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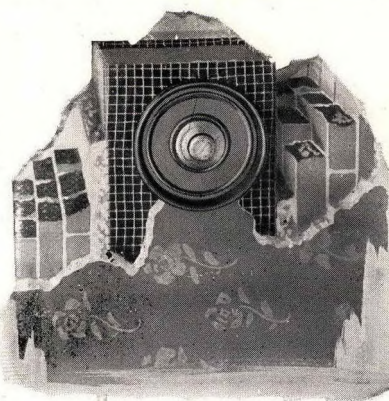
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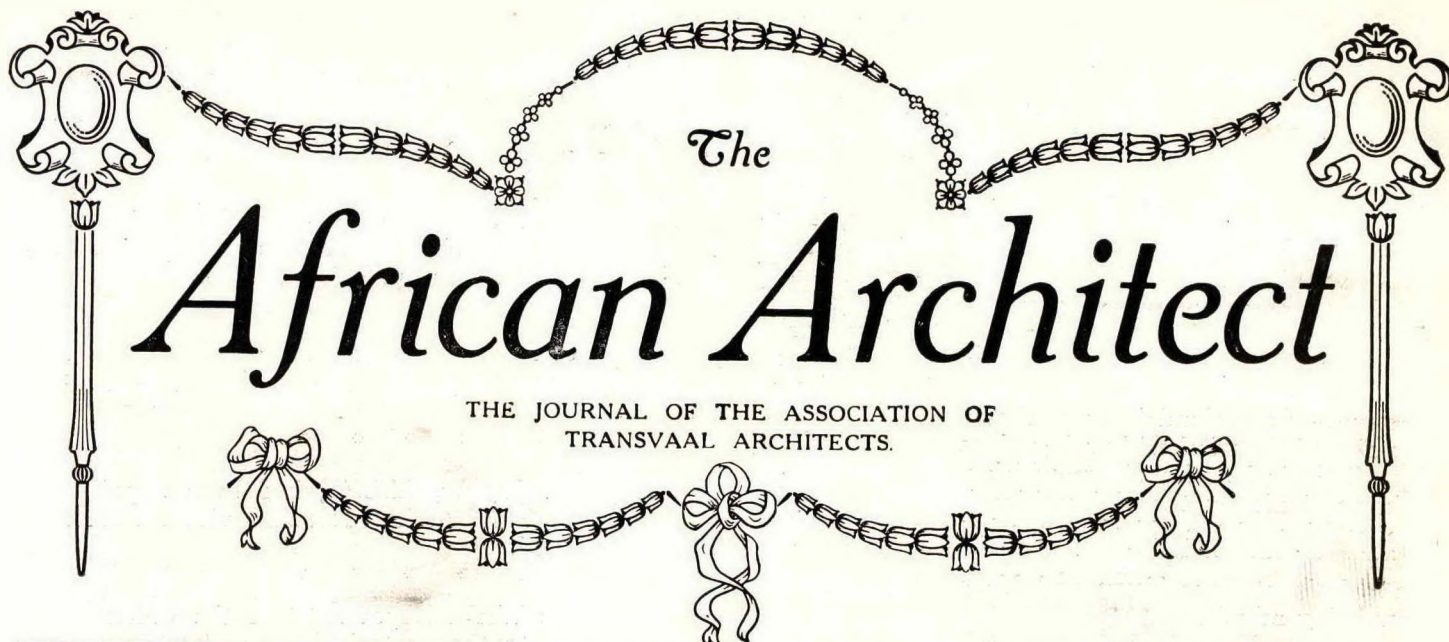
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VOL. I. No. 10.]

MARCH, 1912.

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EDITORIAL COMMENTS.

Building in 1911.

The Johannesburg Municipal statistics show a wonderful activity during the past year in building. The total value of plans passed was £1,811,754. Starting with £122,984 in January, December wound up with figures amounting to £184,806. The highest months on the list, however, were September, with a value of £239,364, and October with £217,050, respectively. It is to be noted that the estimated cost of erection of buildings, however, in January, 1912, was only £95,032.

Offices in London.

Will the Union of South Africa take the hint and follow suit in the matter of the erection of a suitable building in London for its officials resident there? Australia is doing so, and now we see that in the Canadian House of Commons Mr. Bradbury urged the erection of suitable offices in London for the High Commissioner and the immigration staff. In reply, Mr. Borden, the Premier, said he was in favour of the construction of a building worthy of Canada and the Empire, and he had noticed the satisfactory effort made by Australia in this respect. We notice, also, that a scheme is on foot which will result in a combination of South American Republics for the purpose of erecting a large edifice on one of the Kingsway sites in which all their interests can be housed. The idea is to make the ground floor a great hall for the exhibition of products of the Republics, while on other floors will be reception rooms, lecture rooms, and offices.

Johannesburg Finances.

In view of the amount of money which the Johannesburg Municipality is spending on buildings in the future, the revised estimates adopted at the Town Council meeting in February are interesting. As Mr. Williamson at a recent meeting of the Council

stated that he hoped the additional sum required for the building of the new Town Hall would be paid out of the Beardmore award, we might here quote the words of the Chairman of the Finance Committee on the subject, when he "regretted that the Council was unable to handle the money involved in the Beardmore case, because the defendants had noted an appeal. The amount that the Council should ultimately have available in this connection was approximately £200,000, a sum of money which should go a long way to relieve the present financial position. The total municipal debt still stood at £5,750,000, and the Council were being committed to a further loan of £500,000. We shall ultimately have a total capital debt of £6,250,000 when this further loan is floated. Most probably during the next financial year the annual amount that will have to be found for interest and redemption will be £375,000. The loan redemption fund now stands at slightly over £1,000,000, and depreciation reserves £378,576. The position of the town's finances, so far as its liabilities are concerned, is therefore exceptionally sound."

Federal Capital Design.

We note that the world's competition for the best Federal capital design for the Australian Commonwealth has closed, and that a good number of designs were received. The Minister for Home Affairs has decided to appoint an expert board to deal with the designs, and for that purpose has invited the various Australian institutes of architects, engineers, and surveyors to each nominate a representative. The Minister has not decreed the number to constitute the board; but it is unlikely that he will appoint eighteen (should they be nominated), and create an unwieldy board. If that is so, who, then, is to select the requisite number from the nominees, and is not that method likely to produce dissatisfaction among the various institutes which the Minister seemingly desires to recognise?

Cathedrals in Africa.

The new Cathedral at Khartoum is the fifteenth English Cathedral in Africa. The others are at Cape Town, Grahamstown, Pietermaritzburg, Bloemfontein, St. John's (Kaffraria), Pretoria, Vryheid (Zululand), Salisbury (Mashonaland), Likoma, Zanzibar, Free-town, Mengo (Uganda), Mombasa, St. Helena. Some of these, the "Pall Mall Gazette" observes, would hardly be dignified by the name of "cathedral" in England, being little more than unpretentious parish churches. Many, on the other hand, are fine and costly buildings, such as that of white granite at Likoma, on an island in Lake Nyassa. It stands on the site of the witches' burning place of former days. The Cathedral at Zanzibar—which was, like that at Likoma, built by the Universities Mission—occupies the position of the old slave market; and the altar stands where once the whipping-post did. The Cathedrals at Cape Town and Mengo (Uganda) are now being rebuilt.

Museum, Library, and Art Gallery Grants.

The Union Estimates contain certain amounts as grants-in-aid to the libraries, museums, and art galleries, which, although the disparities are not so marked as for the current year, still show some incomprehensible differences of treatment. The museums in the capitals are very liberally treated, but as in a sense they may be regarded as national museums, this liberality is understandable. The sum of £90,000 is being spent out of Union funds on a museum and art gallery for Pretoria; £13,000 is to be spent on a museum for Bloemfontein; £12,000 for museum extensions at Cape Town, and £12,000 for an art gallery at Cape Town.

SPOILING THE THAMES.

The spread of London means inevitably the Cockneyising of the Thames and the intrusion of the builder and the engineer. It is not many years since Richmond was quite apart from the metropolis, but it now no longer is; and the developments have brought the usual disturbing elements in their train. A great effort was made some years ago to preserve the celebrated view from the Terrace, and the Marble Hill Estate was then saved from the clutches of the builder, and preserved for all time. But a little further up the river a grit company started operations, and have effectually disturbed the peaceful serenity of that portion of the reach. And that is not the whole of the business, for a scheme to cut through the footpath in order to form a channel to a small dock has only quite recently been sent back for reconsideration, and a similar stop has been set against a later scheme for erecting a footbridge—possibly a road bridge—across the river at Twickenham, for the purpose of connecting up with the small village of Ham. With the steady growth of æsthetic perception, and the increasing recognition of the direct and indirect pleasures and profits of urban amenities, the objection to unnecessary "improvements" has now more force than heretofore. Both schemes, in our opinion, are wholly undesirable, and we hope that the opposition now being raised will prevent their ever being carried out.

PERSONALIA.

Mr. H. G. Veale, the newly-elected president of the Association of Transvaal Architects, is also president of the Transvaal Institute of Architects.

* * * *

Mr. M. C. A. Meischke, the successful contractor for the Johannesburg new Town Hall, has started operations.

* * * *

Mr. J. W. Jagger, M.L.A., has been appointed trustee of the South African Museum, vice Dr. Henry Bolus, deceased.

* * * *

The Public Works Department of the Union has been removed to the Pretoria Museum!—Vide daily Press.

* * * *

The death is announced of Mr. George C. Strawbridge, architect and surveyor, of Alma Street, Taunton. He was one of the earliest members of the Society of Architects, having joined in the year of its formation, 1884.

