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photo/martienssen.

palazzo uguccioni florence

the south african architectural record

Volume Seventeen Number Four April Nineteen Hundred and Thirty Two

the institute of south african architects

The Transvaal Provincial Institute

Annual General Meeting

Abridged Minutes of the Fifth Annual General Meeting of members of the Transvaal Provincial Institute of South African Architects held in Pretoria on Tuesday the 15th March, 1932, at 3 p.m.

Present.—The President Mr. S. C. Dowsett (in the Chair) and thirty members.

Election of Committee.—The Chairman called for all ballot papers to be handed in and then declared the ballot closed.

The following were appointed Scrutineers : Messrs. J. B. Wyers, G. H. Hall, C. B. Lugg and R. Wild.

The names of all voters, totalling one hundred and thirteen, were then called out and checked with the register, whereupon the scrutineers proceeded to count the votes.

The Chairman declared the meeting adjourned until 5 p.m. to enable the scrutineers to complete their duty.

On the resumption of business the Chairman received the scrutineers report and declared the following members elected as the Committee for the ensuing year : Messrs. C. C. Deuchar, S. C. Dowsett, A. S. Furner, J. Lockwood Hall, Robert Howden, G. E. Gordon Leith, W. Gordon McIntosh, G. E. Pearse, Harold Porter, V. S. Rees Poole, F. Williamson and Allen Wilson.

Minutes.—Minutes of the Annual Meeting held on the 12th March, 1931, which had been published in the Journal were taken as read and confirmed.

Statement of Accounts.—Mr. Allen Wilson, Chairman of the Finance Committee, in moving the adoption of the Accounts said : Mr. President and Gentlemen,

The Balance Sheet is before you and no doubt has been keenly perused by you all. The correctness of the figures are assured by the name of our Auditors being attached. I propose further explaining some of the items and shall be pleased to reply to any questions from our members, but my main object in addressing you is to place on record my thanks to the members of the Finance Committee particularly to the co-opted members, for the time and valuable assistance they have devoted to the finances of your Association. To those who are members of the Provincial Committee, they are only doing their duty for which you elected them a year ago, I only wish to say that they have not failed you and their work has been well and truly done. Mr. Sinclair has always been a tower of strength in all your affairs and in financial matters in particular he has never failed us in giving valuable advice.

Mr. Lansley has been unremitting in his attendance at our meetings and his sound judgment has been of great help on many occasions. I wish to record my appreciation to these two gentlemen and Mr. Cowen and thank them on your behalf. Words fail me to properly express my thanks to our President for his attendance and his interest in our

finances. His superior knowledge of procedure at meetings and unbiassed opinion, cannot be over-estimated. Last but not least, our Secretary, it has been a busy year for him, whilst it would be ridiculous for me to say "everything in the garden has been lovely" his work has been conscientiously carried out and he has not spared his time in the execution of his duties. I must remind the members that Mr. Pearse is only a part time servant of the Institute, he having to find his own staff, and as Chairman of the Finance Committee I thank him for his prompt attention to my enquiries.

Balance Sheet.—The amount of £325 10s. 9d. outstanding subscriptions seems a large amount, £14 14s. 0d. has been waived but it does not follow that this amount is not recoverable. It is doubtful, the remainder may be said to be "good." Owing to the general depression it has not been considered advisable to put undue pressure on some of our members who are having a bad time ; about £45 has been paid since the end of the year and pressure is being brought to bear on those who it is known are able to pay. I have quite a lot to say about the Journal. I hope you have all received your copies of the "Record" for January and February, if you are not satisfied with the production I hope you will write and tell the Journal Committee how you think it can be improved, you can take it from me your suggestions will have very careful consideration, if you like it I think it up to you to write and say so, remember this is a Journal to advance the interests of your profession, and although it has to be made to pay its way, it is not run as a money making affair. The Journal as a monthly issue is now becoming a business proposition and although the first issues showed a profit of 17s. for January and £23 2s. 4d. in February, which apparently will continue, we having advertisement contracts for the year amounting to nearly £1,600, it must not be forgotten that the editorial work has been voluntarily carried out by Professor G. E. Pearse, Mr. Rex Martienssen and Mr. Denys Lefebvre, to whom our thanks are due for their untiring work to make our Journal a success. "A labourer is worthy of his hire," we certainly cannot build up a reserve fund on the valuable work done by these gentlemen and the matter of giving them some remuneration will be the first thing the incoming Committee must consider.

Up to now the Journal has been financed from the reserve funds of the Association and, indirectly, from the moieties received from the R.I.B.A., but as can be seen it is well secured by the amounts coming in each month from Advertisers. In my opinion this is all right for a start but as soon as possible a reserve fund must be established for the Journal. The Finance Committee has already anticipated this and has opened separate accounts at the Bank. Before closing my remarks in respect to the Journal I want to remind the members that all things being equal we should do all we can in supporting the business firms advertising in the "Record" ; it should have a prominent place in our offices. I have been asked to explain the item £160 15s. advance against commission on 1932 Journal. The Business Manager has been working for at least two years and in particular last year with the object in view of a monthly issue and in addition to his own work has had to pay out of pocket amounts as commission for obtaining advertisements. The commission on the signed contracts for the year will amount to about £400. Need I say any more.

I don't know that there is much to say about liabilities, we hope the Central Council will be able to reduce its running expenses and relieve the Provincial Committee thereby but great care must be taken not to reduce the Central Council's activities which in my opinion is the main spring of the machinery in our profession in South Africa. We of the Transvaal Institute must never forget that there is still a sum of £192 8s. 9d. still coming to us in respect of what we advanced in the furtherance of the Bill ; we are told we have no legal claim, year in and year out I have never disputed this Statement but on every occasion when the time has been opportune I have rubbed it in, that it must be paid before levies are reduced.

It is on the advice of our Auditors that the reserve against subscriptions has been increased by £75 ; they consider it is only right in the face of these bad times ; I am told all businesses and Institutions are doing the same.

The donation of £25 to the Benevolent Fund was badly wanted ; personally I should

like to have seen it made more ; there are a few members who subscribe regularly to this fund and I feel there are many more who would give if reminded of the obligation, and it is an obligation to those who can afford to give. In addition a certain amount of subscriptions should be allocated. Unfortunately this cannot be done at the present time but it should always be before the Committee for its serious consideration.

Revenue and Expenditure account for the year ending 31/12/31 speaks for itself ; details of expenditure are open for your inspection ; they have been carefully gone into by the Finance Committee every month and have been passed by your Auditors ; we invite enquiry and are glad if any of our members take sufficient interest in the Institute to make them.

The advance of £7 10s. 0d. to the Pretoria Committee I feel is money well laid out ; I had the pleasure of attending their Annual Meeting with your President. I was particularly pleased with the keenness portrayed by the members and I feel sure every matter will be thoroughly threshed out before sending it to the Provincial Committee.

In reply to written enquiries from Members unavoidably prevented to be present Mr. Wilson explained that :—

(a) Arrears of Subscriptions for the year ended December, 1931, amounting to about £300 is made up of about thirty per cent. practising and about fifty per cent. Salaried, nearly £50 of this deficiency has been paid this year, the Auditors attribute the increase in unpaid subscriptions to the general depression, whilst salaried men out of a job cannot be expected to pay, those who are or have been in employment should discharge their obligations.

(b) The Expenditure of £27 for Contract Forms at the beginning of 1931 was justified, sixteen hundred were printed, twelve hundred have been sold for which about £50 has been received, according to the rate of past sales one hundred and sixty will be sold during the next two months, tenders are being called for printing new forms but I doubt if they will be ready for some time.

(c) Commission on Advertisements in the "Record" has been based on the commission paid by the R.I.B.A., see their Journal for April the 18th, 1931, page 414. I expect this is one of the matters for consideration of the incoming Committee. No definite arrangement has been entered into up to now.

The Journal.—As one of the members of the Institute (not as Chairman of Finance Committee) Mr. Allen Wilson spoke of the Editorial matter of the "Record," deprecating the tone of one of the articles by Professor Pearse criticising the Architectural work carried out by Government Departments, which criticism he felt did not appeal to all.

In reply to Mr. Cowin who asked how the accumulated fund of £499 was dealt with Mr. Wilson explained that this was accounted for by £215 cash in the Bank, £325 due by members and £360 in Journal accounts, the total of which, after deducting liabilities amounted to £499 as shown in the Balance Sheet.

The motion for the adoption of the accounts was then put to the meeting and carried unanimously.

Committees Annual Report.—It was proposed and seconded that the report, which had been circulated to members be received and adopted.

Mr. Cowin suggested that the matter of insuring risks under building contracts be discussed. He had endeavoured to secure the insertion of a clause in the new building contract to cover this, but had not been supported. He felt that members should be warned for future protection and suggested that a note, in red, be added to the new contract form, advising members to cover themselves and their clients against third party risks.

With regard to the Journal Mr. Cowin said he did not like the new form, whilst appreciating the hard work of the Editors, he saw nothing wrong with the old Journal but lots wrong in the new form. The omission of capitals made the headings unimportant whilst the heavy black lines gave the appearance of obituary notices and the black dots were quite inexplicable.

He suggested that the Committee should give this matter consideration and get back to the old style, particularly as regards the cover.

Mr. Cowin, continuing, said members would like to have some information regarding architectural students at the University.

He understood that there were some eighty new enrolments and felt these should be warned that the country cannot absorb them all. He expressed his thanks to members of the Committee for their report and the work done during the past year.

Mr. Newham said Pretoria members were very pleased to see so many Johannesburg members in their city and they much appreciated the calling of this meeting in Pretoria.

They seldom came in contact with Johannesburg members and hoped that in future there would be more opportunities of meeting one another and increasing the personal touch.

He agreed with Mr. Allen Wilson that the comments in the Journal regarding the P.W.D. were somewhat uncalled for. At the same time they hoped for a great deal from the Journal and would like to see more space given to Pretoria.

Mr. Fleming said he thought members expected to learn something from the report regarding Transvaal Provincial Architectural work. This had been an important matter in the Committee's work in previous years and he was surprised that there was no mention of it in the report.

Mr. McIntosh, referring to Mr. Cowin's remarks about the Journal said he would like to mention that the Editors, trying to redesign the Journal, had endeavoured to bring it more up-to-date and make it more interesting. The Editors, he felt, were keeping in touch with the present times and these changes are coming out in the English papers, in lines and other characteristic marks. He thought the Editors had brought the Journal up-to-date in the new series.

The Chairman, in reply to Mr. Cowin, refering to Insurance, said there was an interesting article in the last Journal. The matter was being taken up by the Central Council and that body was in communication with the R.I.B.A. on the matter.

With regard to the Journal, the fact was that one could not please everybody, in the matter of taste. If members have any criticisms these should be sent to the Editors. He welcomed Mr. Newham's suggestion of more space for Pretoria and said that for years past the Editors had been agitating for articles from other centres and it was up to the Pretoria members to send along contributions which would be welcomed.

