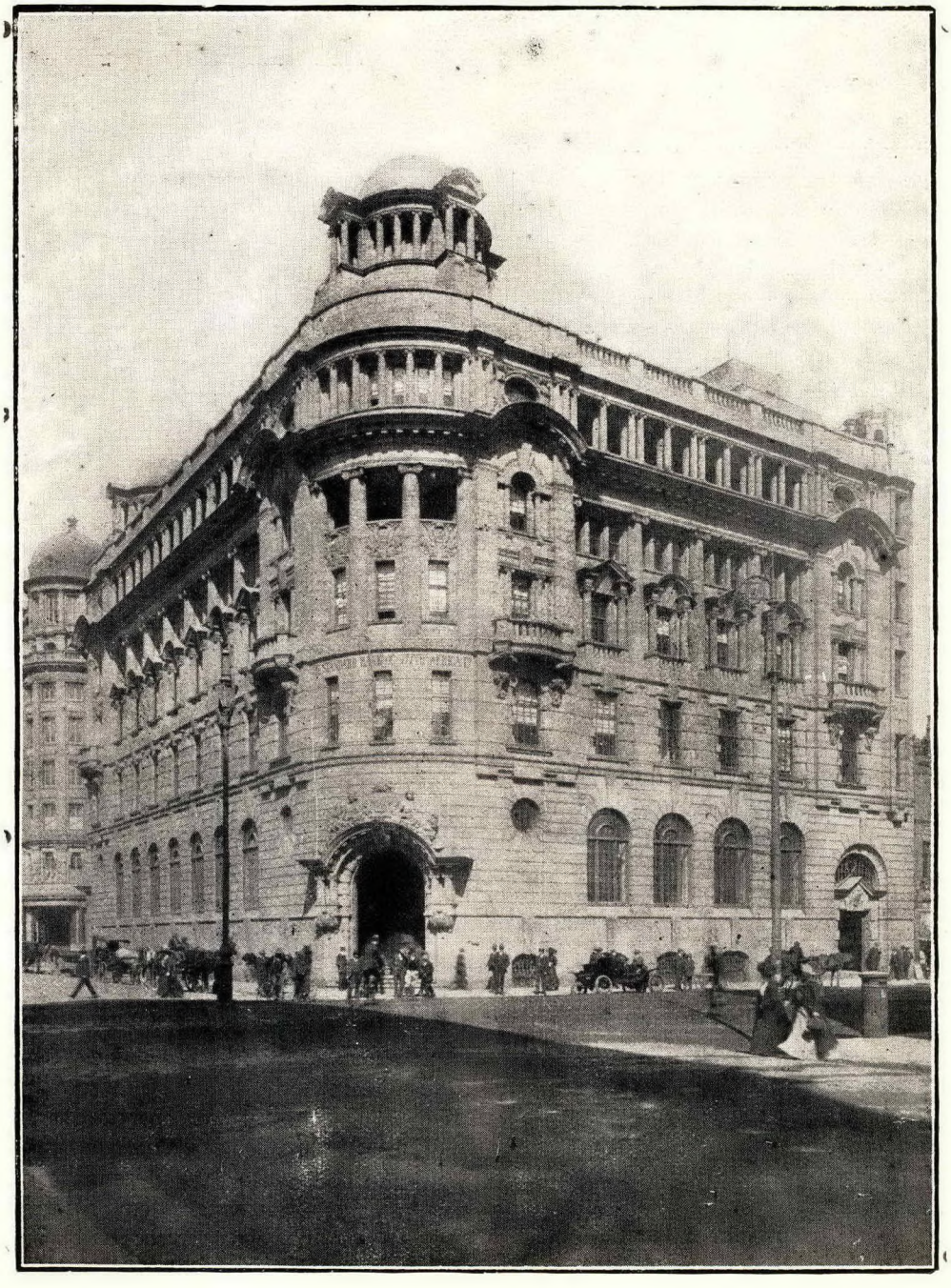
shall be united in denouncing ideal-less soul-less building, such as too often appears in all our South African towns. Some day, let us hope, law makers will realise that ugly building is an offence and menace to public well-being, and will prevent it by Courts of Civic Amenity, just as malefactors on much smaller scale are to-day restrained by Courts of Law. The day of greater recognition for architecture may be at hand.

CUTHBERT'S BUILDINGS.

In the writer's opinion, Cuthbert's Buildings, at the corner of Eloff and Pritchard Streets, is the most striking piece of exterior architecture to be seen in the streets of Johannesburg. The structure was probably the first important building project to be usdertaken after the close of the Anglo-Boer War, and was completed early in March, 1904, two years after the declaration of peace. The architects were Messrs. W. H. Stucke and W. H. Bannister to whom, after the submission of a preliminary sketch, the owners entrusted the work without competition. The cost of the building, inclusive of steel work, electric light, lift and sewerage installations, was, roughly, £55,000, and among the contractors responsible for the work were Mr Ambrose, who undertook the excavation and foundation work, Messrs. J. and R. Niven the steel work, the main structure was carried out by Messrs. Gabriel & Ballantine, and the very fine modelling work of the front was carried out by Mr. Marigo.

Chatting with Mr. Stucke, one gathers from his recollections many interesting particulars regarding this well known land-mark. It appears that exceptional difficulties began with the excavation. It was immediately seen that nature, in one of her freaks, had prepared an engineering problem. The northern half of the site was solid rock, about midway that disappeared vertically, and the southern half of the site changed to a soft earthy soil. Many and long were the calculations, and in the end a very heavy foundation of steel cantilevers went down upon spread concrete bases designed to assure even settlement. The building has fireproof floors and roof. Regarding the latter it is interesting to note that this roof has never given any trouble; it was constructed on what was known as Allen's patent; a Capetown firm of that name having devised a method under which successive coats of alternating felt and bitumen were laid as the roof covering. The same roof was used at Livingstone Buildings, Johannesburg, and the Bank of Africa Buildings at Port Elizabeth where it has proved similarly effective and durable. This is not an advertisement, as unfortunately the firm of Allens has gone out of business; their patent has apparently disappeared with them, for Mr. Stucke rather ruefully confesses to troubled experiences with later roofs. Of course this merely refers to the main roof. Everyone knows the series of picturesque oriel windows which run up the facade at the third and fourth floor levels, these are constructed in teak, and tile hung as to spandrel walls and roofs; while the angle fleche, which forms so prominent a feature in any view of the city, is crowned with a steep octagonal roof framed in steel and zinc covered. . . . One moment while I shake my pen—force of habit makes it run towards the lines of a specification.