* * * *

Mr. R. Howden, ex-president of the Association of Transvaal Architects, left Johannesburg on February 21st for a four months' holiday, during which time he will visit Australia. He was wished bon voyage by a large number of friends.

* * * *

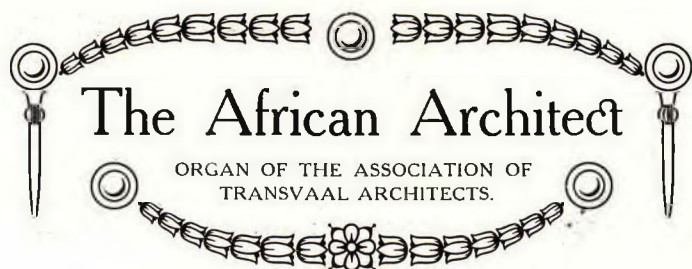
On the invitation of the Royal Sanitary Institute, the Society of Architects have appointed Mr. W. R. Braithwaite, of Leeds, and Mr. A. J. Penty, of York, as the official delegates of the Society at the conference to be held in York next July.

* * * *

The annual elections of various South African Master Builders' Associations have recently taken place. Mr. W. Knuckey has been elected president of the Johannesburg Association; Mr. J. A. Schallies, president Pretoria Association; Mr. Robert Rae, president Krugersdorp Association; Mr. A. F. Turner, president Durban Association; and Mr. G. H. Eddy, president Cape Town Association.

JOHANNESBURG'S NEW MARKET BUILDINGS.

The following tenders for the erection and completion of the new Market Buildings were opened by the Mayor on February 16th: James Thompson, £55,767; H. A. Miller, £61,982; Templar Bros., £62,000; A. Hopkins, £60,600; Prentice and Mackie, £59,700; J. Clark and Sons, £59,441; Holreisen and Co., Ltd., £59,730; Reid and Knuckey, £55,500; A. J. Brownlee, £55,555; Harper Bros., £54,698; H. Rainey, £63,686; J. Lilico, £59,465; M. J. Adams and Co., £62,890; Dunbar and Co., £64,617; C. Gabriel, £60,900; Henderson and Gordon, £53,695; and G. Waterson, £64,324.



MARCH, 1912.

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SPECIAL ARTICLES on general subjects of interest to the architectural profession, and photographs, are cordially invited from our readers. Where payment is expected this should be distinctly stated. Special care will be taken of MS., but the Editor will in no case guarantee its return.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.—The columns of "The African Architect" are open at all times for expression of the opinions of our readers, but the Editor disclaims responsibility for the views of correspondents. All letters must be signed with the name of the correspondent, not necessarily for publication, but in evidence of *bona fide*, and addressed "EDITOR, 'The African Architect,' Box 4651, Johannesburg."

BUSINESS ANNOUNCEMENTS.—All communications on business matters should be addressed to "THE BUSINESS MANAGER, 'The African Architect,' Rooms 17 and 18, Provident Buildings, Fox Street, Johannesburg."

"The African Architect" is on sale at Chicken's News Agency, Pritchard Street, Johannesburg.

ASSOCIATION PRESIDENTS.

We heartily congratulate the Association of Transvaal Architects in selecting Mr. H. G. Veale as their president for the ensuing year, and feel confident he will prove a worthy successor to Mr. Howden, who had a particularly hard task in his year of office. Mr. Howden's presidential address, which we print at length, is full of bouyant hope, and is subject for much thoughtful reflection by all architects, and more especially young students. What he says about the educational and examination section of the Association must be taken to heart in all seriousness. He rightly deplored the apathy amongst South African youth in apparently giving a wide berth to architecture as a profession, and this even when Mr. Howden made a point of saying that "the past year has been a successful one in the advancement of the art of architecture." Perhaps this very fact of advancement will give an impetus to colonial students to give more thought to architecture, and less to the profession of law, for instance, which we are prone to believe is well-nigh overcrowded. The fact remains that out of over one hundred and seventy registered architects

in the Transvaal only an extremely small percentage are South African born. Surely there is an opening here that parents might seriously weigh in seeking a future vocation for their boys. Under the heading of "Official Architecture," the retiring President reluctantly offered some extremely pertinent remarks. He showed that out of the hundred and seventy odd registered architects of the Transvaal referred to sixty-four are in salaried employment, "a proportion," he thinks, "which must be unprecedented in any part of the world." The attitude taken up by many practising men against the salaried man, we must agree with him, has much in it for consideration, and is one of the matters that no doubt Mr. Veale and his Council will tackle judiciously during their term of office. The magnum opus, however, of the next year's work will undoubtedly centre in regard to the progress of the Registration Bill, on which important subject we shall have occasion to refer to fully later on. Mr. Howden threw a wonderful flood of light on the subject, and the Council also had a pungent reference to it. In view of the fact that copies of the draft Bill are now being sent out to every member of the Association, we commend particularly the remarks of the retiring President, than whom no one is more cognisant with its every detail and the difficulties of presenting one as near perfection as varied conditions will allow. The present chaotic position cannot continue, and a special meeting to discuss this one most important subject will be well ordered if it tends to thorough unanimity in the Association's representations to Government for a new Registration Bill. We have dealt with a few of the matters of interest to the profession traversed by Mr. Howden in his address, and we feel sure the newly-elected President and his Council will have an equally good report to record when another annual meeting comes round. We would only now allude to the significant fact that amongst all the councillors of the Association, Mr. Howden was the most consistent in attendance, for he put in the maximum "possible" of being present at twenty-one meetings, the next highest being Mr. Lewis with seventeen attendances and Mr. Veale with fifteen, whilst the vice-presidents each attended fourteen meetings. This shows earnest work, and, as we can well imagine, their services have been of invaluable advantage to the whole profession in South Africa. Mr. Howden, it is gratifying to know, is taking a four months' holiday in Australia, and after his strenuous work of the past year we can join with every professional architect in the country in wishing him "bon voyage." It is to be noted with pleasure, also, that he is still a member of the Council, and his confreres will welcome him back most heartily to take part in continuing the good work he has so energetically pursued as president during the year which culminated in his retiring from his term of office—1911.

BAKER SCHOLARSHIP.

We learn that the architectural scholarship referred to by Mr. R. Howden, in his presidential address to the Transvaal Association of Architects, has now been made a permanent feature, and that the next examination will be held at the beginning of 1913, for which it is hoped that there will be more competitors. Mr. E. Gordon Leith, the present scholar, is doing very valuable work, architecturally and historically, in making restorative drawings of the Imperial Palace on the Palatine Hill, now being excavated for the first time, under the supervision of Professor Boni, the excavator of the Forum. The Royal Institute of British Architects has appointed a committee of direction over Mr. Leith, and has favourably reported on his work. The following comprise the committee: Mr. Reginald Blomfield, A.R.A.; Sir Aston Webb, R.A.; Mr. Lewis Solomon; Mr. John Slater; Mr. Ernest Newton, A.R.A.; and Mr. J. F. Baker-Penoyre, secretary of the British Schools at Rome and Athens.

IN OTHER LANDS.

A FRESCO CLASS.

A course of instruction in fresco painting has been instituted at the Ecole des Beaux-Arts, with M. Paul Baudoin as instructor.

BUST OF VICTOR HUGO.

A bronze bust of Victor Hugo, executed by M. Rodin, was presented to the Art Gallery of Manchester on Friday.

REGISTRATION.

The Guardians of the Poor for the Hamlet of Mile End Old Town, in advertising for an architect, make it a condition that candidates must be registered architects, fully qualified to carry out an architect's duties, but they do not define "registration."

PROPOSED NEW LONDON EXHIBITION BUILDING.

It is stated that arrangements are being made for the formation, on an extensive site near Buckingham Palace, of a huge exhibition of the type of Olympia. The details, however, are not yet available.

THE NEW CAPITAL OF INDIA.

The "Times" Calcutta correspondent cables:—"It is officially stated that until the best European architect and sanitary engineer obtainable, both to be selected by Lord Crewe, have visited Delhi before and during the rains, the Government will select no site for the new capital, but will merely acquire land. A committee will subsequently sit to supervise the plans that have been agreed upon."

HOUSE OF RETREAT FOR ARCHITECTS.

M. Lucien Leblanc, architect, of Paris, has conceived the idea of creating a house of retreat for architects, and is going to submit a scheme to the Central Society of Architects. Until the particulars are made public, the fancy plays round all sorts of wild possibilities—homes of rest, convalescent homes, almshouses, and what not. Whatever form for the maison de retraite may be suggested, its bare conception seems to indicate that the French are either a less proud or a more practical people than we are. In any case, developments will be awaited with interest; for it may quite possibly turn out that M. Leblanc's scheme is worth imitating.

OUR COMPETITIONS.

We reproduce in this issue the winning design in our Competition No. 5, viz., a village church, and have now to announce that Mr. F. F. Hayward is the successful competitor.

With regard to Competition No. 7 (a loggia), we have also to announce that Mr. James Hossack is the winner, and we shall reproduce the design in our April issue. Meanwhile we are able to give the report of the assessor in this competition (Mr. Herbert Baker, F.R.I.B.A.), which is as follows:—

Assessor's Report on the Designs submitted for the Sculptural Loggia

The six competitors, in the design which they sent in, fulfil, on the whole, as far as the loggia itself is concerned, the intention conveyed in the subject. In the laying out of the square they have not been quite so successful. The open space is too much cut up, and it would be difficult in most cases for spectators to walk back to get a distant view of the sculpture without tumbling into the water or trampling on flower beds. Little use, moreover, is made of the reflective value of water, nor of clipped hedges as a background for sculpture, as in the best English and Italian gardens.

Numbers 1, 4 and 6, in their designs of the loggia, fail to show on their plan the geometry and construction of the vaulting, and their sections are faulty.