With regard to Provincial Architectural work the Chairman said that at the time the report was drafted the Committee was endeavouring to get information but it had not come to hand, in fact it had been received from the Administrator only this afternoon and he felt that it should be referred to the incoming Committee if Mr. Fleming would agree to leave it at that.

Mr. Fleming said he was quite satisfied to leave this matter to the incoming Committee, though at present the position was very obscure, and would like an assurance that this obscurity would be removed and members advised of what the position is.

The Chairman gave this assurance and added that other matters referred to would be fully considered by the Committee.

The motion for the adoption of the report was then put to the meeting and carried unanimously.

Appointment of Auditors.—Mr. Allen Wilson moved that the Auditors Messrs. Aiken and Carter be re-elected and their remuneration for the past audit be fixed at twenty guineas. He explained that the work of the Auditors had increased considerably, particularly in connection with the Journal and that half the audit fee would be charged to the Journal account in future.

The motion was seconded by Mr. Gordon Leith and agreed to.

Presidential Address.—The President Mr. S. C. Dowsett then delivered the following address :

Gentlemen,

Before touching on business matters I would like to express my appreciation of the honour conferred on me by this Provincial Institute, through your Committee, in electing me President for the year now ending.

I can assure you that I fully realize the honour of being called upon to follow in the footsteps of the many able past presidents including those of the old Association of Transvaal Architects now merged into this Transvaal Provincial Institute.

I also desire to thank the members of the Provincial Committee for the generous manner in which they have assisted me during my year of office and to express appreciation on behalf of the Institute of the valuable services rendered by all members of Sub-Committees and representatives on other bodies.

It is with deep regret we have had to record the deaths of Messrs. W. H. Stucke, P. Keeling, Spencer Waters and W. Tait Conner, members of this Institute and since the issue of the report in which these are recorded Mr. J. G. Kraan of this City has also passed over.

Financial matters have been so ably and fully dealt with by the Chairman of the Finance Committee that he has left nothing for me to add.

During last year, in spite of the depression in other parts of the world the Transvaal has experienced what might almost be termed a building boom.

In Pretoria amongst the larger buildings might be mentioned the Reserve Bank, the new Standard Bank, the South African Mutual Building, the Technical College, the Voortrekkers Hall and many others, whilst a beginning has been made on the building of the new City Hall.

In Johannesburg many new business premises and flats have been erected and the new Railway Station is growing rapidly. Work has recently commenced on the fine new Library.

A very large number of smaller buildings and residences in the suburbs and in the Reef towns have been completed.

I would like to extend the congratulations of the Institute to the winners of the several competitions held during the year, viz., Mr. J. Gibbons, for the Colonial Mutual Building in Durban ; Messrs. Kallenbach, Kennedy and Furner for the Klipspruit Town Planning scheme and the Synagogue at Benoni ; Messrs. Cowin, Powers & Ellis for the non-European Hospital at Durban.

Members of the By-Laws Committee have been of most valuable assistance to the City Engineers Department in the discussions on the revision of Johannesburg's By-Laws. I am sure that Pretoria will receive similar assistance from the active local Committee on any matters on which they may be asked to collaborate.

The Joint Contract Committee composed of representatives of the Institute and the Master Builders Association have held several meetings during the year and have now approved of the new form of building contract, based on that of the Royal Institute of British Architects with amendments adaptable to this country. The new document will be printed at an early date and will be obtainable from all the provincial Institute offices.

The Pretoria Local Committee formed in April last year has done good work in addition to being a means of bringing members together at what might be termed social gatherings once a month.

The several matters referred by that Committee to the Provincial Committee have been given full consideration and where necessary were in turn referred to the Central Council.

I had the pleasure of being present at a well attended general meeting of Pretoria members held on the 29th February, 1932, at which the new Committee for the ensuing year was elected and can heartily congratulate Pretoria members on their active participation in the affairs of the Institute.

The Central Council has continued to deal with the more important matters of concern to the Institute and I will briefly refer to some of their activities. I have already mentioned the new form of Building Contract the work on which has now been completed.

Regulations governing Architectural Competitions have had very considerable consideration. A sub-Committee is now preparing amended regulations which it is hoped will be approved at the next meeting of the Central Council.

Several Amendments to the Regulations have been agreed to and are now awaiting the approval of the Minister.

The injury done to the profession by non-qualified persons such as draughtsmen and Building agents usurping the functions of registered Architects is a matter of concern and has had careful consideration by the Central Council.

In this connection one hears complaints from several sources amongst members that the Act does not protect them from competition by unregistered persons and in my opinion many of our own members are to blame for this position. The Committee has been urged to take steps to obtain an amendment of the Act so as to give more protection to members of the profession and the Central Council has given very careful and serious consideration to this matter. It was decided however as recently as December last that the present time is not opportune for the introduction of any amending clauses. But the Central Council is carefully watching the

position with a view to acting immediately the time is ripe.

I have said that in my opinion some of our members are to blame for the present position and my reason for saying so is the number of cases reported where members have underquoted one another to secure a job. Unfortunately in South Africa there is a large section of the community which cannot accept recognised conditions, such as a fixed scale of fees, but will hawk their work from Office to Office and endeavour to bargain with practitioners in an endeavour to obtain a cut in fees. If every member would take up a firm stand with these clients and positively refuse to consider any work at a fee below the scale this class of client would soon realize that there is a scale of fees which cannot be departed from.

The matter of Architectural Education in the Union has also had much consideration by the Central Council and a standing Committee on Education and Examinations now deals with this subject.

The department of Architecture and Quantity Surveying at the University of the Witwatersrand continues to grow and last year there were eighty-eight Architectural and forty-five Quantity Surveying students. Professor Pearse in his address at the last annual exhibition of Student's work referred to many cases where students have been employed by Practising Architects who not only did not give them any practical training in design and drawing but did not even give them facilities for pursuing their studies.

This I would like to endorse and would impress on all members employing juniors, who expect one day to be architects, that they should recognise their responsibilities to those juniors and that their duty is to assist and encourage students to obtain proficiency in the profession.

The Central Council has decided to accede to the request put forward by members of this Institute to issue a copy of its Revenue and Expenditure account and Balance Sheet to every member of the Institute.

The expenses of the Central Council are being reduced wherever possible and it is hoped that after repayment of the balances of amounts provided for the promotion of the Act, the levies on members subscriptions will be reduced.

I think this is a suitable occasion to congratulate the promoters of the Howden Testimonial, Messrs. F. W. Masey and J. S. Cleland on the success of their efforts, as the Howden Scholarship has now been established with a capital sum of £170.

As from the commencement of this year the S.A. Architectural Record is being published as a monthly instead of a quarterly journal.

I am pleased to say that our advertisers have given the Journal satisfactory support with the result that the cost of publication is more than covered. It is now up to our members to maintain the Journal by contributing articles and notes of interest whenever possible. You will realise that it is asking a lot from the Honorary Editors to provide the required matter every month whereas if members themselves would take the trouble to contribute articles the labours of the editors would be very much lightened. I take this opportunity of recording our hearty thanks to Professor Pearse for his able editorship during the last few years and to Messrs. Rex Martienssen and D. Lefebvre for the excellent work they have done in producing the monthly issues.

Another very interesting subject with which the Transvaal Institute is closely connected is that of Town Planning. Our Institute has several representatives on the Council of the Transvaal Town Planning Association and during last year that Association published a most interesting brochure embodying a series of papers on Town Planning.

The Transvaal Provincial Administration last year passed a Town Planning Ordinance which is to come into force on the first of next month.

Under this Ordinance the cities and larger towns of the province will be required to prepare civic surveys of their areas within the next three years.

Town Planning activities have been started in Durban, Bloemfontein and Cape Town. It is hoped that a Union Town Planning Association will eventuate in the near future.

Whilst in England towards the end of last year I had the pleasure of attending the Town Planning Conference at Bristol, and exchanging views with many of the prominent persons in the Institute. I also called on the Town Planning offices of several of the principal

Cities in Great Britain, and on the Continent, including Berlin. It is wonderful to see the enthusiasm there is in connection with this Science not only amongst the officials and experts, but also amongst members of the general public. When we have educated public opinion in this country to the same extent as it is in Europe the battle will have been won, to the great and enduring advantage of everyone concerned.

Before I sit down I wish to express my personal sense of gratitude to our very able Secretary, Mr. Pearse, without whose constant aid the position of President would be a very onerous one. And that gentlemen concludes my very fragmentary remarks and I sincerely thank you for the kind patience with which you have listened to me."

Board of Architects for the selection of candidates for the profession.—Mr. Gordon Leith said, as an examiner in design he had been struck by the number of candidates for the profession who repeatedly failed in design, due to their lack of imagination and a natural aptitude for composition and design.

He thought the onus was on the Institute to establish a Board in conjunction with the Professor of Architecture at the University to interview candidates for the profession, and examine their work in order to ascertain if they show the necessary aptitude before they decide to take up architecture as a profession. Parents should also have access to this advisory Board. This would obviate stocking the profession with untalented men, and afford facilities for those who are more gifted.

He regretted Professor Pearse was not present as he would like to have his views on the proposal.

Mr. Furner said he was much in sympathy with the main lines of this proposal and felt that there was a large waste of time and trouble with students at the University, but he would be disappointed to see hasty and final decisions made at the start. He had seen boys, who showed very little aptitude at the commencement, after three years become most successful. He agreed with the idea of a board and felt that members of the Institute had made a mistake in losing their grip on Architectural Education and throwing too much onus on the Universities. In England the schools were periodically visited by practising architects and if this idea could be merged in Mr. Leith's suggestion he felt that something could be done.

Mr. Leith said that the University authorities had often mentioned that they would welcome visits from practising architects but an invitation should be forthcoming.

The Chairman said they all appreciated Messrs. Leith and Furners remarks on this subject and as he noted that they both agreed that it would be advisable to await Professor Pearse's return, he suggested that the matter be left to the incoming Committee. This was agreed to.

Indigenous Timbers.—Mr. Leith expressed the opinion that steps should be taken to approach the Minister of the Interior and Minister of Railways regarding the cutting down of this timber for railway sleepers. With the facilities the Government has in Pretoria he felt that this timber could be properly cured and if it were seasoned and put out for disposal he was sure that it would be used largely. He thought the Government should also be asked not to encroach further on indigenous forests and replant with Firs and Gums. He submitted that there were hundreds of square miles in this country where Firs and Gums can be grown without encroaching on the natural timber forests. The Government has a duty to the present generation and its successors to preserve and propagate these indigenous trees.

Mr. Cleland said he thoroughly agreed with Mr. Leith, but mentioned that the Forestry Department was the one to be approached. At present that Department was doing all it can and he thought that Architects were very much to blame for not using these timbers more largely. He mentioned several varieties of timbers which could be used and also referred to their use as veneers. He said that recently about £1,500 worth of stinkwood, tambootie and other woods had been exported for this purpose. He expressed the opinion that the Government would help and encourage this movement. He suggested the appointment of a Committee to go into this matter.