A special feature of the building is the Tea Room on the first floor, an open hall occupying practically the whole of the space, and having an exterior glass front opening on to a wide balcony. The lower two storeys (including, of course, the shops below) are thus glass fronted, and here the architects were faced with that bug-bear of commercial architecture—the danger of making the heavy upper part of the building appear as though standing upon plate glass supports. To some extent the heavy shade thrown by the verandahs and balconies hides the absence of apparent support, but it is the design of the upper storeys of the building which shows remarkable skill and freshness in the handling of the problem. Looking at the building from below, the sight is carried upward by a series of vertical piers, well moulded to show long unbroken vertical shadows, so that the weight of the building appears to soar upward—not downward! Upward these piers soar between the graceful oriel windows, with hardly any striation save for a connecting row of segmental arches near the base, and a crown of cornice-surmounted arches at the top, over which again there is a lightly designed top storey of diminutive looking columns and piers carrying a top balustrade. So far as external appearance is concerned, the writer believes this to be the freshest and most attractive work of commercial architecture in Johannesburg. The design probably owes something of its inspiration to the Gothic spirit. With the advent of peace, we shall no doubt see many more of these tall buildings erected upon valuable vity sites, and it is to be hoped that we shall see more of this spirit in design. It is true, but it is depressing to be reminded, that we human beings have occasionally to be stacked on tiers of floors, like merchandise on selves, but our architecture should have the decency not to obtrude that fact. A lofty purpose may be our motive even in the most utilitarian pursuits; such a purpose the architects of this building seem to have finely expressed.



THE STANDARD BANK.

The Standard Bank erected its head office at Johannesburg in the fine building which is the subject of our second illustration, at the corner of Commissioner, Harrison and Fox Streets is the year 1906. The cost was, roughly, £180,000, and the design was the work of Messrs. Stucke and Bannister, who were the winners in a limited architectural competition. It is a great structure in the style of the Classic Renaissance, and arrests the attention by its massiveness and an opulence of material and detail—properly betokening, no doubt, the material wealth and the infinitude of interests controlled by the powerful institution housed within. One is not surprised to learn that Strong Room, which occupies almost the entire basement, is so constructed that if the whole building were to collapse on top of it, it would resist the impact. That basement often contains the larger part of the

Reef's monthly gold output—a million of money at a time, a sufficient amount to stiffen one against many a shock! The daylight in the basement is excellent, being admitted by good windows well above the pavement level, the ground floor itself being approachable only after an ascent of granite steps at each entrance. These entrances contain a special feature devised by the architects. Most Johannesburgers know these angle entrance doorways, on plan a full quarter circle, the steel covered doors framed in one piece with an overhead cradle; this overhead cradle or ceiling is the segment of a circle, the centre fitted as a pivot; a native operates a small windlass in the porchway, door and said ceiling move together solid, and the bank is open or closed as the case may be. It is a modern version of the mediaeval portcullis—without a moat, but quite as effective. Inside, one finds the Banking Hall; the eye sweeps over a space 100 ft. x 140 ft.: there are few columns, and one finds on enquiry that the floors over are for the most part hung from powerful steel trusses up at the second floor level! But there is no shock to the canons of architectural propriety, the eye is satisfied as to "visible means of support." The central part of this Banking Hall has a roof light; this comes below the open central light area of the office portion of the building, the latter contained in the four higher storeys. As usual with these roof lights, the question of cleaning the inevitable top dust had to be considered; the architects solved the problem by putting the 3 ft. squares of glass panels in a thickness of one inch, the top surface of the reinforced concrete frame and the glass are finished to one flush level. Over this is the usual glass lantern roof, having a door of full size at one end to give access for the sweeper. The architects still had to decide how to carry out the rain water from this roof. A box gutter surrounds the lantern on all four sides—cantilevered out from the first floor—and has an outlet to a huge rainwater head 3 ft. x 2 ft. at top, 6 ft. in height, and tapering down into a five-inch diameter circular wrought iron pipe. This pipe goes down and along the wall of an access way at the ground floor level, where it discharges isto Fox Street. After it has been remembered that all the roofs of the building, as well as the lantern, are drained into this one pipe, none of us should ever again complain of having had to work under pressure. Of further note regarding the construction, it should be stated that the main contract was carried out by Messrs. Abott & Miller, the steel work by Messrs. Wade & Dorman, Ltd., the bank fittings by Messrs. Waring & Gillow; Waywood Otis, Ltd., supplied the lifts, the electric installation was carried out by Messrs. Reunert & Lenz, and the heating apparatus by Messrs. Haden & Sons.

ASSOCIATION'S DOINGS.

University Committee.—Mr. M. J. Harris, the Association's nominee on this Committee, received a prior nomination for a seat thereon, from the Public Library, which was accepted; Mr. D. A. McCubbin, who has previously served on this Committee, consented to again represent the Association.

Government Architectural Work.—A deputation, consisting of the President, five members of Council and the Registrar awaited on the Administrator and Executive Council, early in September, on the question of the Transvaal Provincial Building programme, advocating that certain proposed buildings thereunder should be put out to open competition. The deputation received a sympathetic hearing and is hopeful of receiving practical demonstration as a result of the visit.

DRAFT ACT.

Union Registration Act.—The permanent committee has held regular meetings, at one of which Mr. W. J. Delbridge, President of the Cape Institute of Architects, attended. A big forward movement was made possible by the mutual agreement for the requirement of such an Act, and a complete understanding being arrived at between this Association and the Cape Institute on eight of the ten principles governing such a measure, arrived at unanimously decided upon at a meeting of the members of this Association held as far back as November, 1912.

The two remaining clauses are under consideration and hopes are held that these will not prove an unsurmountable object.

In furtherance of this object, a conference of all members of the profession will be held in Capetown on January 8th, 9th and 10th, having as its object the obtaining of a mandate from the members of the profession in the Cape, Natal and Free State provinces, to proceed with the arrangements necessary to obtain a Union Registration Act on the principles laid down.

This conference will be addressed by delegates from the Natal Institute of Architects and this Association, the chosen representatives being:

Natal.—Mr. W. S. Payne.

Transvaal.—Mr. M. J. Harris and Mr. Robert Howden.

Commission on Contracts. — The Provincial Administration appointed a commission to go into the questions relating to building contracts, this commission was busy for weeks in Pretoria, hearing evidence from all sections of the building trades, it will be interesting to know when its report may be expected.