Number 6, in particular, fails to see that the pendentives of a circular dome cannot spring from an irregular octagon.

The plan of number 4 is spoilt by the number of projecting features—there are no less than three in a length of 65 feet; and his architectural proportions are clumsy.

Number 5 external elevation is good, but the ceiling is hardly worthy of the subject, and he has spoilt his alcoves by a central column which would interfere with the view both of the statuary and the vista.

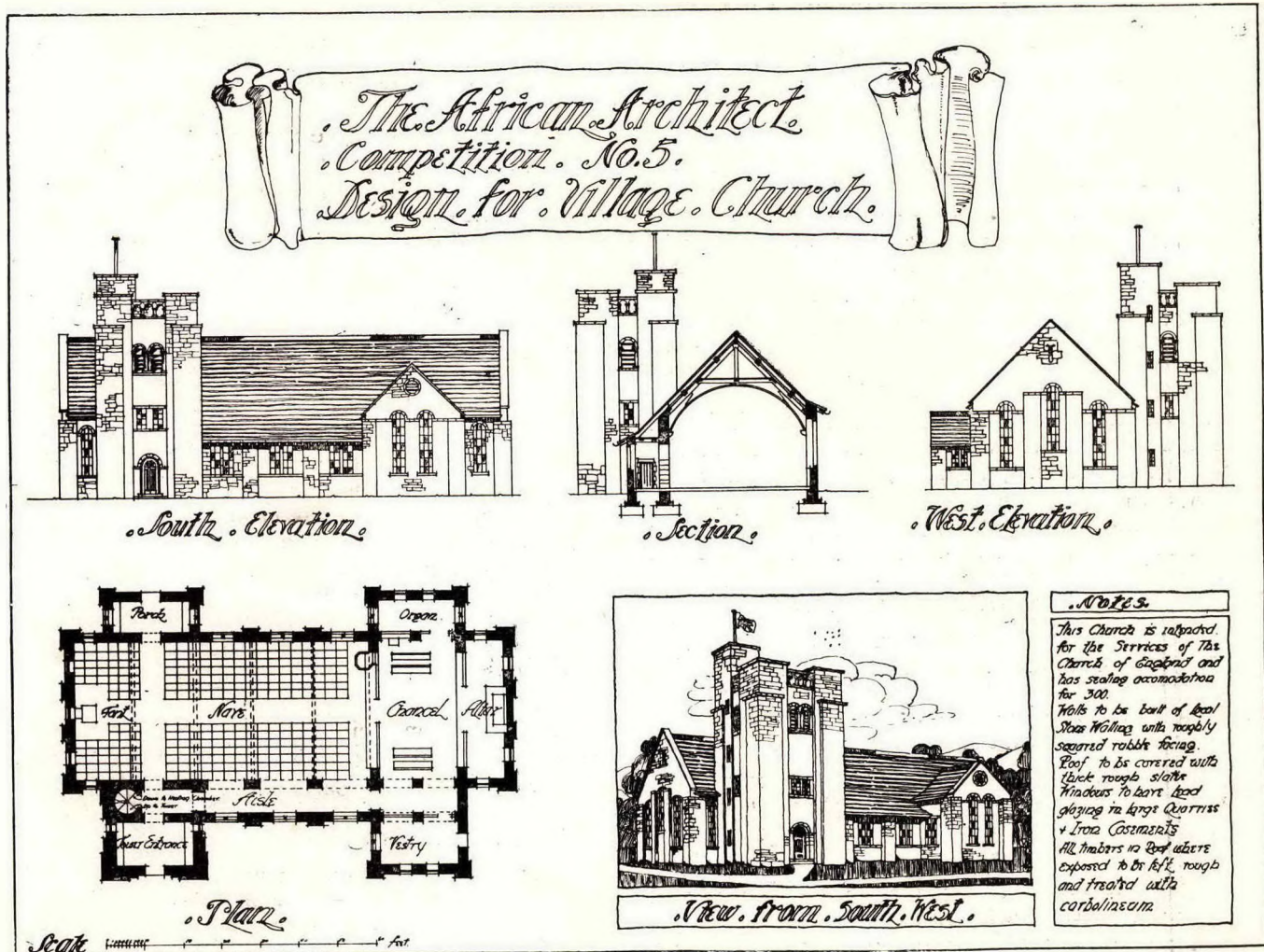
The vaulting in the designs of both No. 2 and No. 3 is correctly drawn. The plan of No. 3 is too crypt-like in construction, its four grouped columns seem unnecessary for a vault of only eight foot span, and would leave little space for either statuary or spectator. Its alcoves are dimly lighted.

In No. 4's garden the water would reflect the loggia well, but the statues might have been better placed. The scale and general proportion of No. 2 are good, but the central arch should not have been higher than a double square, and its lop-sided column at the end, which makes the opening out of centre with the axis of the groining, is distinctly bad. The laying out of his garden is, perhaps, the best of all the designs; the lawns and avenues are broadly and simply treated, and the statues well placed. But it is a pity that the paths leading to the central fountain end in a cul de sac, and that there is no pathway leading up to the centre of the loggia.

On the whole, in spite of the faults I have mentioned, and the bad drawing of the pedestalled statues, I consider the author of No. 2 is deserving of the first prize.

H. BAKER.

Johannesburg, February 24th, 1912.



Successful Competitor: Mr. F. F. HAYWARD.

THE ROYAL INSTITUTE OF BRITISH ARCHITECTS AND THE SOCIETY OF ARCHITECTS.

THE PROPOSALS REFERRED BACK.

Some further delay in the already protracted negotiations is indicated by the report in the "R.I.B.A. Journal" of January 13th, of the Special General Meeting of the Royal Institute, held on Monday, January 8th, 1912, when the president formally submitted to the meeting the draft agreement proposed to be made between the Royal Institute and the Society of Architects with reference to the admission into the Institute of the members of the Society.

Mr. J. S. Gibson, F.R.I.B.A., moved, in the terms of the resolution printed on the notice paper previously issued to all members, "that the agreement proposed to be made between the Royal Institute and the Society of Architects and which is now submitted to this meeting be and the same is hereby approved, and that the president be authorised to sign the same on behalf of the Royal Institute, and that after the same shall have been signed by both parties, the Council do proceed to carry the same into effect and do present a petition to His Majesty's Privy Council praying for the grant of a Supplemental Charter with by-laws in the form set out in the second schedule to the said agreement as now approved."

Mr. A. Needham Wilson, A.R.I.B.A., seconded the resolution.

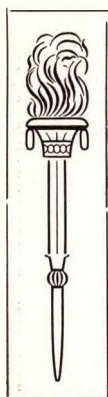
Mr. C. Stanley Peach, F.R.I.B.A., moved as an amendment that the agreement be referred back to the Council for further consideration, and this was seconded by Mr. Herbert Shepherd, A.R.I.B.A.

In the discussion which ensued the amendment was strongly supported, and the chairman's suggestion to adjourn the discussion was met by a proposal that the amendment be forthwith put.

The amendment was thereupon put from the chair, and, having been voted upon by show of hands, was carried by a large majority.

From communications received from members of the Society it is clear that the opposition to the proposals in their present form is not confined to members of the Royal Institute, but that in both bodies there is a considerable section of the membership which, from an entirely different point of view, objects to some of the details of the scheme.

The Society at present, as a body, is not called upon to express an opinion by vote, the scheme being still under consideration by the Royal Institute, but the individual views communicated by members of the Society, no less than those voiced by members of the Royal Institute in open meeting, must have considerable weight with their respective Councils when they come to deal with the new situation which has arisen.



ASSOCIATION OF TRANSVAAL ARCHITECTS.

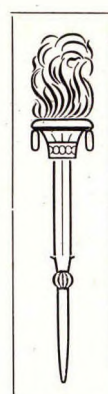
ANNUAL MEETING.

COUNCIL'S REPORT.

RETIRING PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS.

"The past year has been a successful one in the advancement of the Art of Architecture."

MR. H. G. VEALE ELECTED PRESIDENT FOR 1912.



The second annual meeting of the Association of Transvaal Architects was held in the University College, Johannesburg, on February 19th, when Mr. R. Howden, president, occupied the chair. There was a large attendance, and amongst those present were: Messrs. Allen Wilson, P. E. Treeby, W. H. Stucke, H. Baker, J. N. Cormack, F. L. H. Fleming, G. A. H. Dickson, D. I. Lewis, W. Reid, E. H. Waugh, J. W. Nicolay, D. M. Sinclair, M. S. Harris, H. G. Veale, A. W. Hoskings, W. Lucas, A. M. de Witt, V. Lindhorst, etc., and the Registrar, Mr. Cecil Alder.

Minutes and Finance.

A number of questions having been put and answered regarding the minutes, the financial statement and auditors' report was submitted, and in regard to defaulters in payment of their fees it was stated that, according to the by-laws, the only remedy the Association had to recover these was by legal means. There was no period fixed for a defaulter ceasing his membership.

The Registrar then read the Council's report for the year, as follows:—

The Council beg to submit the second annual report of the work accomplished during the past year, in the course of which period twenty-one meetings of the Council have been held.

The Register.

There are now one hundred and seventy-four members on the register of the Association, seven of whom were registered under Section 7 of the Act during the term of office of the retiring Council. One member has resigned, under section 30 of the by-laws, for the purpose of adopting another business.

Of the one hundred and seventy-four members on the register, as near as can be ascertained one hundred and ten are practising architects, and the remainder (sixty-four) are salaried assistants.

Record of Attendance.