Mr. Porter supported the proposal, especially the appointment of a Committee but said that the first step should be to obtain information from the Forestry Department as to what timbers are being grown and what steps

are being taken to replace the indigenous trees which were being cut out. He viewed with great alarm the amount of excessive and ruthless cutting of timber which was not used or placed to the best advantage. He quoted the prices obtained for various natural timbers some of which were sold to woodcutters at 1.98d. per cubic foot, whilst many of the most valuable trees were being cut into railway sleepers.

It was agreed to ask the incoming Committee to appoint a strong Sub-Committee to go into this matter and put forward proposals to the Forestry Department.

Scale of Architectural Fees.—Mr. Porter said he felt that in recent years the scale of fees had been treated as a joke and few Architects stuck to the scale. Work was being done for fees far below the scale, so low in fact that proper service could not be given. This was detrimental to the profession and where there should be lots of work in architect's offices it was being lost to contractors who are able to put plans through Municipal Offices and leads to a feeling that Architects are not required. Something should be done to raise the status of the profession by forcing adherence to the scale and not to consider any cutting. All members should take the stand that they will not do work for fees below the scale.

Mr. Spicer said : "The order of items on the Agenda gives food for considerable thought.

I am a great believer in psychology, it is a subject of intense interest exceedingly helpful in solving one's views and aids in solving the reasoning and opinions of other peoples aims and views.

In referring to the interesting discourse on indigenous and foreign trees, you have all heard how our glorious bushveld with its native trees of the most wonderful shapes, immense scale some flowering in colourings of exquisite beauty, how much of it is gradually being destroyed and replaced by trees foreign to the country.

In the following item of the Agenda, you will also hear, no doubt, that other plantings of an extremely weedlike and unsuitable nature, also foreign, are causing just as much havoc by gradually but surely choking the healthy growth of our profession. We should therefore, Mr. President, make every effort to tackle this matter right at the root as it were to ascertain whether it be a grub, foreign weed or some sort of cutworm which may be the reason of the withering of the branches above.

Under the heading of "Scale of Architectural Fees" which one finds has again been placed on the Agenda for discussion at this general meeting to-day, one certainly feels that this matter has not only been too long delayed, but members of our profession do not fully appreciate the serious havoc this vital question has played on the stability of the Architectural profession as a whole, during the past several years.

Those members qualified, whether they be practising or salaried members, one feels, have not paid sufficient heed to the question of unified professional rates of charges throughout the four provinces.

Individual members have complained from time to time that the standard rate of fees is being undercut and that members are not abiding by the rate of charges as laid down.

In dealing with certain cases, the Council have been informed that part fees have been charged for part services rendered, viz. : eighth scale plans and specification, no details and no supervision being required by the client.

(I desire members to pay particular attention and to remember the previous remarks, as I shall refer to this matter later.)

One feels it is necessary to illustrate to you and to members generally how clients of various types and sections of the community are endeavouring and are successful in no small measure in frustrating every possible means of securing the professional charges as laid down as a just and reasonable return for professional services rendered.

There are many instances one can quote, however, one or two will suffice to show the evils of the part payment for part work and the seasons thereof.

In one case a client was recommended to go to an Architect in connection with some work which required considerable qualifications and skill in both the planning and the designing of the various frontages of a certain building in Johannesburg. It was however pointed out to him that this Architect would charge him full fees as he was not the type of man to reduce his professional fees,

but if he desired to obtain something out of the ordinary, this Architect is your man.

The client had been convinced so far that the advice given him was quite sound, but was it necessary for him to employ this Architect fully or partly, on this question he sought other advice from various sources.

From one of his friends well versed in the present day methods of commercial economics he received the two alternative suggestions.

(a) To engage this Architect to prepare sketch plans, sections and elevations for the scheme to cost £20,000.

Should the scheme not be acceptable, a limited fee of £50 was offered in payment of services rendered.

(b) Should "A" scheme not be considered by the Architect as an acceptable proposition and not in accordance with professional charges, then make the suggestions that he prepares sketch plans, working drawings and specification for two and a half per cent., the client to make his own arrangements for supervision, etc.

The Architect refused both offers A and B and within three months of date of interview, this building was under course of erection under the name of another practitioner.

The client, according to information received later, had struck a more favourable bargain regarding the reduction on fees, but none too satisfied with the results of either the planning or the elevations of the building and was eager to adjust or alter when this matter had gone too far.

That is one case of many, however. The following case, I feel personally, is somewhat more blatant with regard to the extremes of commercial immorality showing the dangers of undertaking work before ascertaining the bona fides of your client.

This gentleman, if I might term him as such, secured from an Architect in this City, sketch plans, elevations and sections for which he had paid a nominal fee owing, as was stated, to the scheme being abandoned.

In conversing over various matters in a commercial club with some of his friends, he was informed that a certain practitioner had been successful in picking up a nice job and had approached one of the company for some prices for certain fittings. He appeared most enthusiastic about those sketch plans, remarking how nicely they had been rendered and from his opinion was somewhat astonished that the man in question had turned out drawings so meritoriously by far exceeding any work previously executed in that office. The conversation continued and the drawings explained both in detail and colour, which aptly coincided with the Architect's sketch plans, prepared and paid for the proposed scheme supposed to have been abandoned.

The Architect, on the following morning, first phoned his late client and was informed that the proposed scheme abandoned had now been revised and financed by another party who was employing its own Architect.

Upon further enquiries it was ascertained that these sketch plans were being made use of and no deviation to either plans or elevations had been made.

Now, Mr. President, there are numerous cases one is able to quote where the unscrupulous client is penetrating and wrecking the very foundations of our profession and we as members glibly sit in Council from year to year unable to defend ourselves from such actions.

Architects are perhaps in many cases to blame for this state of affairs and one naturally looks for the reasons thereof.

One of the reasons doubtless bearing on this point, is the unstableness or the lack of unity of purpose regarding the various interpretations of the professional charges of tariff for services rendered by members of this Association.

Any competitive undercutting of fees will eventually destroy all and every rudiment that Architecture stands for as a profession and unless members of this Association appreciate this factor it will not be far distant before this Association will have lost all its status as a professional body.

To barter or to sell services rendered for preparing plans and designs of buildings below the rates of charges laid down by a professional body as a whole by any member of that profession immediately enters the zone of a tradesman or other similar commercial business.

No other profession permits its members either to tout, barter or hawk, as privileged by our Association, therefore, I feel that this General Meeting should thoroughly air its views on this matter which is so important and serious and to determine the best steps to be taken to counteract these evils.

I would suggest as a proposal that a special Committee be formed to thoroughly investigate this matter and to commission any member of the profession to give evidence. Many questions can be raised that would undoubtedly throw some interesting light on this subject and would form a sound basis for this Committee to formulate means and methods of combating this undesirable state of affairs and further would strengthen the hands of each individual member to comply more in unity of purpose and spirit with the higher standard of practice which the Architectural profession stands for. Such questions could be asked as to whether the present fees as laid down give to the Architect sufficient return on the labour and materials expended in the preparation of drawings, specifications, interviews, correspondence, postages and other incidental expenses ? Do you fully carry out your obligations in the rendering of professional services in supplying to the builder all half inch details, full-size details, quarter inch setting out plans, typed lists of windows, doors, furniture and other special fitments in connection with the building, in other words do you fully control all matters concerning the building, leaving nothing to chance ?

In view of your office expenses, such as licence and practice fees, telephone rent and calls, office rent, assistants travelling expenses, cost of petrol and upkeep in case of car–in connection with supervision and other matters concerning the work, typing matter, interviews, etc., do you consider six per cent. a reasonable charge or do you consider you can undercut this charge with any degree of certainty of not working at a loss, or having to leave more in the hands of the builder or to chance, thereby weakening your position as Architect and controller of the works on behalf of your client.

Have you ever been faced with some person or party or some company promoter claiming a portion of your fees for having introduced certain work into your office ?

Have you immediately felt this to be unfair, but if you did not concur with this request some other practitioner would and the work would be lost.

Have you considered the consequence of this sort of illegitimate claim and the position it frequently places an Architect in and the effect it has on the profession generally ?

Mr. President, there is much that can be done by a careful enquiry into this matter, that is providing members are desirous of settling this vital question once and for all and although the enquiry may entail some considerable labour to this special committee of enquiry, I feel the benefits derived by such an enquiry will not only be lasting, but will give far greater security to both salaried and practising members of the Architectural profession."

In conclusion he said these were just a few notes on which he felt that members should express their views and would then be able to gauge what is the real difficulty in maintaining the scale. He hoped that the incoming Committee would give this matter serious thought.

Mr. Cowin said he sympathised with the incoming Committee on the stupendous task before it. Members must realize that they have sometimes to deal with rogues and super rogues and must not forget the human element. All should desire to play the game and stand by the scale of fees. The difficulty is to get evidence of lapses to put before the Committee. He always felt that the flat rate was wrong. Some jobs may be worth six per cent., others only four per cent., and others eight per cent. He instanced a supposed block of flats duplicating six or eight floors and thought that a job of this sort should be subject to compromise or agreement.

Mr. Porter regretted Mr. Cowin's suggestion of coming to a compromise or agreement regarding fees on the block of flats indicated and strongly urged that such a job should only be done at the full six per cent. fee.

It was agreed to leave this matter to the incoming Committee.

General.—Mr. Cleland suggested that the incoming Committee should consider the system similar to that of the R.I.B.A. for assistance for members out of work, by means of a small subscription to a fund for these unfortunates. The Chairman undertook to bring this before the Committee.

Mr. Deuchar moved a hearty vote of thanks to the Pretoria Committee for the excellent arrangements made for holding this meeting in Pretoria and the welcome they had given to members from other centres. This was carried with applause.

Mr. Porter suggested that Architects should issue invitations to members to visit prominent buildings which they were completing and in this connection he referred to the Johannesburg Railway Station.

Mr. Burg thanked Johannesburg and other members for their kind appreciation of the work of the Pretoria Committee and said that Committee had started the idea of visiting prominent buildings and would be pleased to receive invitations.

On the motion of Mr. Rees Poole a vote of thanks was extended to the scrutineers of the ballot for election of the Committee.

Mr. Furner moved a hearty vote of thanks to the retiring President for his most interesting address and for the excellent work he had done during the past year. This was carried with acclamation.

Mr. Dowsett thanked the members for their appreciation and said that with the Committee which he had to assist him his duties had been very much lightened.

Mr. Porter moved a vote of thanks to the Secretary for the able work he had put in during the past year and particularly the hard work he had done in connection with the monthly Journal.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

pretoria architects committee

Valedictory Address by V. S. Rees Poole, delivered at General Meeting 29th February, 1932.

Gentlemen,

It is usual for the retiring Chairman to pass in review the important events that have taken place during his term of office.

Before vacating the Chair which I have occupied for the past twelve months through your indulgence, I would like to mention that no one realises more than I do how far I have fallen short of the ideal. However, as a humble member of this Committee, I hope to do better in the future in whatever capacity I may be able to serve.

Considering this is the first year of the Committee's existence I would venture to say that a start has been made in the right direction, and I trust the good work will be continued.

There are many things to be considered and if this Committee will work together with the best traditions of our profession at heart I feel sure something worth while will be achieved.