Benoni Town Hall Competition.—The designs submitted in this competition will be exhibited at an

early date, in Johannesburg, in the Herbert Evans' Galleries, Von Brandis Square, due notification of the date of opening of this exhibition will be advertised in the Johannesburg press.

Additions and Alterations to Association Bye-laws.—With reference to the printed and gummed slips sent out by the Registrar on the 7th inst., no provision was made for the alteration to bye-law 37b. Members are therefore specially advised that the number of members personally present at special general meetings to constitute a quorum at special general meetings has been reduced from 25 to 15. The full text of this alteration will be found in the Government notice published in another part of this issue.

Copies of the Act and Bye-laws, with the latest additions and amendments inserted therein, may be obtained from the Registrar, price 1s.

Copies of the earlier additions of the journal can also be obtained on application to the Registrar, price 1s. 3d. per copy, postage paid. As only a few copies of the earliest issues are on hand, immediate application is advisable.

The President, Mr. M. J. Harris, successfully contested the Municipal election last month, for Ward 7.

Mr. C. T. Mitchell has returned from active service and resumed duties, it is quite possible that he may proceed to British East Africa early in the new year, to take up an appointment there.

The Art and Education Committee has commenced its sittings by the appointment of the following sub-committees, which are now hard at work on the various matters which come within the scope of each.

Town Planning.—Mr. H. G. Veale (convener), G. S. Burt Andrews, E. M. Powers, and H. W. Spicer.

Dean of Guild and Correspondent.—Mr. E. H. Waugh (convener), T. G. Ellis, H. G. Veale, G. Moerdijk, and F. Emley.

Propaganda and Education.—Mr. T. G. Ellis (convener), M. J. Harris, W. B. T. Newham, D. M. Burton, and D. M. Sinclair.

Mr. F. L. H. Fleming, Chairman of the Art Committee is *ex officio* member of each of the foregoing committees.

Society of Architects (South African Branch) will hold its Annual General Meeting on the 17th inst, at which the following unopposed nominations for the Hon. Officials and Council for the ensuing year will be presented:—

President.—Mr. H. G. Veale.

Vice-Presidents.—Messrs. W. J. McWilliam, F. J. Ing, Robert Howden.

Hon. Treasurer.—Mr. D. M. Burton.

Hon. Councillors.—Messrs. J. F. Beardwood, J. S. Donaldson, and E. H. Waugh.

Hon. Secretary.—Mr. M. J. Harris.

Mr. D. M. Sinclair, the Retiring President, is *ex-officio* member of Council for the forthcoming year.

Benevolent Fund.—A further donation of £5 has been received from Mr. D. M. Burton.

Members are particularly requested to mention the name of this journal, "Building," when corresponding with advertisers.

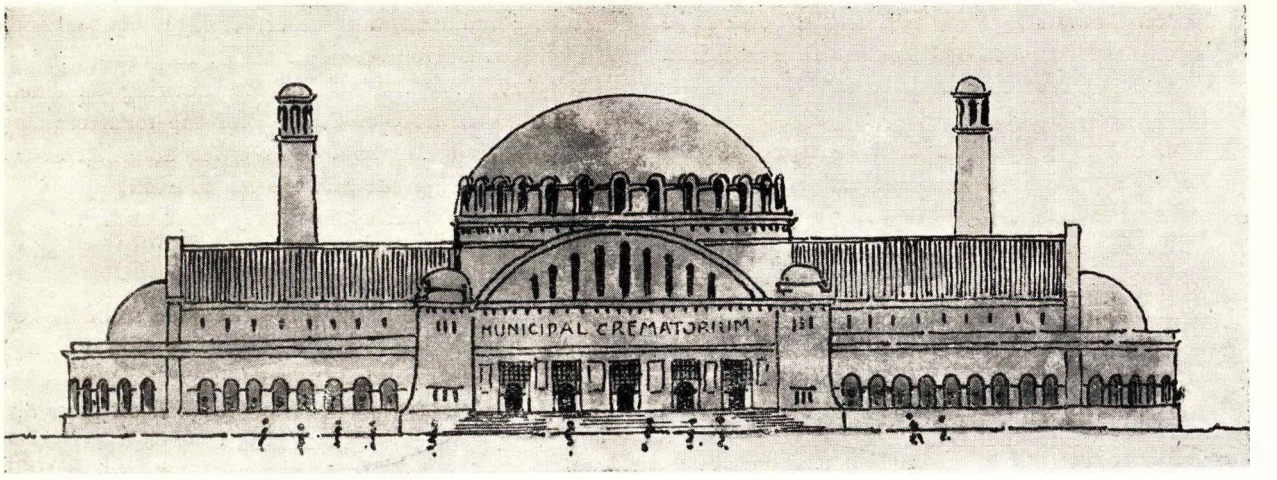
Members will encourage the success of this official journal of the Association by passing all their enquiries to firms represented in the advertising section, a gazetteer for this purpose is provided on page 3.

GOVERNOR-GENERAL'S FUND—
ARCHITECT'S SECTION.

Amount previously acknowledged					£35	13 6
Sept.—D. M. Burton	£1	0	0			
H. Baker & Fleming	1	0	0			
J. S. Donaldson	1	0	0			
D. A. McCubbin	1	0	0			
H. Hancock	2	2	0			
Cowin & Powers (Aug.-Sept.)	2	0	0			
J. S. Bowie (Aug.-Sept.)	2	2	0			
Allen Wilson (Aug.-Sept.)	2	2	0			
Anonymous (Sept.-Oct.)	1	0	0			
B. R. Avery	1	1	0			
J. A. Moffat (Aug.-Sept.)	2	2	0			
					16	10 0
Oct.—Howden & Stewart (Sept. Oct.)	2	2	0			
H. Baker & Fleming	1	0	0			
H. Hancock	2	2	0			
D. M. Burton	1	0	0			
					6	4 0
Nov.—B. R. Avery (Oct.)	1	1	0			
H. Baker & Fleming	1	0	0			
D. A. McCubbin (Oct.-Nov.)	2	0	0			
H. Hancock	2	2	0			
J. S. Bowie	2	2	0			
D. M. Burton	1	0	0			
J. A. Moffat (Oct.-Nov.)	2	2	0			
B. R. Avery	1	1	0			
Anonymous (Nov.-Dec.)	1	0	0			
					13	8 0
					£71	15 6

All the above donations have been paid over to the Hon. Treasurer of the Central Fund.