The record of attendance of councillors at the Council meetings is as follows:—

NAME.	ATTENDANCES		
	Max.	Possible	Actual
R. Howden (president)	21	21
H. Baker (vice-president)	...	21	14
W. H. Stucke (vice-president)	...	21	14
J. F. Beardwood	...	17	14
J. N. Cormack	...	21	11
G. A. H. Dickson	...	2	2
P. Eagle	...	21	3
F. Emley	...	2	0

NAME.	ATTENDANCES		
	Max.	Possible	Actual
F. L. H. Fleming	...	3	3
V. A. Fraundorfer	...	21	10
A. W. Hoskings	...	10	5
I. A. Hossack	...	3	3
D. I. Lewis	...	17	17
W. Reid	...	17	10
P. E. Treeby	...	2	1
H. G. Veale	...	17	15
E. H. Waugh	...	17	10
Allen Wilson	...	2	2

Six Resignations.

The Council regrets to report that six of its number, viz., Messrs. Beardwood, Hoskings, Lewis, Reid, Veale, and Waugh, decided in September to resign, and on their resignations being accepted, Messrs. Dickson, Emley, Fleming, Hossack, Treeby, and Wilson agreed to fill the vacancies.

Association's Office.

The Council has, in deference to the wishes of a number of members, taken an office in the Mutual Buildings, but notwithstanding the fact that periodicals and drawings are placed in this room, it is regretted that practically no use is made of the office.

The Draft Union Act.

The time of the Council has been considerably occupied in dealing with the draft Union Act, and lengthy correspondence has taken place with the Cape Institute of Architects with a view to placing before you the Bill in the best form for your consideration and discussion. The draft Bill is now ready for circulation, and a copy will be forwarded to every member of the Association directly after the annual general meeting for perusal prior to a special general meeting being called. The matter is of sufficient importance as to necessitate a whole evening being set aside for the purpose of discussion.

Journalistic.

The Council arranged in the early part of the year that every member should receive gratis a copy of "The African Architect," and through this medium the actions of the Council have been communicated to the members.

Competitions.

During the early part of the year considerable attention was paid to competitions, but owing to the doubtful position of the Association as to its powers, the subject has practically been dropped.

Alleged Unprofessional Conduct.

A number of cases of alleged unprofessional conduct against members of the Association are being investigated, but, in this connection, evidence is usually very difficult to obtain, and it is only with certain cases that definite application can be made to the Supreme Court.—By order of the Council, CECIL ALDER, Registrar.

The Discussion.

The President moved the adoption of the report, which was seconded by Mr. Dickson.

Mr. Lucas and Mr. Reid referred to the matter of competitions, and the President stated that these did not come within the province of the Association.

Ultimately a vote was taken, and it was agreed that the whole question should be open for discussion.

Mr. Reid, Mr. Waugh, Mr. Veale, Mr. Hoskings, and Mr. Lewis respectively explained the reason for their resignation, which was chiefly in connection with the recent Art Gallery controversy.

The President also gave an explanation, as well as Mr. Baker, who said the whole subject had been thrashed out ad nauseum, and the sooner they dropped personalities the better.

The discussion then ended on this point, and, as the hour was getting late, it was agreed that the remainder of the Council's report should be discussed at a future meeting.



MR. H. G. VEALE,

Newly Elected President of the Association of Transvaal Architects for 1912.

A minute was read showing that there had been communication with the Boksburg Municipality regarding the naming of an assessor for a competition.

Mr. Cook referred to the allusion in the report to the resignation of the six members of Council.

The President said it was not in order to discuss matters of a personal nature, but the Registrar would refer to the minutes if members so desired.

Mr. Hosking thought that would preclude any explanation from him as to why he resigned from the Council.

The President said Mr. Hosking could ask for his letter to be read.

Presidential Address.

Mr. Howden next submitted his presidential address as follows:—

Gentlemen,—It is with pleasure I rise to speak for a short time upon a few of the matters of interest to our profession which have come before us during my term of office as president of your Association.

The work of the Association has been such that there is little to show as a result of our labours, as we have been engaged chiefly upon work which will not culminate till next session. For this work we have endeavoured to lay a sound foundation.

We have during the year been advised that our powers are not so complete in some matters as was

anticipated. Under these circumstances we have considered only those questions which we felt to be most vital to our Association, such as registration and provision for same by examination, and the more serious question of unprofessional conduct.

South African Youth.

The educational and examination section of the Association has been extremely disappointing. Several attempts have been made to commence an architectural course, and the School of Mines and Technology has prepared a syllabus and provided lecture rooms and lecturers, but sufficient students have not been forthcoming. This state of affairs brings out a peculiar characteristic of the South African youth, viz., that while you find a preponderance of colonial members amongst the profession of Law, Medicine, and Surveying, out of one hundred and seventy-two architects in the Transvaal only an extremely small percentage are South African born. Why this should be one cannot say, as there is no example elsewhere; the leading architects of the States, Canada, and Australia being mostly colonial born, and in some of these countries the facilities offered are not so attractive as those offered in South Africa. This apathy is further illustrated in the results of the scholarship founded by our vice-president, Mr. Herbert Baker, who, as you are aware, as an inducement to the young men of South Africa, established a scholarship of £250 for a period of one year, with the intention of renewing it every alternate year, open to any British subject who has spent seven years in the study and practice of architecture, who is under thirty-three years of age, and who has spent at least two-thirds of his architectural career in South Africa. The successful candidate to comply with certain conditions of travel and study, all conducive to perfecting him in his art. Notwithstanding the inducements offered by Mr. Baker, only two applicants came forward. It is true there was a distinctly redeeming feature in the case of both applicants, for, as one who had the pleasure of inspecting the workmanship of the drawings, etc., submitted, I may say that there is every prospect of both these gentlemen earning distinction in their art, and we shall, I feel sure, see both in the front ranks of the profession in their native South Africa. Our thanks are due to Mr. Baker for coming forward at this opportune time and so providing a means by which any promising genius may secure the necessary training, and thus prevent a possible serious loss to South Africa.

Art of Architecture Advance.

The past year has been a successful one in the advancement of the art of architecture. In Pretoria we have in the different stages of construction the new Post Office, Railway Station, Public Library, and the new Union Buildings; and in Johannesburg the new Law Courts, and the commencement of the Town Hall, the Rand Memorial, and the Art Gallery. The latter building should especially interest us, as it is more closely connected with our profession as an art than any of the other buildings. This work has been entrusted to the eminent London architect, Mr. E. L. Lutyens, F.R.I.B.A., who, when appointed, conferred the honour on your Association of nominating me, as your president, as his collaborator. As such, I have been able to make a close scrutiny of the drawings

of the proposed building, and am of opinion that, when completed, the building will be a noble example of the art of architecture, and when erected on the site in Joubert Park, with spacious and beautiful surroundings, the area of the park being extended across the railway to the Union Ground, as provided in Mr. Lutyens' complete lay-out scheme, the building and its setting will be worthy of the artistic aspirations of a great and cultured city. The arrangements provided in the complete scheme for the exhibition, preservation, illumination, and other requirements of a building to house works of art are such that, when complete, we shall possess a perfectly designed Art Gallery with all the most advanced methods for the protection of the pictures, their proper display, and the comfort of the public when viewing them.

Official Architecture.

This is a subject which I feel extremely reluctant to touch upon, as it has already been the cause of a great deal of friction in our Association; but the question is of so much importance that I feel it my duty to lay before you a few important facts dealing with this subject.

Out of one hundred and seventy-two architects of the Transvaal sixty-four are in salaried employment, a proportion which I think must be unprecedented in any part of the world. Of these sixty-four men, few are on the permanent staff, mostly being temporarily employed, and many have been in private practice before. Now, the attitude taken up by many practising men against the salaried men is, to say the least of it, unjust. With all due respect to the men on the permanent staff, my opinion is that the men on the temporary staff are all anxious to get into private practice, and I consider it a most ungracious act of one of our leading corporations, in inviting competitive designs for their building, stipulating that "the competition is open only to professional men who are private practising architects," so depriving these temporarily employed men of the only means of winning an honourable entrance, or re-entrance, to the ranks of practising architects. As a contrast to this, I should like to quote the action of the New Zealand Government in a recent competition for the new Parliament Buildings at Wellington, when special provision was made for the salaried men competing by including the clause, "any officer in the Government service desirous of competing must prepare his designs entirely in his own time, at his own expense, and on his premises, or, at any rate, not in the Government Offices." This particular competition happened to be won by a member of the staff of the New Zealand Government, who was in salaried employment.

The most vital question, however, in connection with this matter is, where should the governments and municipalities draw the line with reference to employment of members of our profession in their official capacity as architects? Whether it is desirable that large public departments should exist for the purpose of designing all Government and municipal, or only certain of these buildings; or, on the other hand, whether these departments should exist for the sole purpose of maintenance and upkeep only, and all constructional works be given out to competition or, otherwise, to practising architects? Before quoting

various expert opinions on this matter, I must at the outset dissociate myself with all expressions of opinion detrimental to the design and character of the work being produced by the Public Works Department of the Transvaal, and I take this opportunity of congratulating Mr. Eagle and his staff on the excellent types of school and civic architecture which he and his staff are responsible for throughout the Transvaal; and it is the fact that Mr. Eagle has so risen to the occasion, and made the most of the opportunities offered him, that makes it all the more difficult for me to support the following authorities on the subject.

Extracts.

Mr. Leonard Stokes, President R.I.B.A.: "It stands to reason that one man cannot have time to design all the work produced by a great office of this nature, and, if he has not time to do it himself, it must be done by others. He is, therefore, at the mercy of his staff, and, if at the mercy of his staff, why not at the mercy of the outside architect?"

The Editor of the leading architects' journal of England: "The only broad and, we believe, incontrovertible fact is that the existence of these departments is not in the highest interests of the State or of the art of architecture."