Some of the subjects which have been discussed at considerable length are :

Town Planning, Bye-Laws, Examinations, Competitions, Lectures and Education, Formation of a Sketch Club, Model Village Scheme Proclamation Hill.

There is a great deal of work to be done in the future, but we must have help and co-operation especially from the younger men, who are starting or about to start in the profession.

It is necessary that each one of us should set out to be an example one to the other in whatever we do in the various departments that make up towards functioning as an Architect.

Further, I would suggest that all students, whether young or old, should meet and get to know one another with the object of discussing the problems that surround the profession.

Some enthusiasm is urgently required, and it is up to all of us to try and place the profession in this City on a higher plane than it is to-day.

Life may be very dull to-day, and perhaps some of the jobs we have to do are more so. On the other hand some of us are suffering from the effects of not even having a dull job to carry out. However sad this may be, do not despair, the time will come, perhaps quite soon, "When the old order changeth." The opportunity will surely arrive to show what we can do, by following in the footsteps of the great architects, who have enriched the world with creations of surpassing beauty, so that it is difficult to imagine what the conditions of life would be without them.

If we think of our responsibilities in this respect if may arouse the spirit of enthusiasm and create a determination to make a constant effort to produce examples of creative work of the age in which we live. To triumph over difficulties is the test of power.

I would remind you that now-a-days everyone who claims to be educated knows something about the architecture of the past.

It is indeed encouraging to realise the increasing public interest in architecture, and to those of you who are not aware of the fact, I would like to mention that in some of the great public schools in England, architecture is being taught as a necessary and stimulating aid to the understanding of history.

The R.I.B.A. has recently instituted a series of lectures to children on the subject.

Perhaps something of the sort might be instituted here to further education generally.

In connection with the Sketch Club which has been suggested, I regard it as of extreme importance in a students training that he should study and measure buildings. Some of us have had the opportunity from time to time, others who have the opportunity here and elsewhere I hope will not let the chance go by.

Sketching in free hand facilitates powers of drawing in perspective and of making studies of your own proposed buildings as they will actually appear.

Students and younger men, a helping hand is held out to you; this Committee offers its services in an advisory capacity at any time, for we are interested in you, more so than you are in us. We are not in the least important to you perhaps and we know that age is not necessarily another word for wisdom, but you can profit to some extent if you wish to do so, by the experience of older men.

I shall not detain you much longer, but I do feel that we as architects have not learned nor do we realise what the artistic side of our profession means in all its important branches. Architecture is really constructive art and embraces everything that the eye can see, but application and artistic feeling is required to place them in their respective places to suit the scheme.

I would like to see more interest taken in our Art Galleries, more serious work produced and exhibited at our S.A. Academy which was surely instituted for our mutual benefit.

There is something lacking in our vision when so little interest is taken or shown considering that art is an integral part of the function of an architect. A great deal might be done by turning to good account the many hours wasted by doing nothing, because it is said "there is nothing to do." Surely, there is something that we can find to do to try and help keep our minds off the subject of depression, prevent rust and decrepidity overtaking us before time. Our Journal requires support, why not write an article even if it is not original but culled from somewhere. Something worth while is always worth repeating.

Gentlemen, please remember what Wilcox has to say :

"You are the Architect of your own fate,
Toil on, hope on, and dare to do, and be."

In conclusion I have to thank the gentlemen on this Committee for the continuous and loyal support which they have afforded me during my term of office, and the time they have freely given in attending meetings, with the sole object of helping on the profession and establishing interest towards one another for the common cause.

I consider it a good omen, for the future, and shows a fine spirit that members are willing to come forward and serve the profession at some time or other during their career.

Before closing I must thank our Secretary Mr. Bernhard for the work he has done and the very able manner in which he has carried out the duties of the Secretary"

the non-european hospital at durban

Report of the Assessors Messrs. J. S. Cleland and Harold Porter.

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

First Design	....	No. 9
Second Design	....	No. 4
Third Design	....	No. 1
Fourth Design	....	No. 5

The scheme is one of some magnitude and it is gratifying to see how many of the Competitors, most of whom have not had many opportunities of experience in Hospital planning, have handled the problem.

It should be realised that, with all the schemes submitted, many improvements in arrangement would be necessary.

The First Design No. 9 : provides for a generally satisfactory and convenient arrangement. The Entrance, Waiting Hall and Receiving Departments, including the Deverminiser and adjuncts, are very sensibly arranged for quick and easy handling of large numbers of patients, and the access to the Wards is good.

The Administration, Casualty and Observation Departments are suitably arranged as also are the Out-patients, Dispensary, Operation, X Ray, Massage, Main Kitchen and other Departments. One staircase to the Administration Offices on the First Floor would be sufficient.

The Wards are well arranged with side rooms conveniently situated but the Sluice Room might be brought nearer to the Ward.

The Native Compound might be more suitably placed on the site.

The multi-storeyed future additions would be better at the Umbilo Road end of the site rather than over present single storey blocks.

Generally the buildings are well lighted and ventilated throughout. The estimated cost is not unreasonable.

There are many matters of detail in arrangement which require more consideration with this scheme as with all the schemes.

Second Design No. 4 : is a very well presented scheme but the Main Block is somewhat open and scattered for the simple and expeditious handling of patients and there is a good deal of corridor. The Main Corridor to the Wards is some distance from the Entrance. The erection of future M.O.'s Quarters on First Floor over the front wing would disorganise the Entrance and rooms below.

The Out-patients Consulting rooms away from the Waiting Hall would not be convenient.

The Operating Theatres are on the First Floor and are suitable as also are the X Ray, Massage and Main Kitchen Departments.

The Wards are well arranged but there is a long length of Corridor between the Wards entailing more service length from Duty Kitchen to Wards.

The Sluice Room is too far away from the Wards. Lighting and Ventilation is good. Future extension is suitable.

Third Design No. 1 : a good simple scheme with well thought out levels, but the Main Block a little broken up and the Receiving Section rather disconnected.

The Dispensary should be adjacent to Out-patients and the great number of lavatories placed together with only cross ventilation into the Corridor is not sound.

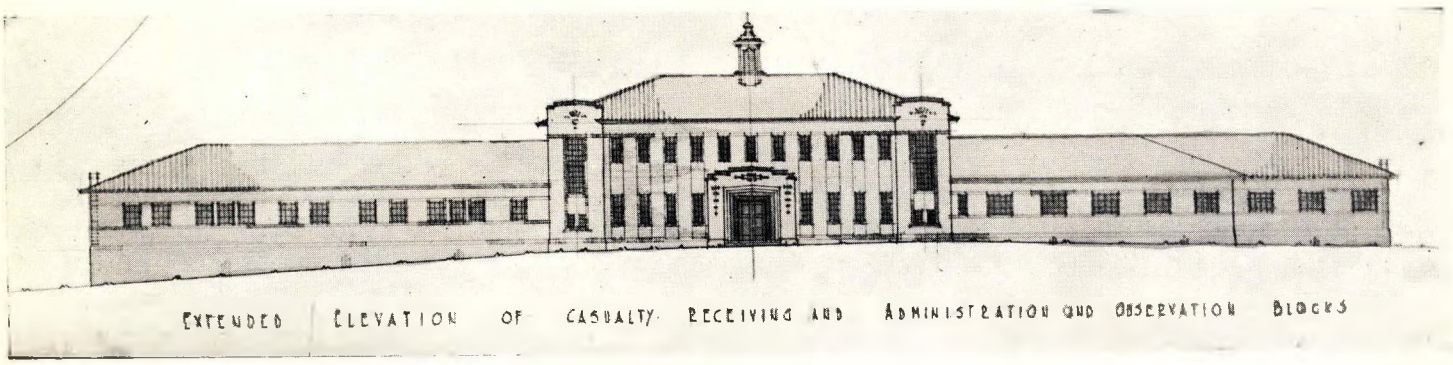
The Operating, X Ray, Massage and Main Kitchen are suitable. The Ward Blocks are good. The other Sections and future extension are well arranged.

Fourth Design 5 : A well arranged scheme with good Administration, Casualty and Out-patients Departments and Main Kitchen, but receiving Department not suitably arranged, and Corridors might have more direct lighting.

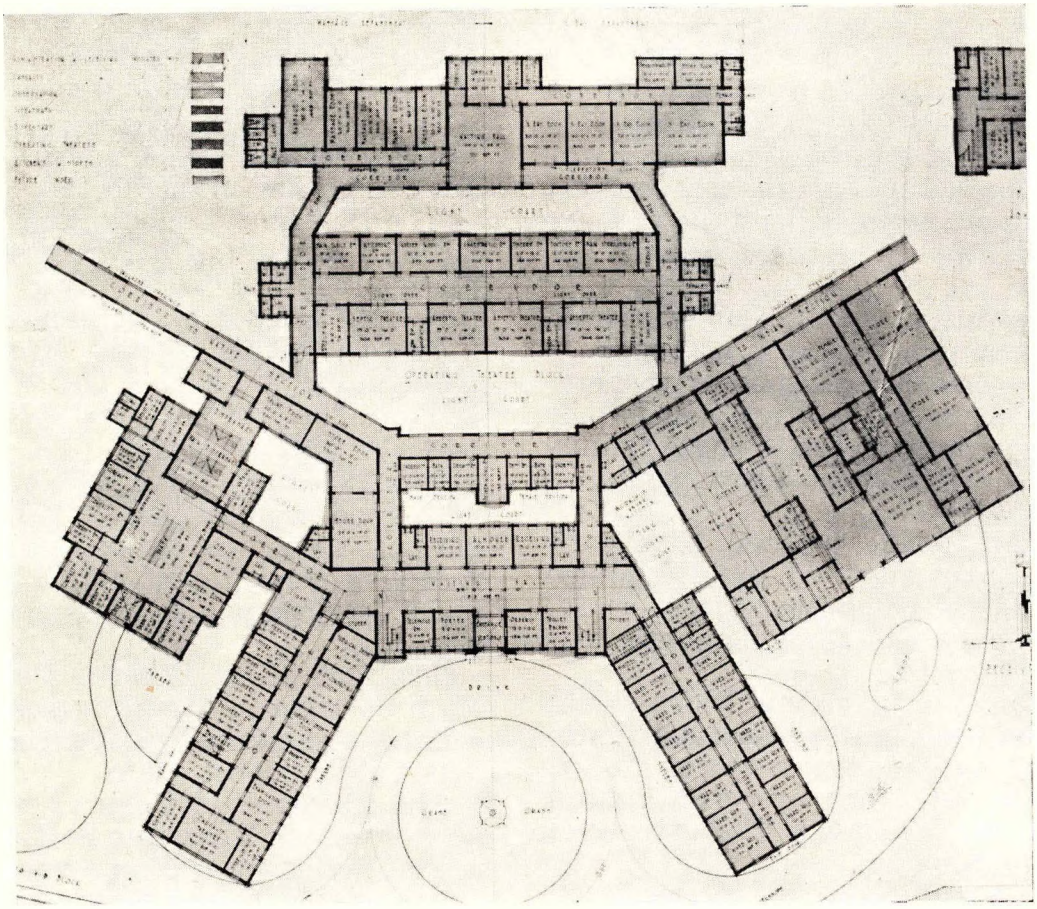
The Operating Theatre Department with Main Corridor of Hospital passing through it is not good and the lighting of all the Theatres is not right aspect.