M. K. CARPENTER,
Hon. Secretary.



Cremation and the Campo Santo.

By Mr. Gerald Moerdijk.

Life must end, and of course arrangements must be made in this relation. Now, the question of cremation versus burial has of late years received far more consideration than formerly, and crematoria have been established all over the world. Cremation is nothing new under the sun, and as far as history will take us back we find it in common use either alone or side by side with burial.

In England it was practised in the stone and bronze ages down to the time of the Roman occupation. Later, under the influence of Christianity which, like Judaism before it, always favoured burial in preference to burning, cremation ceased, and has not been in use till its recent revival; it is, however, the common way of disposing of the dead over large parts of Asia (India and Siam). The modern revival began in Italy in 1870, and was introduced into England by Sir Henry Thompson, who founded the Cremation Society in 1874. Owing to legal difficulties the first cremation, however was not performed till 1882, since which date its spread has been rapid and continuous. Beautiful Campo Santo Crematoria exist in Genoa, Leipzig, and Paris, hundreds of small crematoria are found all over the Continent and Britain.

Reasons for Cremation on the Ground of Health.

Looked at from a purely sanitarian point of view, cremation is undoubtedly the most perfect system of the disposal of the dead. The matter is one calling for the most serious consideration on the part of the hygienist, who, when casting prejudice aside and reasoning alone by the science of his avocation, can but arrive at the conclusion mentioned. So long as towns and villages are small, burial of the dead in the midst of the living does comparatively little harm. But as our population increases very rapidly and is concentrated round centres of industry, it becomes imperative to consider the question of public health in a way that was quite unknown before.

Research has shown that churchyards are centres from which disease spreads to the surrounding dwellings, the air in the neighbourhood of a cemetery contains a very large percentage of carbon dioxide (CO_2). In England investigations were made which revealed the horrible conditions of burial vaults and graves, and the result was that in 1855 a law was passed forbidding interment within the boundaries of cities. This, however, proved to be only a temporary remedy for the evil. Cemeteries were formed on the outskirts of London and elsewhere, but the growth of the population was so rapid that it overtook the cemeteries, which were soon surrounded by dwelling-houses: thus the old fatal conditions were reproduced over again. There is only one remedy, and that remedy is found in cremation, by which a human body is reduced in the space of half an hour into harmless gasses and a small amount of clean, white ash. It is really almost incredible that people will go on sowing the ground around the cities in which they live with a ring of decomposing matter. Under usual conditions obtain-

ing in regard to cremation, the resultants of the complete resolution of the body which are its elementary and inodorous gasses are returned to the earth through the action of rain and dew. Nothing is more absorbant of these gasses than water, and this gives back to the earth the elementary solids which had been borrowed from them. Thus we find that decomposition in a grave and decomposition through the instrumentality of the crematorium resolves itself in the relative speed of resolution.

Aesthetic Reasons.

Cremation in no way interferes with the feeling of sanctity which attaches to the remains of the dead. An urn, to begin with, is a far more beautiful thing than a coffin, and is capable of a great variety of artistic treatment. An urn contianing the ashes can be buried in a quiet country churchyard just as well as a coffin, or as the ashes are entirely harmless we could revert to the original custom of interring our dead in monuments inside a church. Or again for those who prefer them, columbaria can be provided for the reception of urns, which can either be seen or hermetically sealed up in a niche, to rest there in perpetuity. It is repugnant to feeling to have human bones interfered with after interment, and this often happens in case of burial in a cemetery. The *requiescat in pace* is not always for good and all. When a town overgrows its boundaries the cemetery is used as a building ground, and in older cities human bones are often found whilst digging trenches for foundations. The Swiss, for instance, have a playful way of treating the bones of their dead. They reverently consign the mortal remains to earth, yet do not allow the bones to remain there in peace indefinitely; for the Switzer considers the surface of his dear land too valuable to be overspread with the remains of his forefathers. He therefore, after a lapse of about twenty years, digs up the bones and stacks them in bins around his chapels and churches. A grim sight indeed whilst attending service in such a chapel to see around the living the bones of hundreds of those who have passed away ranged tier upon tier in open bins around the wall, their skulls grinning out towards us whilst resting on their thigh-bones.

Individual sentiment must decide which is the more preferable: the chill attributes of the cemetery, its drear and dismal reiteration of the passing hence and its sanitary imperfections—perhaps the nearest and dearest to our hearts lies in hideous attenuated transmutition, the prey of worms and the like—or those of the crematory mausoleum with its more cheering sanctity, its perfect hygiene, and its capabilities both in regard to architectural and scuptural effect as a fitting collective monument to those who have passed away. Surely such an edifice rearing itself in majesty from a Campo Santo, verdured and relieved by nature's own floral embellishments, with its chaste arcadings and loggia, their pillars rising from flower-beds to relieve the sombrous solemnity of the array of monuments upon the walls in the sculptured groups between the lengthy porticos is preferable to the vast flesh-chilling cemetery with its monotonous stone slabs. Here we have two methods of effecting one and the same end—a dual end—the disposal of the dead and the erection of mementos to them.

Reasons for Cremation.

Looking through books on cremation I found the following:—

Cremation effects in one hour that which it takes years to do if the body is buried. The process of cremation absolutely prevents all possibility of pollution of water or contamination of air, whereas a burial is always noxious and sometimes dangerous.

Cremation, if generally adopted, would avoid the necessity of adding to our large and costly cemeteries.

Cremation offers facilities for a return to the ancient practice of interment in churches.

Cremation removes the possibility of being buried alive.

Cremation is easily arranged for and less expensive than the ordinary form of burial where a private grave is used.

Cremation interferes with no religion or rite.

Cremation admits of the same ceremony as if ordinary burial were resorted to.

Cremation has been recognised by Parliament, which has approved of regulations as to the maintenance and inspection of crematoria and has prescribed in what cases cremation may take place and the forms of notices, certificates, and declarations which shall be given or made before cremation is permitted.

Cremation provides a much more effective safeguard against foul play than in the case of ordinary burial, and is the only real protection of society against secret crime.

Cremation is the only remedy for the present day unnatural condition of burial, facilitating the disposal of the dead reverently and decently without danger to the living.

Example of Crematorium.