Extracts from evidence given before a Special Committee of Congress, United States of America, by Mr. James Knox Taylor, Government Architect, who presides over the largest department of salaried professional men in the world. In dealing with large public buildings, *inter alia*, Mr. Taylor remarked: "I could imagine that there is a type of work, the more expensive and complicated work, that, while it could be done by the force in the office at present, the probabilities are that it would not be as well done as it would be by men of more experience than we can afford to pay for, and in so far as large buildings are concerned, the type of architecture is improved by these outside architects, and in quality of design the type of building is improved over what the department would have produced. As far as design and character of construction is concerned, it gets to be rather machine work, and liable to get into a rut, taking such a large number of buildings and running them through one office, and you must get a better artistic result from the efforts of outside men. Artistically, a body of men working on the same proposition day in and day out would get into a rut—artistically, not practically—but in artistic method. Their brains would follow in certain lines and would not go beyond that. It would be good, but it would not be the best that they could get, that a fresher brain would give."

As a result of this Congress, the American architects have succeeded in obtaining a law whereby all important Government work is given to independent architects, and I believe that the standard of work has been raised thereby.

Gentlemen, I submit that in the face of this evidence, and taking all the circumstances into consideration, we are justified in appealing to Parliament to reconsider this question, and to suggest to them that they should, by competition or otherwise, employ practising members of the profession to carry out all their large projected schemes, and that every opportunity should be given to the existing members of the several departments, whether Government or

municipal, to take part in these competitions, and, if successful, to resign their positions as salaried officials and join the ranks of practising men.

Registration.

The most important work the Council have been engaged upon during the past year has been that of registration, and a brief resumé of the principles involved in this question, and the results of our labours, may be of interest.

The chief point in connection with registration is the fact that, while any legislature may be willing to assist a professional body of men to protect themselves, it can only do so within limits. First of all, the public require to know what are the advantages to be gained by registration; our only answer can be that the object of registration is solely to raise the status of the profession; whatever other arguments may be brought forward in support of statutory qualification, this must be the outstanding one; in fact, any legislation that is not conducive to this end will not be accepted by the public as ultimately beneficial to the profession or to them.

Although we, as architects, know that a recognised scale of fees, a strict code for dealing with unprofessional conduct, and prescribed methods of conducting competitions are all matters which, if adopted, would clearly be for the public benefit and protection, still it is difficult to obtain the necessary adequate legislative enactments; but if a Bill registering members by statutory qualification were passed regulating these matters, it would tend to raise the status of the profession and its individual members, and there can be no doubt it would be desirable from every point of view.

An Ineffectual Bill.

It was for this reason the Legislature of the Transvaal in 1909 granted to the profession the first Registration Bill in the whole of the British Empire, and it has been a bitter disappointment to the architects of the Transvaal to find, by expensive legal processes, that this Bill was ineffectual and that the solutions for many troubles had not been provided for.

The question for us to decide is whether we are satisfied to continue in this unsatisfactory state of affairs or to appeal to the public explaining the utter helplessness of our position and obtain by Act of Parliament in a new Union Bill more controlling powers over our members and more powers to control their relations with their clients. I cannot pass this matter over without laying before you the conditions under which we labour under the present Act, and, in this my presidential address, I consider it my duty to make it clearly known to you the existing defects with a view of impressing upon you the necessity of having them remedied as follows:—

1. At present we have no control over our members regarding competitions, and however unsatisfactorily the conditions of such competitions may be drawn up, and however much we, as a Council, may be of opinion that it is undesirable for our members to compete, we cannot prevent them so doing.

2. We have no control over the professional charges which are made by our members, and we have no power to make it an act of unprofessional conduct for a member to accept fees lower than the recognised scale of charges of the profession.

3. We have no control over our members who are in arrears with their subscriptions, and the only remedy we have is the unsatisfactory one of having to sue a member for debt, which, if he still refuses to meet, may be sued for civil imprisonment. This method, though legal, would be morally impossible for us as an association of professional men to act on.

Struck Out of the Bill.

In justice, however, to the original provisional Council who advised Parliament on this Bill, I should mention that in our draft we provided for all these matters, but, rightly or wrongly, the officials of the Government struck them out. Further, I may say I am entirely opposed to that section of the profession which maintains that the profession can afford to be split up into different or separate associations or institutes for different purposes, each one attempting to usurp the rights of the other, and the result being endless confusion and overlapping, and to the public a hopeless intricacy. There is no advantage to be gained by this association continuing under its present conditions and looking to other institutes to enforce the codes of ethics that I have mentioned above, firstly because, not having statutory powers, no institute other than this Association can force any member of the profession to become a member of its body; and secondly, the only redress of such institute can be to expel any member found guilty, and such expulsion would not prevent him from practising or from continuing as a registered architect.

On this matter, in conclusion, I wish to make a special appeal to those members who belong to other institutes in South Africa. At the present moment every practising architect and every salaried architect in the Transvaal belongs to this Association, numbering one hundred and seventy-two members. Many of such members belong also to the Transvaal Institute of Architects, a body of thirty members, and the South African branch of the Society of Architects, London, numbering in South Africa forty members. I appeal to those members to look at this question from a broad standpoint. Let us all sink our differences and merge our interests into one. I am quite aware of the many arguments in favour of a voluntary institute, and the advantages of control over its members, which at present our incorporated Association does not possess, and also of the views of some members that such a state of affairs is quite healthy, but what better precedence can we take than that of the two great voluntary associations of Great Britain, viz., the R.I.B.A. and M.S.A., each of which has decided to amalgamate with a view of appealing to Parliament to incorporate all their present voluntary powers into one registered body. Imagine the power of one representative association voicing the views of the whole profession.

Dissension and Chaos.

How can we expect Parliament, the public, or the Press to assist us in our endeavours to obtain our rights when they see dissension amongst the profession in the shape of one association attempting to usurp the powers of the other? At present the position is chaotic, and I appeal to you all to be unanimous in our representations to Government for a new Union Bill, so that we can obtain a Union Act conveying to the new union association every power

which each and all the associations at present possess—an association which, as Mr. Bond, the president of the London Society of Architects, says should be "one great institution strong enough to legislate within itself for the ultimate benefit of its members, and with sufficient power to compel their obedience to its moral edicts and code of professional honour, and by these means be able to enforce its reasonable regulations upon those outside with regard to competition conditions and other matters affecting the honour and interests of the profession."

The report will be open for discussion and adoption at a future meeting.

Election of Officers.

The officers for the ensuing year were then elected, Mr. H. G. Veale being selected as president, and he took the chair, now vacated by Mr. Howden, and returned thanks for the honour of being placed in this position.

The other officers elected were: Vice-presidents, Messrs. W. H. Stucke and W. Reid; Council, A. W. Hoskings, E. H. Waugh, M. S. Harris, J. W. Nicolay, D. M. Sinclair, H. Baker, P. Eagle, R. Howden, and D. I. Lewis.

This concluded the business of the meeting, which lasted for several hours.

ANTIQUARIAN DISCOVERY AT HATFIELD.

During the work of reconstruction of Goodrich House, Hatfield, which is now being carried out for Mr. F. W. Speaight, there has just been discovered the remains of a fifteenth century timber building, which has been hidden by brickwork for over two hundred years. A large number of silver and copper coins, dating from the time of Charles II. to George II., have also been found. The property was originally a portion of the Manor of Hatfield, and was sold in 1792 by the first Marquis of Salisbury to the Hart family, from the executors of which family it was purchased last year by Mr. Speaight, whose residence practically adjoins it on the south, Hatfield Park forming its northern boundary.

ARCHITECTS AND FIRE RISKS.

The New York chapter of the American Institute of Architects have submitted a report to the New York Board of Fire Underwriters, proposing that in the future the name of the architect be included by the board when supplying information concerning the character and risk of a building. Also that mention be made of whether or not the architect drawing the plans of the structure supervised its construction. Architects say that they would very much like to have the Board of Fire Underwriters adopt the suggestion, inasmuch as the plan proposed would help them in their profession. It would aid, they say, in preventing the placing of construction work in the hands of unreliable contractors who do not always strictly adhere to the specifications prescribed by the architects. The purpose of the plan is to make the architects take a greater interest in the work of construction, and in view of the fact that their names would be mentioned in each report of the Board of Underwriters, they would make it a point to have all buildings erected from their plans above criticism.

R.I.B.A. EXAMINATIONS.**THE FINAL: ALTERNATIVE SCHEME OF TESTIMONIES OF STUDY**

The alternative scheme of testimonies of study for the final examination will come into operation at the option of the candidates in November next, and after the end of the year 1913 the existing testimonies of study for this examination will be abolished. Six alternative problems in design will be set by the Board of Architectural Education each year, and candidates for the final examination must submit designs in answer to at least four of these problems. These alternative problems will be published twice a year, three sets in January and three in July. This is done for the convenience of candidates, but it must be distinctly understood that the time for sending in the designs in answer to these problems is strictly limited. Thus the designs for subject I. must be sent in to the secretary, R.I.B.A., or to the secretary of the allied society for the district in which the candidate is working by February 29th, 1912; those for subject II. by April 30th, and those for subject III. by June 30th. (This time will be extended for students in the colonies; see dates following list of subjects below.)

The drawings to be on imperial sheets.

Subject I.

(i.) A large monument, to commemorate King Alfred's refounding of London one thousand years ago, for a public place in the city, not to cover more than 500 superficial feet.

All drawings to be $\frac{1}{2}$ inch scale and shaded.

(ii.) A terrace of five houses, twenty feet frontage, each six storeys high, including basement, facing the parade of a small watering place. Detailed construction of one house to be given and a design for the complete terrace.