The Observation Department is rather far away from the Receiving Section.

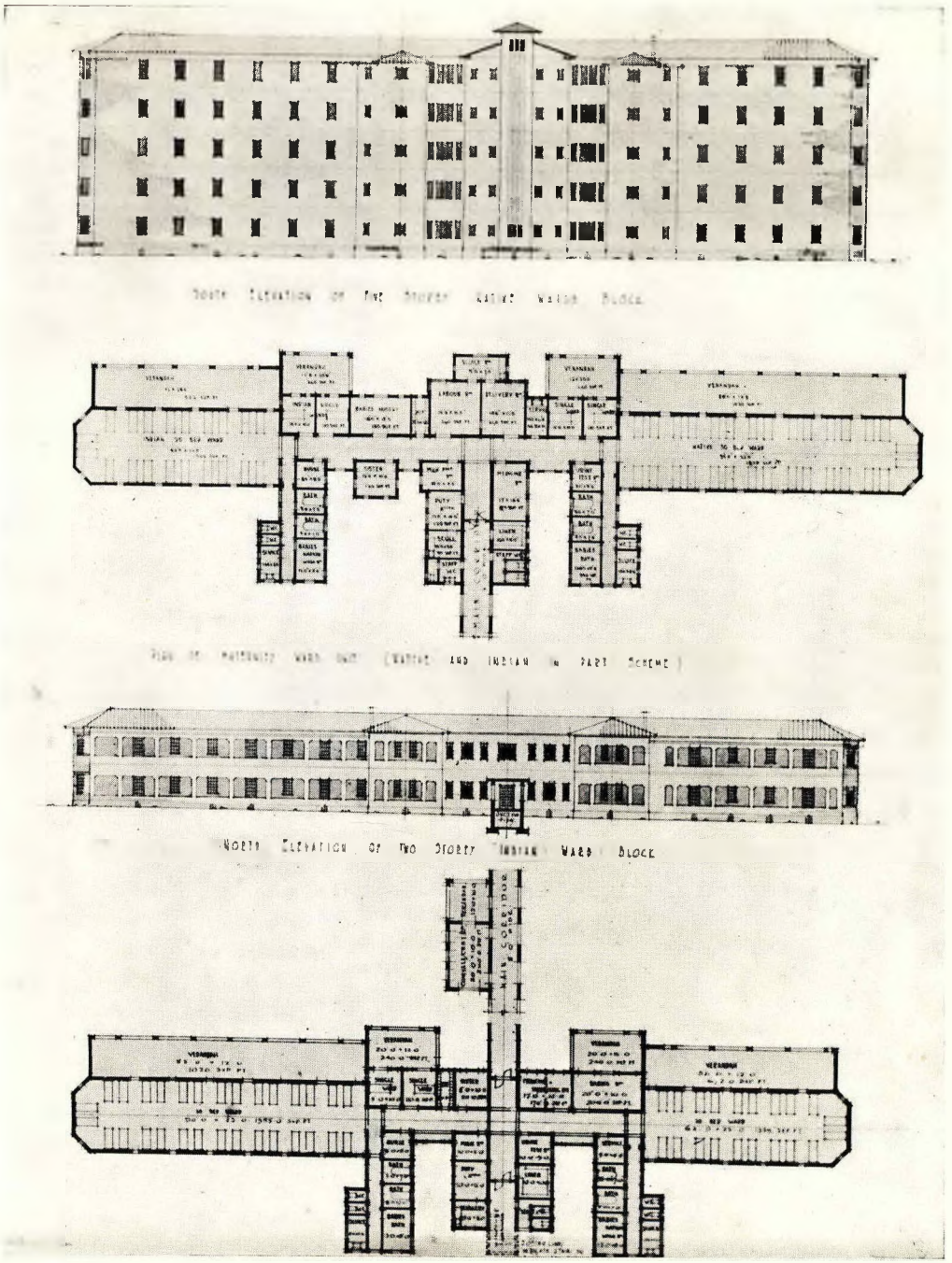
The Wards are well arranged but the Ward Corridor is not well lighted. Future extension over completed single storey buildings is not good but this could be arranged for as multi-storeyed buildings at the Umbilo Road end of site.



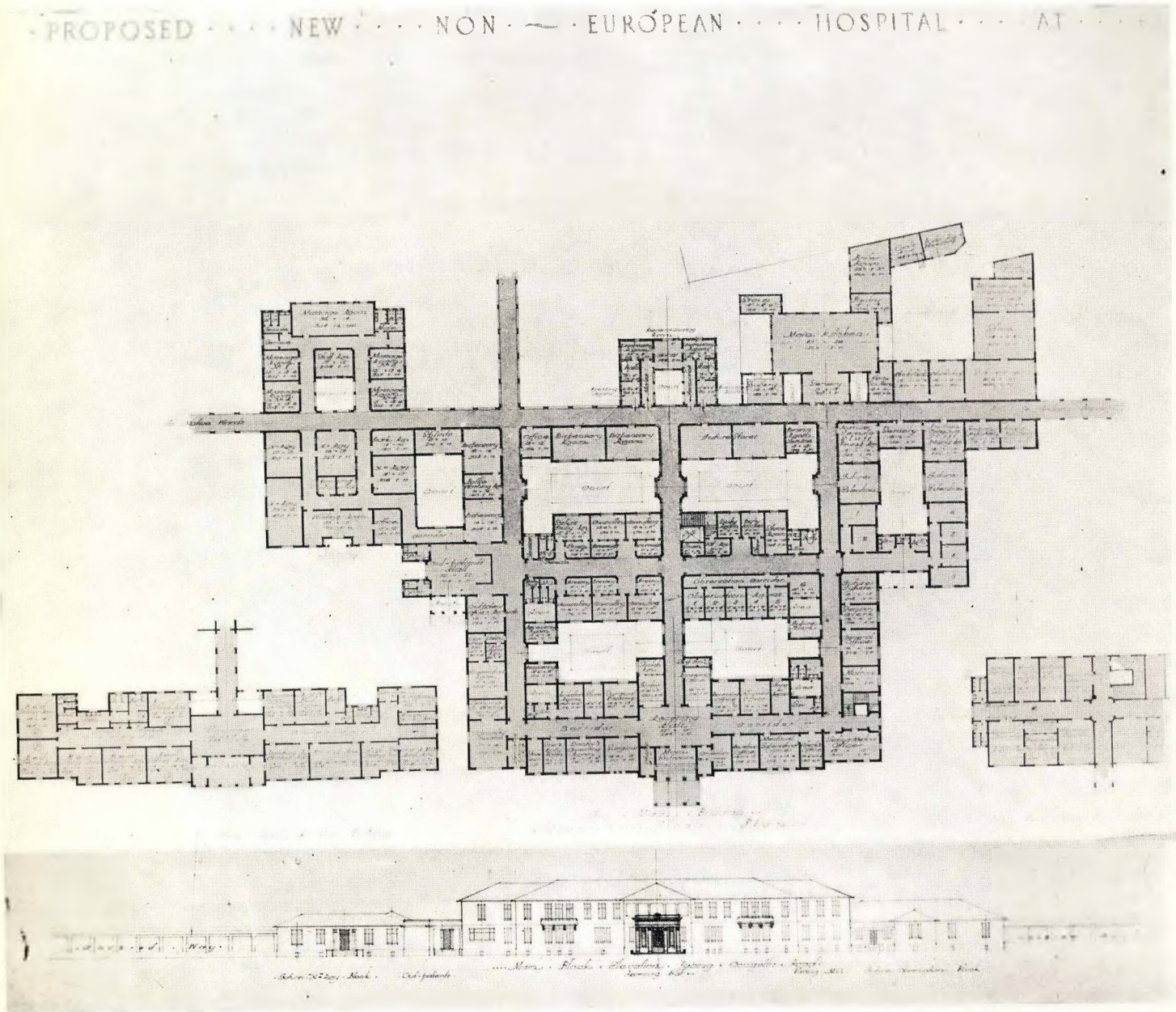
First Premiated Design. Messrs. Cowin, Powers & Ellis.



First Premiated Design. Messrs, Cowin, Powers & Ellis.

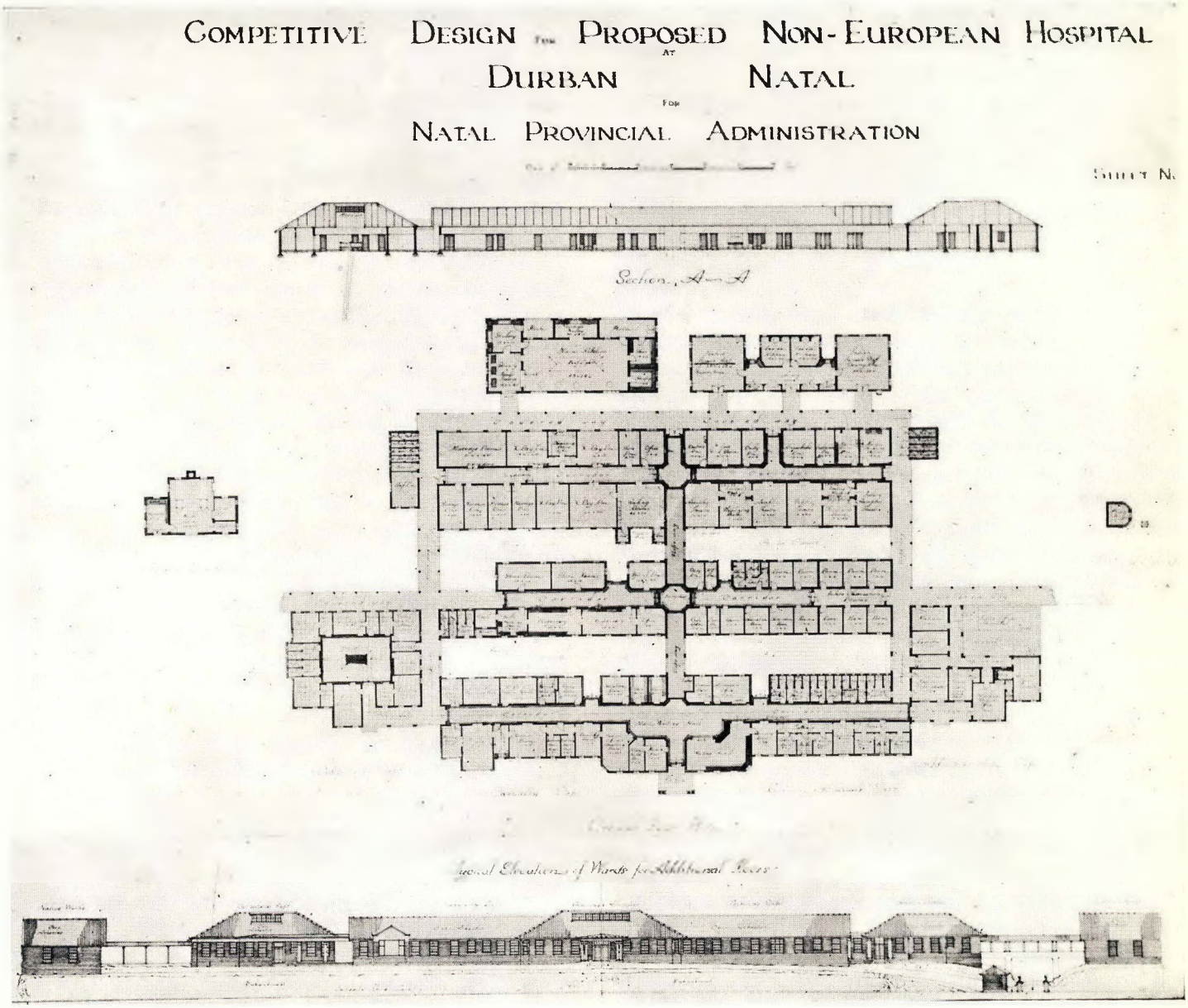


First Premiated Design. Messrs. Cowin, Powers & Ellis.