The Golders Green Crematorium, in London, which is here described, was designed by Sir Ernest George. It stands in its own grounds, which are pleasantly

undulating and are surrounded by a belt of sheltering trees. Within this belt and following generally its inner line is a circular carriage road. On either side of the road fine groups of beautiful flowering trees and shrubs have been planted, the central space being an open lawn. The main part of the ground is kept as a garden, but a portion has been set aside for the erection of private columbaria. In the fore-court is an ample porch giving access to the chapel which, including its gallery, is 70 feet long by 25 feet wide, and will seat about 300 persons; it also contains a large organ. A waiting-room and vestry are beneath the gallery The internal walls are panelled in oak to the height of the doors, above which the arcaded brick walls carry an open timbered roof. The catafalgue, composed of rare marbles relieved with bronze, harmonises with the surroundings and adds to the dignity of the simple design of the interior. A rose window is at one end and at the other is a range of arcaded windows kept high to leave wall space for a future cloiser, which is to be an important feature. The cloister will be open on its garden side, in it will be made grants in perpetuity of space for the erection of monuments and family tombs, and thus afford a covered space where works of art may be set up as memorials to the dead without fear of damage from the weather. The columbarium is a tower-like building in four stories, its walls fitted with niches to receive urns containing ashes. The chapel at the crematorium is available for any form of service or ceremony, religious or secular, desired by the friends of the deceased.

The Campo Santo in Genoa is on a far grander scale than the London Crematorium, and is placed among beautiful mountains overlooking the Mediterranean Sea. It is built entirely out of white marble, and is generally used by the inhabitants of the town.

Here follow some extracts from the Cremation Act of 1902, passed by the British Parliament, to show some of the conditions under which cremation is carried out.

No cremation of human remains shall take place except in a crematorium of the opening of which notice has been given to the Secretary of State.

It shall not be lawful to cremate the remains of any person who is known to have left a written direction to the contrary.

It shall not be lawful to cremate human remains which have not been identified.

No cremation shall take place until the death of the deceased has been duly registered.

The Act contains about five pages, and ensures against foul play, also sees to it that the ashes are treated with all respect due to human remains.

ALTERATIONS AND ADDITIONS TO THE ASSOCIATION BYE-LAWS.

The following additions and amendments to the bye-laws of the Association received the assent of His Excellency the Governor-General-in-Council and were published for general information in the Union Government Gazette No. 920, of 11th October, 1918 (Government Notice No. 1371).

His Excellency the Governor-General-in-Council has been pleased, under the powers vested in him by section twenty-nine of the Architects' Private Act, No. 39 of 1909 (Transvaal), to approve of the following amendments and additions to the by-laws published under Government Notice No. 574 of 1910:—

Status of Salaried and Absentee Members.

The following new clauses to be added:—

29. (d) Every member registered or hereafter registering shall be considered, *ipso facto*, practising, save as herein provided, and any member ceasing practice or claiming to pay reduced subscriptions by reason of being a salaried assistant or absent from the Transvaal or South Africa shall be exempted or entitled to abatement as provided by the Act and by-laws only if he shall have given to the Registrar written and properly substantiated notice, and such exemption or abatement shall in any case be effective only for each complete year of subscription. Any member who shall intend to recommence practice shall immediately give written notice thereof to the Registrar.

29. (e) For the purpose of these by-laws, a salaried assistant shall be a registered architect who, while registered in terms of the Act, is ordinarily and regularly employed at a fixed salary, and who shall not for any part of his time perform any work whether for remuneration or otherwise under the title of architect except for and in the name of his regular empolyer.

Unprofessional Conduct.

The following to be substituted for the present by-law clause No. 51 (h):—

Knowingly taking part in any competition, the conditions of which are expressly and for stated reasons disapproved by the Council.

The following new clauses to be added:—

51. (i) Attempting in any way to secure work for which a competition is in progress except as competitor and in accordance with the conditions of that competition; and that present clause No. 51 (i) be renumbered No. 51 (m).

51. (j) Attempting to influence the award of a competition otherwise than as assessor or authorised adviser.

to in By-law No. 36 (d), to see that no member shall

exercise more than one vote, and to report the figures and results of the ballot to the meeting. The scrutineers shall also see that ballot papers are accepted only when enclosed in the sealed and signed envelopes

51. (k) Accepting a commission to do work either personally or by partnership, for which a competition has been instituted, having acted in an advisory capacity, either in drawing up the programme or in making the award, unless such commission to do work, whether personally or by partnership, has been clearly foreshadowed by the terms of the said programme.

51. (l) Knowingly competing with a fellow architect on the basis of professional charges.

Competitions.

The following addition to be made to clause No. 50:—

Every architect acting as assessor in an open architectural competition shall sign the conditions of competition and schedules of accommodation (if any) therewith accompanying, he shall also sign the answers to competitors' usual written questions (if any), and shall endeavour to secure publication of the first premiated design, and his award, in the *Journal* or other official organ for the time being of this Association.

List of Members Eligible to Vote at General Meetings.

The following new clause to be added:—

36. (d) At all annual and special general meetings of the Association, subject to the provisions of sections twenty-three and twenty-four of the Act, the Registrar shall place upon the table a list of members entitled to vote, such list shall be open to inspection and its correctness open to challenge in any particular by any member present, provided that such challenge shall be made to the chairman in open meeting or delivered to the Registrar in writing, prior to the taking of any vote at the meeting. In the event of any such challenge the ruling of the president (or other chairman for the time being, as provided in By-law No. 37) shall be given and recorded upon the minutes; and such list shall be amended, or not amended, in conformity with any such ruling. Any person whose name does not appear on the said list shall not be permitted to vote at that meeting.

Voting at Annual Meetings.

The following to be substituted for the present clause No. 6 (b):—

At the annual general meeting, previous to the holding of the ballot, the meeting shall appoint two or more scrutineers whose duty it shall be to receive the ballot papers, to see that ballot papers are accepted only from those whose names appear on the list referred later prescribed, and shall mark every such envelope with the date of the meeting upon which it was handed to them.

Any member unable to be present at the ballot shall upon application be entitled to receive from the Registrar a ballot form and envelope, of form and description to be decided by the Council from time to time; the ballot form to be duly filled in by the member and enclosed in the said envelope, which envelope shall be signed by the member, sealed, and delivered to the Registrar, who shall hand same to the scrutineers prior to the chairman declaring the ballot closed.

Every member present at the ballot shall be entitled to receive from the Registrar a ballot form and envelope as in last paragraph mentioned, such bers desiring to vote shall fill in the said form and enclose it in the envelope, which latter he shall further seal and sign as last provided, and deliver to the scrutineers prior to the chairman declaring the ballot closed.