Drawings required to be $\frac{1}{8}$ inch and $\frac{1}{2}$ inch scale.

Subject II.

(i.) A large monument to an explorer, to be placed against the wall of a public building.

Shaded drawings required to be $\frac{1}{2}$ inch scale.

(ii.) A cloister with external entrance gateway or tower to a collegiate building round a courtyard one hundred feet square.

Drawings to be $\frac{1}{8}$ inch scale, with $\frac{1}{2}$ inch details of the complete construction of one bay.

Subject III.

(i.) A detached ballroom to a large country house, to be connected with the house by a covered way. The decorations should be specially considered.

Shaded drawings to $\frac{1}{2}$ inch scale showing both interior and exterior, and a detail of decorations.

(ii.) A landing stage to a river or lake with a restaurant.

Drawings to show complete construction $\frac{1}{8}$ inch scale and $\frac{1}{2}$ inch.

Dates for Submission of Designs in 1912.

	Subject I.	Subject II.	Subject III.
United Kingdom ...	29th Feb. ...	30th April ...	30th June
Johannesburg ...	30th April ...	30th June ...	31st Aug.
Melbourne ...	31st May ...	31st July ...	30th Sep.
Sydney ...	31st May ...	31st July ...	30th Sep.
Toronto ...	31st March ...	31st May ...	31st July

The Subject of Construction and Shoring: Memorandum to Masters of Architectural Schools.

The Board of Architectural Education have received a communication from the examiners to

the effect that many of the candidates at recent examinations have shown weakness in the subject of construction generally, and shoring in particular. They would therefore direct the attention of the masters of the architectural schools to the importance of impressing on their students the necessity of studying more carefully this important branch of architectural education.

HERBERT BAKER SCHOLARSHIP.

The formalities in connection with the trust deed of the Herbert Baker Architectural Scholarship have now been completed, and the funds have been handed over to the trustees.

Study of Architecture.

The income arising from the funds is to be devoted to the establishment of a scholarship for the encouragement of the study of architecture. The scholarship is of the value of £250, and examination of candidates will be held every two years. The scholarship is open to any person who is a British subject of not more than thirty-three years of age, and who has spent a period of six years or more in the study or practice of architecture, of which period not less than four years have been spent in South Africa. The scholar is to pursue his studies in Europe for twelve months. Not less than seven months are to be spent at Rome and Athens under direction of the British School at Rome and the British School at Athens respectively. Subsequently the scholar is required to spend not less than three months in London as headquarters, under the direction of the president of the Royal Institute of British Architects.

Junior Scholarship.

If, in the opinion of the trustees, there is no candidate at any examination who shows sufficient talent to justify the award of the scholarship, the trustees may, if they think fit, award a junior scholarship either on the results of that examination or of a special examination, to enable the scholar to pursue a course of architectural study in London for a period not exceeding twelve months.

If at any time the trustees are in possession of accumulated revenues over and above the amount required for the scholarships, they may devote such accumulated revenues to the encouragement of the study of town planning and of landscape architecture either by the award of prizes or by additions to existing scholarships. Payments to the scholars may be made at such intervals as may be thought proper by the trustees, who are given power to withhold payment at any time if the scholar fails to satisfy them that he is making good use of his opportunities or fails to fulfil the conditions of the scholarship.

Scholar at Rome.

It will be remembered that the first scholar is Mr. Gordon Leith, who is now at Rome. He is at present devoting some of his energies to making restoration drawings of the Imperial Palace on the Palatine Hill, which is being excavated by Professor Boni. This work of Mr. Leith should be of very great interest to architects and archæologists. The next examination will be held early in 1913. The trustees are General Smuts, Sir Lionel Phillips, Mr. Patrick Duncan, and Mr. Walter Webber.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Letters for this section should be written on one side of the paper only. The writer may adopt an assumed name for purposes of publication, but he must in all cases furnish his real name and address to the Editor.

A PLEA FOR DETAILED QUANTITIES.

SIR,—An architect recently remarked to me that detailed bills of quantities increased the amount of the tender for a building, but upon hearing my reasons for believing this statement to be incorrect, he admitted that he was mistaken. The question is of such importance to the building client, the architect, surveyor, and builder that I make it my plea for writing this letter.

Broadly speaking, a bill of quantities might range from a single item, such as No. 1 house, as per drawings and specification, up to an account produced in the extreme detail of materials and labour, e.g., number of bricks, pounds of nails, gallons of water; and labours such as: Labour to building one brick wall, labour to driving so many screws. Between these extremes a reasonable medium must be found, and the one which applies most suitably for the purpose of estimating (and incidentally facilitates the adjustment of variations) is a system under which the work is set forth in such detail and description that each item at once conveys to the estimator the exact amount of material and labour intended by the surveyor to be embraced in that particular item, whilst at the same time the item does not require the estimator to make any calculation other than that of building up his price, i.e., that his work should be freed from mensuration as regards cubic or superficial area, weight, etc.

An Illustration.

A simple example will serve to illustrate the foregoing. Take an item not unknown in existing bills of quantities, such as: "No. 3.—2" two-panel molded doors, 3' 0" x 6' 0"; 2" molded fanlight, 4½ x 3 molded frame and transome, 1" linings to 9" reveal and 3 x 1 architrave both sides, with 4" butts, rim lock, and other ironmongery complete, fanlight and upper part of door 21 oz. sheet glass, and painting four oils." Before commencing to price this, the estimator has to calculate the superficial quantities of door, fanlight, glass, and paint, lineal quantities of frame, transome, linings, and architraves, also the numbers of butts, locks, fanlight ironmongery, fixing fillet, etc., and having done this, a doubt arises in his mind as to the particular labours and descriptions of each item. If twelve builders are tendering, it follows that twelve estimators are compelled to go to all this trouble, whereas, on the other hand, it is only necessary for one person, the surveyor, to have done it in the first instance. Such calculations are properly the work of the latter, and should be done by him. It follows that the more time and trouble the builder is saved, by so much can he reduce his office expenses, the ultimate effect being that he can lower his prices, slightly it is true.

It may be argued that the estimator may "jump" at a lump sum to cover the example stated, but even then he has to make some rough calculation and to put down a price which well covers what he considers the item to comprise. In doing this he takes certain risks, and it is an accepted fact that where risks have to be covered prices rise at once.

Lump Sums.

If the above example be reduced in the bill to separate items of door, fanlight, frame, glass, etc., all properly described, the estimator can price each closely and with confidence, the absence of risk and sporting chances tending naturally to eliminate the inclusion of lump sums to cover contingencies. Thus he is more sure of what proportion of the price set down will be absorbed in working expenses, and can be practically certain that the rate of profit added is assured.

Practically all builders are now so accustomed to pricing detailed quantities that it may with reason be stated from the above argument that bills of quantities prepared in detail, with the items properly described by a capable and experienced surveyor, reduce rather than increase the amount of a tender, whilst rough or "lumped" quantities tend to the opposite result.

Close Tendering.

Before concluding, it is hardly out of place to say that where properly detailed quantities are supplied the tendering is close, and again the grounds of many claims and disputes are at once removed, practically the only possibility of claim left being that of inaccuracy in quantities or amounts. The latter might arise under any system.

A further argument in favour of such quantities is that the bill forms a simple and full schedule under which the adjustment of variations is at once simplified and free from dispute as regards price and description.

Trusting you may find space for this in your valued paper, I am, etc.,

W. HARRISON.

Johannesburg, February 12th, 1912.

* * *

"AN OPENING FOR ARCHITECTS."

SIR,—Regarding the editorial comment, "An Opening for Architects," in your January issue, any reader would think that this place was a regular Eldorado.

There is no question but that the Municipalities of Bulawayo and Salisbury are imbued with remarkable energy, but, like the majority of municipalities, they are tied down for want of capital.

Water and Light.

In Bulawayo, the water and light are in the hands of a private company. Water costs 1s. 3d. per hundred gallons and electric light 2s. per B.T.U.

Now, to come to "An Opening for Architects." I beg to state that there are five practising architects in Bulawayo, and the population is under five thousand. In Salisbury there are more architects than in Bulawayo, and the population is much smaller.

As for contractors, there are a very large number here, and competition is very keen, keener by a long way than in any other town in South Africa. Two good-class jobs have just been let in this town at less than 6½d. per cubic foot.

Material and Wages.

Now take the price of material and wages, and wonder how it is done. Deal, 1s. 2d. per foot; iron, 8d. per foot run; Portland cement, 50s.; bricklayers'

and plasterers' wages, 3s. 9d. per hour; carpenters', 3s. 1½d.; stonemasons', 3s. 9d.

Now, if the writer had stated that there was an opening for artisans, he would have been nearer the point. In nine cases out of ten they are better off than the contractor.—I am, etc.,

ALEX. MCWILLIAM.

Bulawayo, February 13th, 1912.

JOHANNESBURG TOWN HALL.

The contract for the construction of the Johannesburg Town Hall was signed by Mr. M. C. A. Meischke, the successful tenderer, on the 17th of last month. The proceedings occupied over an hour, and both Mr. Ellis (the Mayor) and Mr. Meischke were kept hard at work signing the mass of documents lying on the tables. The Town Clerk (Mr. John Taylor) and his assistant (Mr. Patterson) countersigned as witnesses. Among others in attendance were Mr. C. A. Lane, the chairman of the Town Hall Special Committee; Mr. Francis Black, the well-known quantity surveyor, who is Mr. Meischke's right-hand man; Mr. Hawke, representing Messrs. Hawke and McKinley, the architects; Mr. White, his assistant; and Mr. H. H. Kemp, the acting chief clerk of the Municipality.

Some Interesting Figures.