Second Premiated Design.

Mr. A. C. C. Woodrow.



Third Premiated Design.

Messrs. Langton & Barboure.

the non-european hospital at durban.

Notes on the Competition by "Non-Starter."

Hospital designing is a thing by itself. There are plenty of difficulties and snags where the institution is intended for only one class of patients, but where, as in the case of this hospital, it is intended for inmates of widely different natures and habits—natives and Indians chiefly—the difficulties are vastly added to. The native and the Indian will not mix under any circumstances, moreover Indians differ a great deal amongst themselves with their many castes and habits and prejudices about food. Segregation of the races therefore must be a "sine qua non."

Lay-out is the factor of prime importance, detailed planning is a good second, equipment is largely the concern of the medical advisers and material and treatment of elevations may be left largely to the competitors. The lay-out of this Non-European Hospital then was a problem of unusual difficulty and this was increased by the irregular shape of the site and its constricted area, the necessity for preserving some old buildings on the site, the carrying-out of the ultimate scheme in sections and the prescribed orientation of the blocks.

The first thing that strikes one upon an examination of the submitted designs is the way in which most of the competitors have ignored or, at least, have not given material effect to the vital considerations above referred to. Another is the manner in which constituent parts of the blocks, particularly the different parts of the Administrative section, which must be contiguous to each other, have been dispersed. The necessity for ease of circulation, access and control appears to have escaped the attention of some competitors entirely. Long and over-many corridors are conspicuous, likewise confused grouping, also defective lighting alike in amount and incidence. More than one or two schemes are congested while several are just the reverse.

The shortcomings here briefly touched upon are due, primarily, to the lack of experience in hospital planning of the majority of the authors of the schemes submitted and, secondly, in their apparent striving after some effect or purpose ; sound principles of group planning have been missed or ignored.

The winning design is an all-round excellent one and it indicates the expenditure of much thought in the sound solution of the many problems set the competitors. Segregation of the races, sound grouping of parts, circulation, control, accessibility of groups and parts to other groups and parts and other vital features are dealt with in a masterly manner. These factors, combined with due expression of function and suitability of treatment, make the design of Messrs. Cowin, Powers and Ellis, Durban, an outstanding one. The second premiated design, Mr. A. Woodrow's, is somewhat congested in lay-out and planning and the treatment is more academic than this type of hospital calls for. The third premiated design makes use of sunken ways requiring more bridging and flights of steps than would be convenient in practice. The fourth-placed design is rather academic and expression of function is somewhat lost sight of.

In some of the designs there is some quite cunning planning in parts but they are mostly isolated bright spots.

To give a full appreciation and criticism of the seventeen designs would entail more time and space than is available. The foregoing remarks are therefore more or less of the order of a thumb-nail sketch.

The placing by the Assessors is sound although opinions have been expressed that perhaps the third and fourth should have been transposed.

The exhibition of the drawings which was held for a week in the Durban Art Gallery was most attractive and interesting and appealed also to a large number of laymen apart from members of the architectural profession.

report of the imperial forestry institute oxford

The report of the Imperial Forestry Institute at Oxford, which was recently issued, describes the recent progress which has been made in acquiring a knowledge of the forest resources of the Empire, about which so much still remains to be discovered. The greatness of the task is not easily realized in this country, with its small number of tree species, and even in the Canadian forests there are only about one hundred and fifty different sorts of tree, so that the forest officer can learn to recognise all of them at sight. But in the tropical territories of Africa and Asia the problem becomes infinitely complicated ; for example, the Federated Malay States can boast of more than 2,500 tree species, while in the British possessions in tropical Africa many of the trees are as yet nameless and their possible uses are entirely unknown.

More than 2,000 specimens sent in by officers of the colonial forest services were identified during the year, and the Institute has now embarked on the work of preparing lists of the trees and shrubs of the various parts of the Empire, for the use of the forest services. Among the specimens which have been sent to the Intitute for identification during the year twelve new species have been found, and one even of a completely new genus, which is being named after the discoverer, Mr. Chidlow Vigue, of the Gold Coast Forest Service.

Another new species which comes from Trinidad is a fairly common tree known locally as bois lisette, and the reason why it had not hitherto been identified is because it had never before been found in flower. The flower was discovered and sent to Oxford by Mr. R. C. Marshall, the Conservator of Forests in Trinidad, and the new tree is to be named after him. It often happens, as in this case, that the leaves of trees in the evergreen tropical forests are so similar to one another in shape and appearance that the experts themselves cannot identify them unless they see the flowers. As the colonial forest services in the tropics have developed almost entirely within the last fifteen years, it is not surprising that the work of ascertaining the Empire's forest resources still leaves so much to be done. Both the French and Germans were a little in advance of us in tackling this work, and the representatives of the Institute who attended the Paris Timber Conference in July were impressed by the fact that the French appeared to know more about trees of their African colonies than we know of ours, and that they showed themselves so fully alive to the importance of this knowledge. The Germans also did much work on the same lines in Tanganyika Territory before the War.

The work of identification is hampered by the fact that many of these tropical trees only flower at very long intervals. It is true that experts have now discredited the legend that the so-called "century plant" of America flowers only once in one hundred years, but it is also true that many tropical trees come to flower only once in thirty, forty or even sixty years. There are trees in the Federated Malay States which, although they have been closely watched for many years by the forest officers, have never yet been seen in flower. Many bamboos, on the rare occasions when they flower, do so simultaneously over the whole area.

The export of mahogany from West Africa has continued for many years, and it has now come to be realized that some preparation ought to be made for a time when the supply of such wood as is already known to be commercially valuable may show a falling-off. Not only the forest officers, but also the British timber trade, are eager to know something of the properties of the hundreds of other trees in Tropical Africa about which little or nothing is known as yet. It is impossible to believe that all of them are without commercial value. The investigators are faced with a difficulty even in regard to those trees which are now being exported, from the fact that these timbers are at present passing under their local names, and these names differ among the different native tribes.

Parties of students from the Institute during the year visited forests in Germany and Czechoslovakia, and during the summer another party carried out a special reconnaissance survey in the Jura and visited French and Swiss forests.

Reprinted from the "Times."

south african hardwoods

Within recent years there has been a very considerable quickening of interest in the forest products of the Empire. The necessities of war gave the movement impetus, for the practical cessation of hard timber supplies from foreign sources compelled the authorities here to investigate the possibilities of obtaining their requirements from the Dominions and colonies.

Long prior to this, however, it was fairly well known that the forests of Africa—and notably those of the southern half of the continent—had large areas of forest-land yielding beautifully grained woods possessing a considerable potential value.

The specimens of old Cape furniture, which were exhibited at the Wembley exhibition, attracted wide attention and admiration, and many people there saw for the first time how eminently suitable certain South African woods were for high-class cabinet making purposes as well as for manufacture of humbler articles in general domestic use. Specimens of such woods as are grown in Southern Rhodesia have for a long time been on exhibition in the Aldwych office of the High Commissioner for the colony ; and one recalls with pleasure the beautiful selection which helped to decorate the trade hall of old South Africa House, in Trafalgar Square. Visitors from South Africa probably saw and recognised them for what they were, but to the average Londoner they were without any special significance.

As "The Times" remarked in this connection, "new Empire timbers, although often remarkably beautiful, are practically unknown in this country." Now, however, an expert amateur, Mr. A. L. Hetherington, an assistant secretary of the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research at the Imperial Institute, South Kensington, has completed a self-imposed task in connection with Empire hard woods which has already stimulated public interest in their value and uses. He has experimented on a lathe with the turning possibilities of over seventy specimens, and the results of his experiences is published in the form of a booklet entitled "British Empire Hardwoods from the Point of View of Turnery."

Some of the woods with which Mr. Hetherington worked so successfully are to English ears strangely named, such as red els, assegai woods, bombonemfene, black ironbox, crow's ash, turpentine, sissoo, thinwin, and black poison wood. They came from various localities in the United Kingdom, from all parts of Africa, India, Ceylon, Australia and the West Indies, besides British colonies in South America.

One of the most interesting facts about Mr. Hetherington's enterprise is that many of these woods have never before been used by ornamental turners in this country. From the seventy specimens available he made little round boxes with decorated sides and lids. Eventually the complete series is to be deposited in the Imperial Institute. A few of the most promising were selected for special ornamental turning, such as chalices, goblets, and decanter stands. Out of others were made egg cups, ash trays, and bowls. It is also interesting to have Mr. Hetherington's opinion that many of the woods with which he worked are eminently suitable for more elaborate workmanship. These include African blackwood (East Africa), gidgee (Australia), Burma blackwood, saporilla (British Honduras), cocus wood and lignum vitae (West Indies), boxwood (India and Ceylon), and Andaman bulletwood.

Mr. Hetherington's notes on the South African woods with which he worked during his experiments are both informative and valuable. A list is appended :—

•

Apodytes Dimidiate (White Pear), light brown in colour, texture fairly loose, but wood is fibrous and does not cut cleanly with an eccentric cutter ; it is somewhat hard on the tool, but the pores are not particularly prominent ; the wood is of no use for eccentric cutting and moderate only for plain turning.

Buxus Macowanii (Cape Box), similar in colour to ordinary box (Buxus sempervirens), which it closely resembles in all respects ; close in texture, free from prominent pores

Reprinted from the "Star."

and kind to tools, it should prove a good substitute for Buxus sempervirens; consequently it is a useful addition to both classes of turning woods.

Cunonia Capensis (red els), warm brown colour, with slight markings ; texture is not very close and the wood is fibrous, with pronounced pores ; it is not hard on tools ; of no use for ornamental work and of no special merit for plain turning.

Curtisia Faginea (assegai wood), red brown in colour, with dark streaks ; the texture is close and the wood is not hard on tools, but its somewhat fibrous nature does not make it suitable for eccentric cutting ; pores are also somewhat prominent ; an attractive wood for plain turning.