Upon declaration of the results of the ballot, the scrutineers shall hand to the Registrar the whole of the ballot papers, and separately, the said envelopes, and he shall retain same for one calendar month from the date of the ballot, after which period, and not before, said ballot papers and envelopes may be destroyed. Ballot papers, though not required in terms of this by-law to be signed by the member voting, shall not be invalidated by reason of such signature.

Quorum at General Meetings.

By-law No. 38 (b) to be amended by the alteration of the first word in the clause "twenty-five" to "fifteen."

The following to be added after the fifth word in clause No. 38 (c):—

"and special general meeting."

REVIEW OF ARCHITECTURAL JOURNALS.

"Pictorial Exaggeration" is the title to a very interesting article dwelling upon the imaginative excesses of the artist, and to what extent he is entitled to improve on the real in creating his ideal; *inter alia* the following extracts are worth repeating—"Who would willingly forfeit the magic imagery of Shelley's skylark or the miraculous splendour of Turner's sunsets"—"The creative artist must necessarily be a law unto himself"—"Where conventional talent merely pleases, genius may startle"—An artist is not expected to be content with a mere mechanical transcription of apprehended phenomena"—But, says the writer, in spite of all this, is the artist justified in giving forth a rendering that immeasurably transcends the original? An an illustration he produces on the one hand a painting of the Gate of Alcola, Madrid, and on the other a photograph of same, the artist he says has idealized his subject outrageously, he has turned a broad, squat composition obviously ill proportioned into a lofty towering mass, that he has ennobled and

dignified it cannot be denied, the ideal is vastly superior to the real, but he has etherealized his subject beyond recognition.

Australia House has been officially opened by His Majesty the King, and together with the Gaiety Theatre and Marconi House form the principal features of that noble effort of reclamation in that conjested part of London. The war has, to a considerable extent, interfered with the aims and objects of the promoters of this scheme in endeavouring to erect this building with as much material from Australia as possible, it is interesting to note, however, that statuary groups in bronze are to surmount the main entrance by that eminent Australian sculptor, Bertram MacKennal, while another emient Australian, Harold Parker, is responsible for the sculptures flanking the doorways. Australian trachyte has been employed as a base to the building, while Australian marbles are used extensively for internal decorations, and wood carving is executed from the black bean of Australia, a wood hard in fibre and tissue with a warm tone; on each floor a different Australian wood has been used and, generally, the building forms an excellent exhibition of Australian materials suitable for building purposes.

Why should architects not advertise is a question being seriously asked in some of the journals? It is naturally assumed the method of advertising should be to make public the past work of the advertiser, and leads up to the question of "signing" buildings erected by the architect. The following reasons are given why most architects would be content to refrain from "signing" their names on their buildings—viz.: The design is quite commonly a perversion of the architect's idea by the client or builder; that even when his design has been faithfully rendered he is not satisfied with it; and he hopes that his work will show progressive improvement, and that therefore the time may come, as he knows it has come to others, when one cannot regard one's early work without shuddering.

The following extracts are from a speech by Mr. Lloyd George on the housing question:—

> You cannot maintain an A1. Empire with a C3 population.
>
> You cannot bring up healthy people in unhealthy houses.
>
> Bad health for the nation is bad business for all.
>
> The health of the people is the secret of national efficiency and national recuperation.

The following resolution has been passed at Home, which may be well worth our cnsideration, viz., "A committee to consider and advise on the practicability of assisting any bodies or persons (other than local authorities) to build dwellings for the working classes immediately after the war, whether by means of loans, grants, or other subsidies, and whether through the agency of State or Municipal Banks or otherwise."

The question of standardising houses in connection with the housing scheme is creating some considerable comment, and is more or less dividing the profession; tt is admittedly difficult after arriving at an ideal plan to so modify it when the conditions are the same without departing from the advantages embodied in such plan, and the problem arises when some hundreds or perhaps thousands of houses are to be erected, to so vary the design and at the same time retain the particular advantages which proclaim the plan as an ideal one, many professional men consider that standardisation in such a case is perfectly justifiable, this applies equally to the standardising of "component parts," when certain definite conclusions regarding sizes of windows, doors, treads and risers of stairs. height of ceilings, etc., is it wise to depart from same for the sake of variety, and so sacrifice the ideal conditions arrived at. The question is a decidedly interesting one and offers a fine scope for architects to evolve new designs while adhering to certain fixed rules regarding "plans" and "component parts."

An agitation has been raised in England against the prevailing practice of effacing public buildings and monuments with recruiting and other bills, is it that they attract more attention by being dilapidated and on unsightly wooden slabs and thrown, as it were, about the steps, terraces or porticos of a building, or are they not sufficiently respectable to be provided for by well designed recesses, panels, etc., in suitable positions on the facades of our public buildings, they are a necessary evil, and have come to stay. Is it not better to demand a standard size and character for these bills, and make the necessary provision for them so they do not deface the facades of our buildings?

The old question of the duties of an architect has been revived by a discussion on the practice of accepting the lowest tenderer and expecting the architect to be the policeman; the absurdity and injustice of this argument has led to a debate as to whether adopting the percentage basis is not after all the fairest and most satisfactory method to all parties concerned, there are good, bad and indifferent amongst building employers, architects and builders, and to have ideal conditions you require ideal people; but under existing circumstances the percentage basis presents least difficulties to ideal conditions.

Should art be democratised by multiplying copies of good work for the benefit of those who cannot afford originals, or is it better to be content with plain surfaces because cost prohibits hand made art. Is it better to be continually feasting your eyes on an inferior work of art when a copy or engraving of a masterpiece can be obtained. The object of all art should be the elevation of the mind, spirit, sublimnal consciousness; subjective mind, or whatever term you wish to give it.

The work of the village craftsman, however rude, is genuine, and will stand the best of art critics, but all the village craftsmen in the world could not supply the demand of one country. Replicas (a word seldom used correctly, meaning not only a copy, but a copy executed by the original artist) are out of the question because few artists would sacrifice the time to repetition. Is it not better then to have reproductions of good work, illustrating and portraying the proportion, scale, colouring, beauty of good work rather than have inferior originals, when one considers the beautiful casts obtainable of the works of Phidias, Myrow and Polycletus, Scopas and Praxiteles; the fine medici prints of the Florentine and Flemish artists, there is no reason why people should adorn their walls with mediocre attempts of sculpture and painting, and future, as a training for the youth and uninitiated there can be no doubt as to which is preferable.