The specifications form a book of 250 pages, while the books containing the quantities make up the respectable total of 493 pages. As each page contained an average of some thirty-two to thirty-three items, the mass of detail was tremendous—the items totalling about sixteen thousand. In addition there were from sixty to seventy rolls of plans to be signed. The building will require some eight million bricks, in addition to one hundred and ten thousand cubic feet of stone and ten thousand cubic feet of granite.

The present contract is, we believe, the biggest individual contract ever signed in Johannesburg, and Mr. Meischke has, with his contracts on the Union Buildings, upwards of a million pounds worth of work in hand at the present time—probably the most extensive building contract now in the hands of any one contractor in the British Empire.

One of the objections to Mr. Meischke was, it is understood, the fact that his headquarters are in Pretoria—naturally they must be where his biggest contract lies—but he is no stranger to Johannesburg, and the General Post Office in the Market Square stands out to-day as one of his earliest buildings. Mr. Meischke is one of the oldest and best-respected men in the building trade, and is also a large property holder in Johannesburg.

Mr. W. Hawke, who hails from Devonshire, and his partner, Mr. McKinley, were both pupils of Sir Aston Webb, the renowned English architect.

Why Not the Full Scheme?

Considerable discussion has been raised among those ratepayers who take a pride in being citizens of the Golden City in regard to the cutting-out of the panelling, marble and wood-casing, enrichment of the walls, wrought bronze grills, balconies, hand-rails, columns in marble, mosaic floors, and the decorative schemes for the reception room, Council Chamber, Selborne Hall, and Town Hall. These items would have cost £30,000, and, in the words of the architects, "such work is necessary to enable the interior of the

building fittingly to reflect the elaboration of the exterior."

There is a strong feeling that the sum of £30,000 should be provided to make Johannesburg's Town Hall second to none in the country, and a movement is being initiated to bring the matter before the Council again. At the present time there is a wave of economy passing over the Municipal departments, behind which is the chairman of the Finance Committee (Mr. A. E. A. Williamson).

The contract signed was for a sum of £263,288. When it is completed—within two and a half years—Johannesburg will possess a Town Hall worthy of her position as the chief city of South Africa. At the present time Durban stands out as possessing the best Town Hall. Durban's "white elephant," as it is often termed, was commenced in February, 1906, the foundation stone being laid by the Duke of Connaught, who also laid the foundation stone of Johannesburg's Town Hall. It was completed in February, 1910, at a cost of close on £300,000. It was, however, not officially opened until April, 1910, when Lord Methuen performed the ceremony.

Pietermaritzburg also possesses an exceedingly handsome Town Hall, and its organ is among the finest in the country. The Hall cost £85,731, excluding the cost of the organ, clock, bells, light furniture, fittings, etc.

Cape Town's Hall cost £200,000, and is a grand civic building.

Port Elizabeth has a substantial building, which cost £21,500; while East London has a prettily designed Town Hall, which cost £38,647. Kimberley's Town Hall cost £31,500.

ARCHITECTURAL UNITY.

It is gratifying to learn, says "Indian Engineering," that the architectural profession at Home has taken a strong step towards unity by proposing to amalgamate into one the bodies of the Royal Institute of British Architects and the Society of Architects. The latter body has, in fact, practically consented to merge itself in the former after a separate corporate existence of twenty-seven years, during which time it has built up for itself a strong position with a membership of one thousand and seventy-six. It possesses a building of its own with a good library, holds its own examinations for membership, and holds meetings for the reading and discussion of papers. The Society now consents to merge itself into the older Institute, its members and students being absorbed into the corresponding classes of the Institute. The only point at present causing some delay in the effecting of the amalgamation is the existence of a legal flaw in the agreement, discovered when the latter was on the eve of ratification. To overcome this, an application has to be made to the Privy Council for a supplemental charter conferring the necessary powers to enter into the proposed agreement. A standing want in the architectural profession at Home is a formal code of ethics in connection with professional etiquette. The subject has for some time been engaging the attention of the Society of Architects; and it is hoped that when the union between the Society and the Institute has been completed, such a code will also be completed and brought into effect.



PLANS AND DESIGNS IN COMPETITIONS.



In connection with the subject of competitions which has led to some controversial correspondence in "The African Architect," the following is interesting :

The above heading is perhaps open to a criticism, in the sense that plan is really a part, and an integral part, of architectural design, and ought not to be considered as a separate element. But we ("The Architects' and Builders' Journal") are only using it here in the sense in which it is often used in speaking of the relative merits of competition designs. We hear it remarked that Mr. A sent in a beautiful design, but that unfortunately his plan was very defective ; or that Mr. B's plan was admirable, but the elevations were so exceedingly poor and uninteresting that no one would wish such a building to be erected. Of course, designs which could be described in either of those terms are radically defective in an architectural sense, for good architecture really means a good plan as the basis of the whole ; but in common conversation, even among architects, plan and design are often disconnected and regarded independently ; and in the case of competitions the claims of these two kinds of excellence, plan and appearance, we will say (to avoid the unconsidered use of the word "design"), are often among the puzzles of the assessor, who finds them perhaps thoroughly united in no one of the designs submitted, and has to decide whether it is better for the promoters, and fairest to the competitors, to choose the best and most convenient plan, or the most artistic and picturesque elevation. In the pre-assessor days the dilemma was avoided by the fact that the committee almost invariably selected the designs for their elevations or perspective views, as they could discern an effectiveness in these, while in most cases they could not tell whether the plan was a good one or not, having had no experience in reading the meaning of a plan. And the assessor is in the difficulty with most committees, that if he selects the best plan, and the elevation drawings are not very striking, he is making a selection which they cannot understand, and the meaning of which he has to explain to them. And one of the wholesome consequences of employing assessors in competitions is that, since the institution of this system, plan has become of much more importance in gaining competitions than it used to be. Yet we can imagine the assessor himself, if he be a man of specially artistic sympathies, being doubtful in his mind, whether he should give the promoters the best plan at the cost at the same time of causing the erection of a perfectly

commonplace elevation ; and it is a fact that men who make very good and workable plans often do not produce interesting elevations ; and it is unfortunately still more often the case that a man who produces a most picturesque and interesting elevation has not the ghost of a notion of planning. How is an assessor to decide in such a dilemma?

In Old Days.

On one great occasion, in old days, there was a simple way suggested of dealing with this question. That was in the great competition for the Law Courts, when it was naively laid down by the committee of selection (which we believe did not include any architectural experts) that, in deciding on the relative merits of the schemes, the best plan was to count three marks, the best design two, and the best drawing one. Of course, drawing ought not properly to have counted at all ; and if one man had been placed first for drawing and design, as might very well have happened, and another for plan, there would have been a tie, and someone would have to give a casting vote. What did happen was just as embarrassing, and from our present point of view perfectly absurd ; Edward Barry was adjudged best in plan, and Street in design ; who was singled out as the best in drawing we do not remember. But the consequence was accepted quite calmly by the committee ; Street was informed that his design was the best, but that he must carry it out on Barry's plan. It seems almost incredible now that such a solution should have been seriously entertained, or that two architects of such different aims and feelings could have worked satisfactorily together. Barry was prepared, however, to abide loyally by the decision, and to allow Street to clothe his plan with Gothic detail ; but Street was much the stronger and more influential man, and succeeded in pushing Barry out. Street was undoubtedly perfectly right in his contention that such a way of carrying out a great building was absurd ; but according to the understood terms of the competition it was he who ought to have given way ; Barry was very unfairly treated, and the result is that we are saddled with a badly planned Law Courts illustrated by very powerful and masterly Gothic detail. Had Barry had his rights, we should have had well-planned courts and a design which possibly, at the present day, would be more approved than the existing building, now that the fever for Gothic has died out ; though the detail would probably have been rather commonplace.

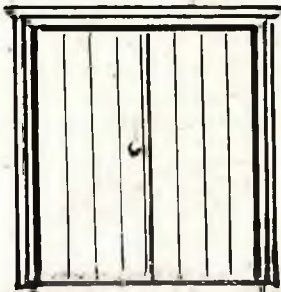
(Continued on Page x.)

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A Crucial Instance.

That was a crucial instance of the difficulty of deciding, in an important competition, between the claims of convenient planning and good architectural appearance. But the dilemma is one that is constantly cropping up in connection with competitions. The promoters will say that they wish for a building which shall be an architectural ornament to their city, and so on; as to how it should be planned they generally say nothing, because they have no ideas as to the method of laying out a plan. They do not generally go further than to state that certain rooms must be on the ground floor or on the first floor, and perhaps that certain departments must have separate access from the street; beyond that the instructions seldom go.

Now if in such a case the assessor finds a plan which fulfils all the stated requirements, besides providing for that general convenience of arrangement which is a most important desideratum in a large building, but which only an architect can properly estimate from the study of a plan—suppose he finds this excellent plan combined with elevations which are commonplace in character and which cannot constitute the building an architectural ornament to the town—and such cases do occur—what is

his duty towards his clients, the promoters? It is rather a difficult question. The general result is that what the assessor considers the best plan gains the day; and there is this to be said for it, that a badly arranged, inconvenient plan is a permanent injury to the users of the building, though it is one which they do not find out till they come into occupation of it; while they may be exceedingly comfortable in a building the exterior of which adds nothing to the architecture of their city. It seems that in such a case the assessor should frankly put the case before them: "This is an admirable plan, but I do not at all admire the exterior as architecture; this other design, No. —, has various defects in the planning, but it is a really fine piece of exterior architecture. Which do you prefer, to have the best planned building, or the best-looking one?" That question could only fairly be put, however, if the inferior plan does not contradict any of the specially stated requirements; if it does, it should be out of court; the question can only be raised in a case where the stated requirements are fulfilled, but the general arrangement is not so good as in another plan. One sometimes finds that an assessor who is much taken with the architecture of the elevations will ignore the failure to comply with specified requirements in the



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plan, in order to get in a good design; but that is not a fair solution. Requirements which are specified in so many words ought to be regarded as necessary to the acceptance of a design, otherwise there is a manifest unfairness to those competitors who have duly observed them. Apart from that, it would seem to be a reasonable course to put it to the promoters whether they would rather have the best plan or the finest elevation; always supposing that the plan is not altogether and radically bad.