Gonioma (Kamassi), pale yellow in colour, resembling box (Buxus sempervirens) ; texture is close, but somewhat looser than that of box, and the wood is a trifle harder ; it is kind to tools, and the pores are minute and inconspicuous ; a very useful substitute for ordinary box, and consequently useful for both classes of turning.

Myrsine Melanopheleos (Cape beech), light brown in colour, with a comparatively coarse texture and with prominent pores ; fairly hard on tools ; of no particular merit for plain turning and useless for ornamental work.

Olea Capensis (Cape olive), the wood is a typical olive with prominent dark streaks, which afford a pleasing figure. The texture is close and the pores are not conspicuous, while the wood cuts with considerable lustre ; it is somewhat hard on tools and appears to be a difficult wood for seasoning ; attractive for plain turning and simple ornamental work.

Olea Laurifolia (black ironwood), brown with prominent dark bands and mottling, affording a pleasing figure ; texture is close but somewhat brittle ; pores are not very conspicuous, but the wood is fairly hard on tools ; a very useful wood for plain turning and sufficiently good for eccentric cutting to lend itself to combined work.

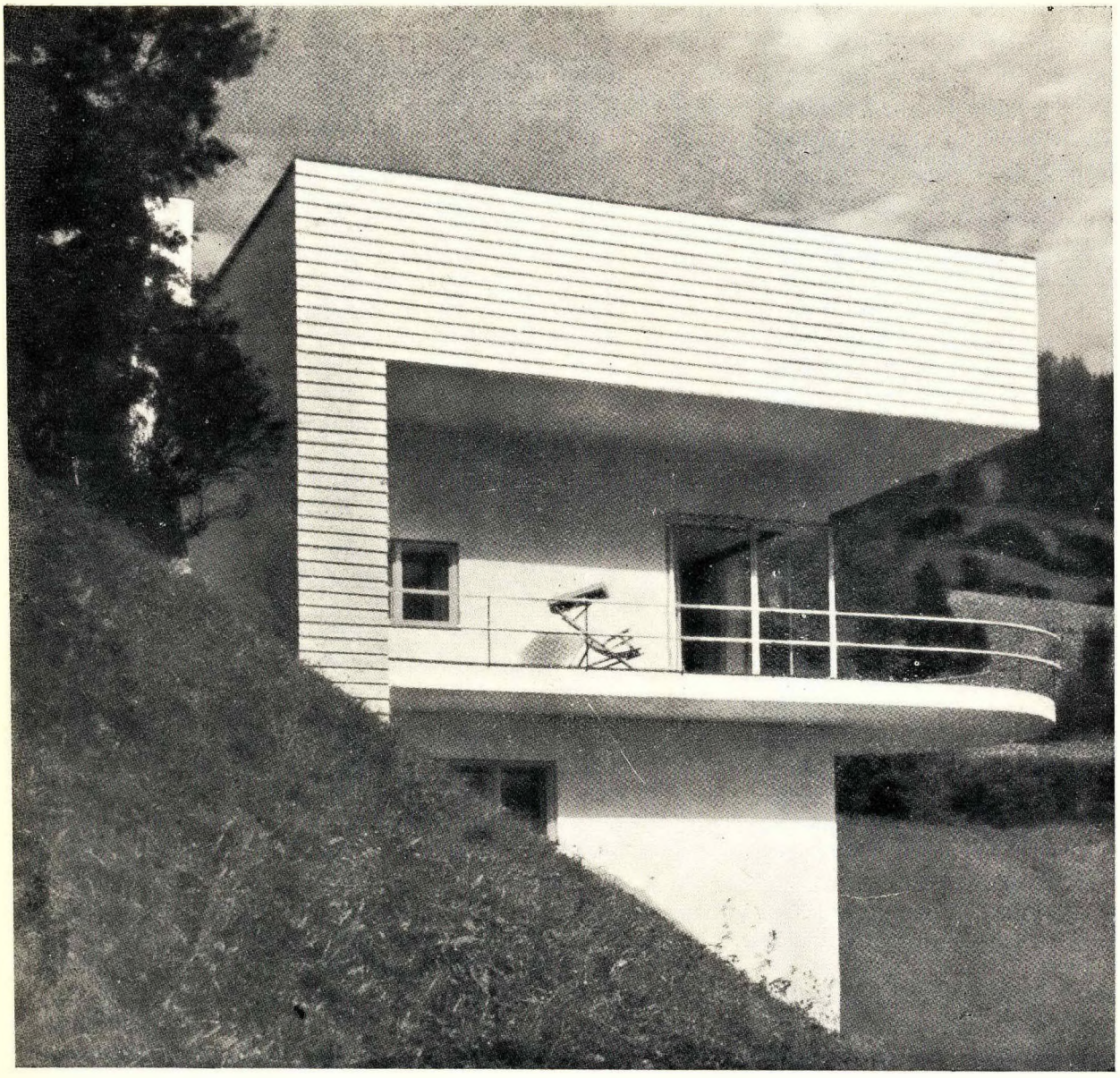
Plectronia Obovata (Bombonemfene), pale yellow in colour with brown passages and resembles some olives ; texture is close and turns easily ; it not very hard on tools ; pores are not very conspicuous ; an attractive wood for plain turning and suitable also for simple ornamental work.

Spirostachys Africana (Sandalien wood), dark brown in colour, with almost black and dark red streaks, which afford a pleasant figure ; is not very hard and turns easily, but cuts somewhat fibrously, though the texture is close ; pores are not very prominent ; somewhat severe on tools ; an attractive wood for plain turning, but not sufficiently good for eccentric cutting.

Dr. Chandler, of the Imperial Institute, tells me that Mr. Hetherington's interesting examples of turnery work with these and other Empire woods will shortly be on public exhibition at South Kensington. At the moment they are being examined by the authorities at Kew. Dr. Chandler agrees that many of the woods of South Africa are both beautiful and commercially valuable. Of South African box he had experience during the war, when supplies of the Turkish variety were unavoidable, and he then formed a high opinion of its properties. At the same time he recognises that supplies are comparatively limited, and for this reason he expresses appreciation of the work which the Government of the Union is doing to prevent the extermination of the rarer species.

The planting of suitable trees at every opportunity should be encouraged if we are to obtain shade and repose in the parched and shelterless small towns of South Africa. Readers of the South African Architectural Record are invited to contribute notes on any aspect of tree planting with which they have had experience. By emphasis of the importance of trees in the general scheme of architecture, individual architects can do much to foster an interest in a very vital and neglected branch of civic development.

The notes on forests and Mr. Hetherington's classification of South African woods should be of great interest. In the latter, the interior decorator will find a rich field for experimental work. *R.M.*



A House in the Austrian Tyrol.
Lois Welzenbacher, Architect.

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from the baumeister, munich.

professional notes and news.

The Institute of South African Architects.

The Central Council.

Personnel for 1932–33.

Cape Provincial Institute:
W. J. Delbridge.
L. A. Elsworth.
Alternates :
W. Hawke.
B. G. L. Mansergh.

Natal Provincial Institute :
W. S. Payne.
Alternate :
E. M. Powers.

O.F.S. Provincial Institute :
Fredk. W. Masey.
Alternate :
H. Fyvie.

Transvaal Provincial Institute :
C. C. Deuchar.
J. Lockwood Hall.
R. Howden.
F. Williamson.
Alternates :
Professor G. E. Pearse.
V. S. Rees-Poole.
Allen Wilson.
H. Porter.

Chapter of S.A. Quantity Surveyors :
A. T. Babbs.
T. Moore.
Alternates :
H. Bell-John.
J. W. Cowling.

Government Nominees :
J. S. Cleland.
Lt.-Col. W. E. Puntis.
Alternates :
F. D. Strong.
W. M. Warne.

J. S. Lewis,
Registrar.

Transvaal Provincial Institute

At the first meeting of the newly elected Committee for 1932-33, Mr. C. C. Deuchar was elected President and Messrs. A. S. Furner and G. E. Gordon Leith Vice-Presidents.

The following have been registered as members of the Transvaal Provincial Institute : B. J. Clinch, Associate of the Royal Institute of Architects of Ireland ; N. I. Finkelstein, B. Arch. University of the Witwatersrand; N. L. Hanson, B.Arch. University of the Witwatersrand.

Benevolent Fund, an Appeal to Members.

The primary object of the Benevolent Fund is the providing, where necessary, assistance to Architects who have practised or held architectural appointments for not less than five years, in any part of the Transvaal, or to the widows or orphan children of such architects. Grants from the Benevolent Fund should not be looked upon as charity but as shares in the amount which has been provided for the purpose of assisting members in distress.

The Trustees find it necessary, in the present times of stress, to appeal to all members of the Transvaal Provincial Institute, who have work in hand, or who are in employment, to contribute to the Benevolent Fund. It is anticipated that there will be heavy calls on the fund in the near future and it is suggested that those members, who are able to, might make regular contributions of say 1s. per week or 5s. per month.

It is also suggested that practising members should approach their assistants, who are not Members of the Institute, also to contribute, as the fund is for the help of all.

You are earnestly requested to give this appeal your very serious consideration.

D. M. BURTON,
WALTER REID,
F. WILLIAMSON,
} Trustees.

Mr. N. M. Eaton has been elected an Associate and Mr. L. M. Geers a Licentiate of the Royal Institute of British Architects.

Chapter of South African Quantity Surveyors. Officers and Board for 1932-33.

Professor H. Bell-John, M.I.A., L.R.I.B.A., F.S.I., F.I.A.A., M.C., has been elected President of the Chapter for the year 1932-33. Mr. A. T. Babbs, F.S.I., M.I.Str.E., has been elected Senior Vice-President. Mr. R. J. C. Prentice, P.A.S.I., M.R.S.I., has been elected Junior Vice-President.

The Board for the year 1932-33 :

Practising Solely as Quantity Surveyors :

Mr. A. T. Babbs, F.S.I., M.I.Str.E. ; Prof. H. Bell-John, M.I.A., L.R.I.B.A., F.S.I., F.I.A.A., M.C. ; Mr. J. W. Cowling, F.S.I. ; Mr. T. Moore, M.I.A., L.R.I.B.A., F.I.A.A., F.S.I. ; Mr. D. M. Sinclair, Junior.

Practising as Architects and Quantity Surveyors :

Mr. R. Howden, M.I.A., F.R.I.B.A. ; Mr. G. Moerdyk, M.I.A., A.R.I.B.A.

Salaried Quantity Surveyors :

Mr. R. J. C. Prentice, P.A.S.I., M.R.S.I. ; Lt.-Col. W. E. Puntis, M.I.A., F.S.I., V.D.

Pretoria Local Committee. Kalendar.

May 2nd, Monday : Committee Meeting.
„ 7th, Saturday : Visit to Forest Research Station, Pretoria West.
„ 11th Wednesday : Visit to the New Standard Bank, Church Square, 5 p.m.
Lecture on Timbers, preservation, etc., by Mr. Ecbo, of the Forestry Department, in the Assembly Hall of the Afrikaans Medium Girls High School, Bond Street, Sunnyside (at the South end of Farenden Street).
„ 15th Sunday : Sketch Class-outing.
„ 27th Friday : Lecture, "The New Architecture" by A. V. Nunn, A.R.I.B.A., at 8 p.m., at A.M.G. High School.