R. H.

NOTES ON PUBLIC HEALTH AND SANITATION

The value of the carbon-dioxide test as an indication of respiratory fitness has for some time past been seriously discounted, both English and American observers having shown very clearly that the essential factors in the matter are *movement* and *coolness* of air. In submarines, for instance, the carbonic acid (CO_2) contained in the air has exceeded by 10 to 20 times the so-called limit of respiratory impurity without serious discomfort or obvious injury, owing to the factors of movement and temperature receive special consideration.

The Local Government Board of England has made malaria a notifiable disease in the districts of Sheppey, Queensborough, Sheerness and New Romney. 178 cases of this disease contracted is England in 1917. The first case was that of a schoolboy diagnosed at Charing Cross Hospital in August last year. The boy had been closely associated with soldiers, some of whom were known to have suffered from malaria contracted abroad. Anopheline mosquitoes have been detected in practically every country in England and in most parts of Wales, Scotland and Ireland.

Doctor Smith made in the past 16 months 30,000 mouth examinations of American and foreign labourers. He found 96 per cent. in need of dental service. In 30,000 mouths were found 60,000 cavities and 18,000 extractions were necessary. Tootache is a very prolific cause of impaired production. Piece workers in America often lose from 35 cents to one dollar and 50 cents daily from the cause. The remedy lies in the establishment of industrial dental clinics.

THE WAR AND CONSUMPTION IN THE CIVIL POPULATION.

The medical officer of health for the City of Newcastle upon Tyne analyses the statistics for his city and reports in the "Medical Officer."

"Tuberculosis is more prevalent in all the warring countries than before the war." One interesting point brought out is the large increase in pulmonary tuberculosis among girls from 15 to 20 years of age. These girls to a large extent have replaced the males in industry who have been called off to the war. Among the causes specially liable to render persons susceptible to contract and succumb to consumption are: poverty, bad housing, overcrowding, physical and mental overstrain, employment under unhealthy conditions, infection from milk, overindulgence in alcohol, lack of medical attention.

"'Tis a wise community which places community health above all other community possessions."

According to the Municipal journal, December, 1917, the California State Board of Health has recently promulgated a new regulation which requires that all drinking cups and glasses used in restaurants, at soda fountains, and other places must be washed for five minutes in boiling water containing 5 per cent. of lye. This specially desirable in view of possible spread of venereal diseases by the use of cups used in common.

THE CIGARETTE AND THE HEART OF A SOLDIER.

Dr. Vilbourne Tullidge, writing in the "Military Surgeon," 1917, on the heart of the recruit and soldier, basing his experiences in the Austrian Army, points out that in a number of cases of irritable heart (chiefly amongst younger men) the disturbance could be traced directly to the excessive use of tobacco result-

ing in increased blood pressure and concomitant signs of a developing insufficiency. This Dr. Tullidge thinks is a strong indication and an important one, that tobacca, *notably cigarettes*, should be restricted among the troops on active service.

The New York Health Department recently conducted an educational campaign called "Open Window Week," with a view to popularising the open air treatment for combating disease such as tuberculosis. Special features were observed, as follows:—

Monday—Open window day.
Tuesday—Medical examination day (to encourage people to have examination to ascertain if diseased).
Wednesday—Walk to work day.
Thursday—Sanitary workshop day.
Friday—Children's health day.
Saturday—Sunshine Sabbath (live in open).
Sunday—Sunshine Sunday (live in open).

S.A. SCHOOL OF MINES AND TECHNOLOGY.
(University of South Africa.)

Competitive designs for the lay-out of the University Site at Milner Park, Johannesburg, are invited. A premium of £200 will be paid for the best design, and one of £100 for the second best, if designs of sufficient merit are submitted.

Full particulars will be obtained on and after December 21st from the Secretary, P.O. Box 1176, Johannesburg.

OUR ILLUSTRATIONS.

FRONTISPIECE.

Iford Manor, near Bradford on Avon, is the residence of Mr. H. A. Peto, architect. This view of the Great Terrace, showing colonnade and Garden House, was specially taken for "The Architectural Review," and is one of a series of views of the beautiful gardens of the Manor which have been designed and laid out by the owner since the property came into his possession in 1899, when it was in a very neglected condition; the garden and woods above the house were very much overgrown, and the garden devoid of steps and terraces, but comprising nothing more than sloping grass banks.

BENONI TOWN HALL COMPETITION.

The four designs of the Proposed Town Hall, Benoni, are those chosen by the assessors, and from which the final three premiated designs were selected. Elsewhere in the Journal we publish the awards of the assessors is this competition.

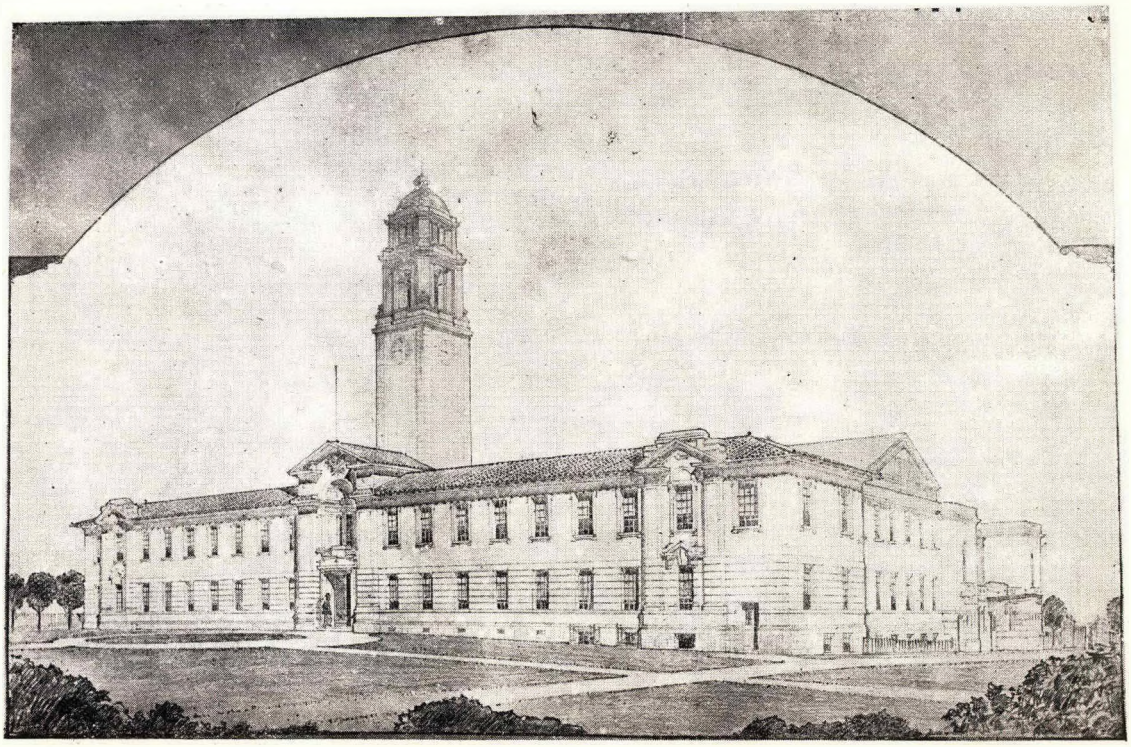
PROFESSIONAL ETHICS.