All members are invited to these lectures.

A Well-Earned Holiday.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Howden have gone overseas on a six months' trip and our readers will join with us in wishing them a pleasant holiday. Mr. Howden, F.R.I.B.A., A.A.I.A., has not only designed, either on his own account or in collaboration with other architects, several of Johannesburg's most important buildings such as the University College, Plein Square, St. George's Presbyterian Church and various schools and residential buildings, but has done very valuable work for the profession as President of the Transvaal Institute, President-in-Chief of the S.A. Institute, for the first two years, as well as of the Chapter of S.A. Quantity Surveyors this year, and as chairman of the standing committee on Architectural and Quantity Surveying Education and Examinations. The recently founded Howden Scholarship is a token that the profession appreciates the hard work Mr. Howden has always done in its interests.

S. A. Academy.

Mr. C. C. Deuchar,, president of the Transvaal Institute of S.A. Architects, presided at the opening of the thirteenth South African Academy on Monday, April 11th. Mr. A. S. Furner, a vice-president and Mr. S. C. Dowsett past president were with him on the platform as was the Mayoress, Mrs. D. F. Corlett who was presented with a bouquet.

In introducing the Mayor, Mr. Deuchar said the City Council had taken a keen interest in civic development, and had spent freely on the Art Gallery.

In opening the exhibition, the Mayor, Mr. D. F. Corlett said :—"It has been said that the art of a people is a guide to the scale of their civilisation. I would not like to suggest that because in the history of South Africa art is comparatively new our civilisation is in its infancy ; but I am told that though the standard this year is very much higher than last and higher than ever before, it is not up to world standard. Of course, that is to be expected in a new country."

Mr. Corlett said they were indebted to the Transvaal Society of South African Architects for inaugurating this exhibition. He had recently had the opportunity of being present at an exhibition of the very interesting school of art under Professor Armstrong, which was doing excellent work, and he did not think the public of Johannesburg were sufficiently aware that there were sections of the people who considered that the art of a people was of greater importance than many material aspects of life.

"I am told that this year neither the Cape nor Natal have seen fit to send any of their work here. I think it is a great pity, for this should be a South African undertaking, and I should be sorry to think that in Natal particularly the word ' devolution ' should enter into art. I should be sorry to think that any localism should be allowed a place in South African art."

He concluded by saying he had discovered during the last few weeks that there was a growing need for commercial art. There was a distinct commercial side of art education in South Africa, and therein probably lay the solution in course of time of the question that the people were not artistically inclined.

Mr. Furner briefly thanked the Mayor and Mayoress for coming to the exhibition.

Correspondence.

The Editor,
"S.A. Architectural Record."
Sir,

In the course of Denys Lefebvre's article on the Pierneef panels for the New Railway Station, Johannesburg, in the February issue of the "Record" he refers to the possible inclusion of similar panels in the New Library. Would it not be desirable to leave a considerable proportion of such panels blank to be filled by the work of present day artists in later years and by newer and younger men not yet known or not yet of sufficient national prestige to warrant inclusion at the present.

In this way the work of artists over a period of twenty or even fifty years could be included in a building which will presumably stand at least two hundred years.

H. Bell-John.

The Editor,
"S.A. Architectural Record."
Dear Sir,

Building By-Law 134.

There appears to be some doubt as to the intention of the Articles of Building By-Law No. 134, which deals with scaffolding for buildings.

Article (a), second paragraph, reads :

"Whenever outside scaffolds are erected for the construction of buildings over 25 feet in height, suitable means shall be provided, either by an enclosure of jackal wire netting or boarding sufficiently supported to prevent an accidental fall from such scaffolds of workmen, tools or material."

Article (c) deals with the structural strength of scaffolding, etc.

Article (d) reads :

"The person in charge of any such operations as referred to in Article 134 (c) shall, on any scaffolding used in connection therewith which is more than 40 feet above the ground level, provide and maintain guard rails at a height of 3 feet from every floor or planking forming part of such scaffold."

The meaning and intention is that :

(1) In the case of a building under 25 feet high, the scaffolding need have no side protection or enclosure.

(2) In the case of a building over 25 feet high, the scaffolding must have an enclosure of jackal wire or boarding.

(3) In the case of a scaffolding more than 40 feet high above the ground that portion of the scaffolding above that height must have guard rails in addition to the netting or boarding.

I should be glad if you would publish this explanation in your next issue for general information.

Yours faithfully,
E. H. WAUGH.
Johannesburg. City Engineer.

The University Architectural Society.

The first function of the University Architectural Society this year was held at Milner Park, on Friday, April 1st, when Mr. R. D. Martienssen, B.Arch., A.R.I.B.A., led a discussion on the Desirability of an International Architecture. The meeting was well attended, but owing to the short notice few practising architects were able to be present ; a regrettable fact because the presence of architects adds considerably to the attraction of these functions, and increases the instructional value to students.

In introducing Mr. Martienssen, the Chairman particularly welcomed Messrs. W. G. McIntosh and D. S. Haddon, who were among the founders of the Society.

Mr. Martienssen opened the argument with his customary eloquence basing it on the assumption that as the economic conditions of various countries approach one another, there would be a corresponding approach in archi-

tectural style, and strengthened his statements with some very interesting illustrations.

He was ably supported by Mr. McIntosh. Mr. A. S. Furner and Mr. A. R. Martin were the leading opposers in this discussion maintaining that though an International Architecture might be inevitable it was nevertheless most undesirable. The so called modern trend was definitely a change from the monotony of the International Reniassance of to-day, and to standardise architecture would eventually bring about another epoch of monotonous similarity.

Other speakers were Messrs. Wagner, Haddon, Cooke and Tomkin.

No vote was taken but it was generally agreed that it was a most interesting and stimulating evening, and Mr. Furner closed the discussion with a vote of thanks to Messrs. Martienssen and McIntosh.

Forthcoming Events.

A lecture on Acoustics by Professor Paine.

Annual Dance, May 3rd, in the Wanderers Hall. Tickets may be obtained from Architectural Students, 12/6 double; 7/6 (Students).

british industries fair

As the most successful of British fairs concludes, one is conscious that the predominating impression is one of colour. Colours gay and quiet, lustrous and umbrageous ; some showing up in startling clarity and others indefinable in tone. But all appropriate in their respective settings, and many of astonishing beauty. A week at Birmingham should suffice to confirm the impression that Britain lacks nothing in the faculty of arts and crafts.

The baths and basins formed a galaxy of colour. Many firms exhibited in this section, and with elegant designs and brilliant finishes the section was a dream of delight. One firm displayed no less than twenty different styles and colourings, which included baths and basins in mauve, grey, white, biscuit, salmon, green, pink and yellow. At the risk of being considered over-imaginative, the writer would venture to predict that circular baths, embracing all the colours of the rainbow, will be featured in the near future.

One of the most pleasing bath room exhibits was a study in black and white. A beautiful, white bath, half sunk, the top portion built up and lined with black and white tiles set chequer fashion. The walls from the dado and the floor set out in similar style, with the floor composed of larger squares. The large, white basin and the shower—the latter fitted with a special, spiral spray—were both recessed, and the basin was built in in the same manner as the bath. The wall lights were of white frosted glass, set in chromium fittings, in which metal all the fittings were finished. After contemplating such extravagant good taste as this one sighs for riches !

More than forty firms exhibited fireplaces, and here the colour schemes, though infinitely pleasing, were more subdued in tone. Some of the grates were set with mottled, handmade tiles in delicate tints of blue and green. Some were dull in finish, and embraced every hue between maroon and solferino ; many were set into one central design with great effect.

Simplicity of design, as a contrast to the more ambitious settings, characterised the actual grates, although one concern showed some handsome stainless steel models—both polished and dull—that must look very pleasing when filled with kindled coals. While on the subject of fireplaces, mention should be made of the Combination Stoves which form such a happy compromise between beauty and utility. This type of stove should assist in the solution of many problems confronting the designer of small flats, as, in addition to being appropriate to living rooms, many of them are wizards in the cooking line. The writer, is unable to descant on their many designs and features here, but it is hoped to examine these stoves from the South African standpoint on some future occasion.

Castle Bromwich bore witness to the desperate struggle that is proceeding between gas and electricity. Ignoring the wider, economic aspect, the position is not unfavourable from the point of the consumer.

But it is generally considered that either one or the other must eventually retire from the fray. Gas launched a great attack at Birmingham with a grand display of heating, cooking and lighting, supply of cakes and other gas cooked delicacies. Electricity counter attacked with demonstrations and daylight bioscopes, tea and radiators. The last named were designed to look like burning logs and glowing embers, and many of them were very ingenious. One fire, camouflaged to look like coal, relied on auto-suggestion. No heat was afforded, but just a glow to warm the heart—but not mine this wintry weather ! Electric irons, vacuum cleaners and many other devices were arrayed on the side of electricity. Meanwhile Johannesburg continues to duplicate these domestic services, while many parts of the urban area remain without sewerage, which does seem rather strange.

Cellulose finishes are becoming increasingly popular, and some of the coloured panels and wall settings were pictures of lustrous beauty. I saw two relief finishes of great beauty called "Lymnato." One was in gold and green, the other gold and blue. The effect is gained by spraying the walls with a semi-liquid blue or green dye, which is forced through a cellulose gun. Although the spraying is done haphazard, it is surprising how even is the general effect. The walls are then sprayed in cellulose bronzing medium, assuming the colour of old gold. Thereafter the dye colourings blend into the gold, giving a lovely, delicate shading effect, which can be heightened, if desired, by gently drawing a soft cloth over the surface.

Before concluding it would be as well to abandon the aesthetic and pay tribute to the practical for a space. I think the firm who built a gabled roof of bricks and mortar, treated it with a compound guaranteed to exclude moisture, and then arranged a deluge to cover it day and night for the period of the show, is deserving of some credit for originality. Within, the bricks showed no trace of moisture, so the compound has merited some praise, too. But not content with that, this enterprising company made some briquettes of 3:1 sand and cement. Some were marked and treated with a compound ; some were not. All were left immersed in the gutter, and when the curious came along, the demonstrator would select one of each and break them with the aid of a hammer. The treated samples proved to be hard and dry within ; the others were saturated to the core. An excellent test surely, and with much renovation work at present in progress and no lack of porous bricks to deal with, there should be ample scope for these products in Johannesburg and, in fact, throughout the country.

With the disaster suffered by the Witwatersrand University fresh in the memory, it is worthy of note that there are paints produced to-day that are, apparently, fireproof. Paper and thin strips of wood burn fiercely until the flames reach the painted portion, when the fire dies out. If those wooden partitions that were blamed for the extent of the damage at the University had been treated thus, would the results have been so devastating ? The efficacy of fireproof paints may be questioned, but the potentialities should not be despised until they are proved or otherwise.

C.N.

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