The principles of honour and integrity inculcated on the architect in the writings of Vitruvius (written when he was advanced in life and presented to his patron Augustus, about 25 years before the Christian era) should cause those to blush who pursue the profession solely for the purpose of profit, and who are guided by no other feeling than interest. Would that the lessons of our author might excite regret in such men, and induce them to follow it from motives of honour. (Extract from the publishers' preface on the publication of "The Architecture of Marcus Vitruvius Pollis," translated from the Latin by Joseph Gwitt.)

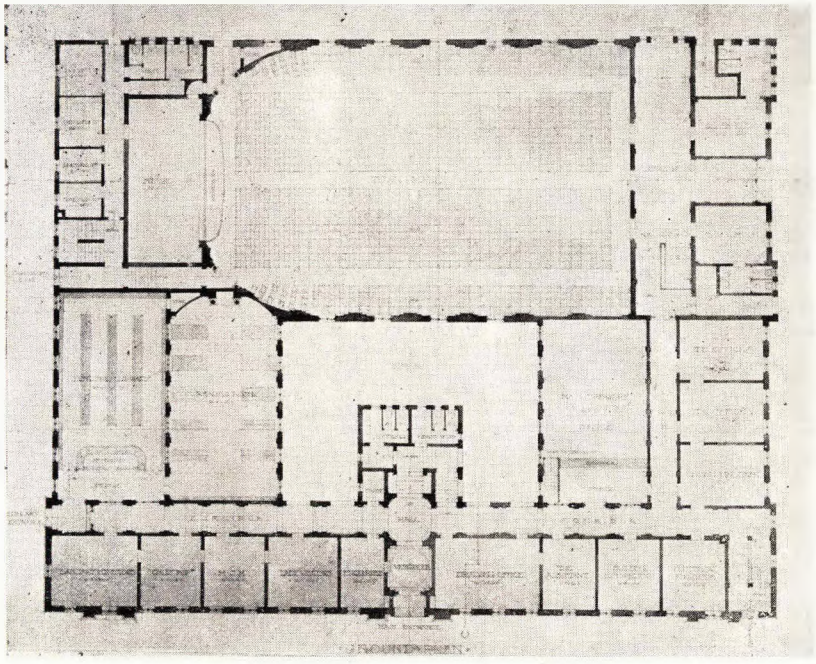
From the introduction of the third book we learn the same opposition was experienced then as at the present time from the rabble of ignorant builders, and others who call themselves architects, and who meet with considerable patronage.

"But I, Cæsar, have not sought to amass wealth by the practice of my art, having been rather contented with a small fortune and reputation, than desirous of abundance accompanied by a want of reputation. It is true I have acquired but little; yet I still hope, by this publication, to become known to posterity. Neither is it wonderful that I am known but to a few. Other architects canvas, and go about soliciting employment, but my preceptors instilled into me a sense of propriety of being requested, and not of requesting, to be entrusted, inasmuch the ingenuous man will blush and feel shame in asking a favour; for the givers of a favour and not the receivers are courted. What must he suspect who is solicited by another to be entrusted with the expenditure of his money, but that it is done for the sake of gain and emolument. Hence the ancients entrusted their works to those architects only who were of good family and well brought up; thinking it better to trust the modest, than the bold and arrogant man. These artists only instruct their own children or relations, having regard to their integrity, so that property might be safely committed to their charge. When, therefore, I see this noble science in the hands of the unlearned and unskilful, of men not only ignorant of architecture, but of everything relative to buildings, I cannot blame proprietors, who, relying on their own intelligence, are their own architects; since, if the business is to be conducted by unskilful, there is at least more satisfaction in laying out money at one's own pleasure, rather than at that of another person. No one thinks of practising at home any art(as that of a shoemaker or fuller, for instance, or others yet easier) except that of an architect; and that because many who profess the art are not really skilled in it, but are falsely called architects."

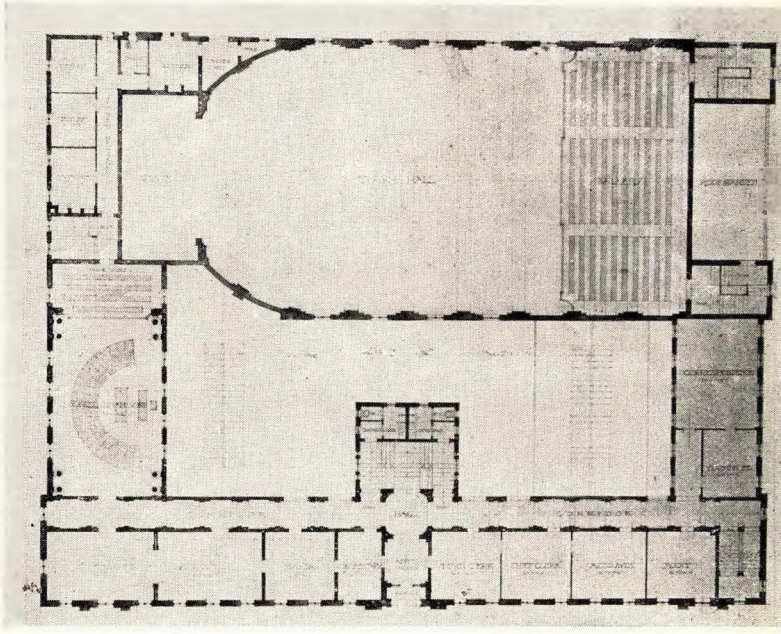
T. G. E.



PERSPECTIVE.



GROUND FLOOR PLAN.



FIRST FLOOR PLAN.

First Premiated Design.—Messrs. Hawke & McKinlay, Architects.

Journal of the SA Architectural Institute

PUBLISHER:

University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg

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