Assessor's Duty.

In the case, which may sometimes occur, where there is no good elevation accompanied by a good plan, it would be, as it seems to us, the duty of the assessor to tell the promoters that the competition was a failure, and that there was no design that he could recommend for acceptance. If there is no alternative between having a good plan and a wretched elevation, or a fine elevation and a thoroughly bad plan, there is, in the true sense of the word, no good design in the competition, and it is better to say so candidly. But happily we may regard this, in the case of important competitions, as more a theoretical than a probable contingency.

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The old bridge lies between Trinity Bridge and the other St. John's Bridge, the Bridge of Sighs; it attracts less notice than the Bridge of Sighs because it is not a connecting thoroughfare between the old and new portions of the college. It was built at the end of the seventeenth century, being attributed to Nicholas Hawksmoor, after designs by Christopher Wren.

"THE TRUE HOPE OF ARCHITECTURE."

PAPER BY J. B. FULTON, A.R.I.B.A.,
Read before the Architectural Association.

My definition of the thesis is that architecture means plan, section, and elevation, the elevation being as the flower of the stalk, and modern work meaning contemporary buildings designed to supply the wants of modern life, showing a complete and masterly knowledge of all previous building in architectural history; true hope meaning that our efforts shall be crowned with success, and that our knowledge and study will give to the world buildings perfect in plan, section, and elevation.

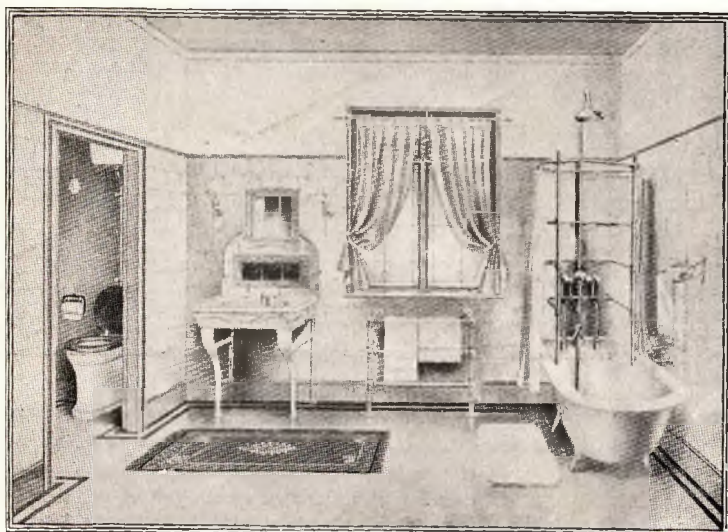
The Study of Architecture.

The study of architecture must be on definite broad and simple lines. If life will allow you, surround yourself with the most beautiful things of this world. Let every sense be educated and fed daily, and let your ideal be so high that it will not be satisfied with anything old, but only with that which you will produce, because the true hope of architecture lies in the study of good modern work, the appreciation of everything good and beautiful in the architectural world through the medium of our own generation, and your own individual mind.

Education and Training.

Education is necessary; and in the near future architectural education will become practical, based on the study of good modern work. For example, we will have models of the best examples in plan, section, and elevation, and lecture on the comparative merits, with diagrams giving laws in composition.

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no use in this country, where the greatness of our country is only recognised in the daily Press in our naval architecture. We must inspire our fellow-countrymen with great ambitions, and even in the smallest cottage to realise that it must show the greatness and be for the further glory of our great Empire. This thought may appeal to many as being local, and this might be compared to the world's unity in architecture; but everything must be local before it can be universal. For example, look at the architecture of the United States of America. We know that the architects have been educated so that self-consciousness is lost, and they are inspired in design with the knowledge that it must be worthy of a great nation; with the result that we must go to their country now to further our education; which, I hope, will never be complete—at least in our own estimation.

This is a great thought and a helpful one in architectural education, to realise fully that we are part of the greatest Empire the world has ever known, and it is merely a humbling thought to know that our architecture is unworthy.

The education we receive in this country is varied; the office being the best, combined with evening class work. We have a few teachers who inspire with enthusiasm, but, generally, architecture is badly taught. Ninety-nine students out of a hundred, in measuring or sketching a building, only see it in part, and make a study of the part that appeals to them most. A much better method of study would be at least to make a sketch plan, noting all points of structure, and afterwards mastering the sections and elevations.

All-round Culture.

To forward the study of architecture, in which truth and hope will lead us on to a fuller knowledge, we must educate our taste generally. We must have a knowledge of painting, sculpture, music, literature, etc.; and some of our schools are really helpful in these matters; but nothing will assist us like travel; to see and study the best the workers of the world have produced. Then we must be above fashion, and work on until we satisfy our ideal. If we desire to better modern architecture, we must look at our studies from an entirely new point of view, remembering that architecture is not only an art but a science; and we must combine the two.

Enthusiasm.

In religion, in politics, in painting, music, sculpture, etc., we see students so enthusiastic that they carry us with them in their own views. In the study of architecture we seldom come across enthusiasm. This is to be deplored. Momentary enthusiasm is of no real value; it must be continual. We must be business men; and yet at the same time our being must be filled with zeal for the noblest and greatest in all arts. Can painting and sculpture vie with architecture in magnificence, majesty, and splendour, or in usefulness and interest? Can the stones and trees compare or compete with the beauty of a landscape in its general composition? We must be fully convinced that our art, our profession, is the greatest and the most responsible in the world. Our work cannot be hidden, it is everywhere evident, to influence, refine, and ennoble the millions.

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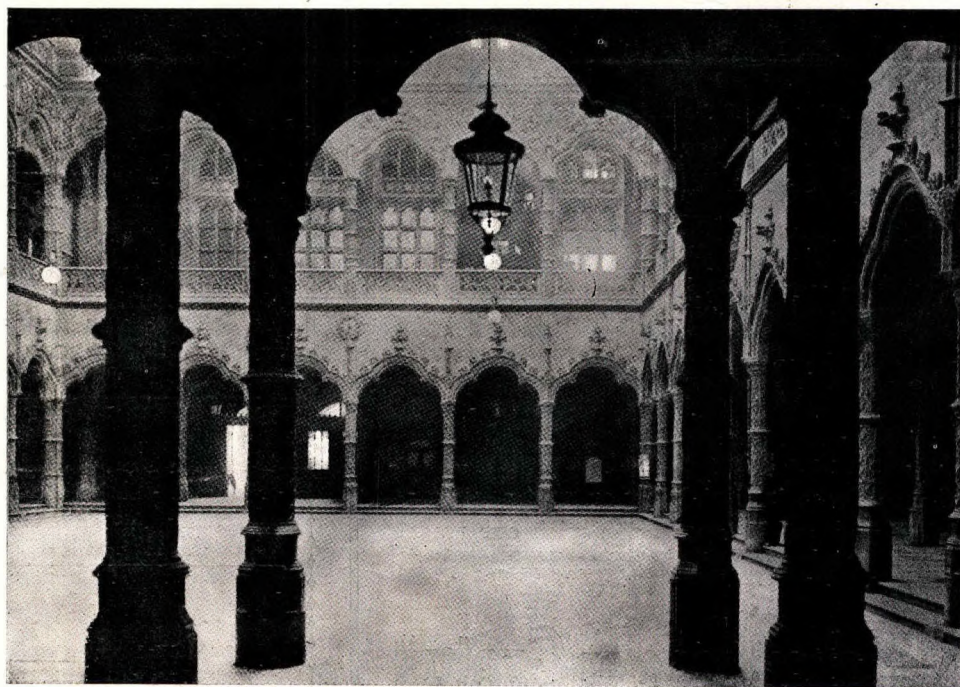
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Criticism.

The art of criticism must also be studied, as reckless and unstudied criticism is wicked. It is necessary for the architect to be able to analyse and reason, but before this can be done effectively we must agree to many rules and laws which have not yet taken form in our system of education. In modern planning, for example, we have now a general recognised rule that you should be able to go from one department in a building to another without passing through the other. As to elevations, it would appear that systematised study in design is possible and practical. Nothing is more hurtful to a student than to be told that we have absolutely no law, or order, except in the study of the five classic Orders, and in school planning. Criticism with comparative and logical reasoning is an excellent stimulant, and these are qualities that are appreciated in, for example, Mr. H. H. Statham's criticism. No matter how bad a building or design may be, there will always be points worthy of note and remembrance. If we cannot give a reason for our dislikes we should not give them utterance, and the critic should be prepared with a better solution than that which he condemns.

Draughtsmanship.

We should be first-class draughtsmen as well as good business men. From a practical point of view, line drawing is very necessary, as a builder cannot work from shaded drawings. Certainly we must design in light and shade, but true outline drawing is much more difficult than drawing in light and shade; although more mechanical, it must be true. To get the best results it is necessary to enjoy the work quite as much as the artist enjoys making his picture. The mastery of perspective drawing is necessary, because in design we must be able to think in perspective.

Books.

If at all possible, surround yourselves with the best books published in all countries; or go once a week at least to feel the tremendously edifying influence of some great library. Study all our weekly and monthly architectural papers, British and foreign. From our weekly architectural magazines there is much to be learnt about contemporary architecture.

Nature.

We should be able to appreciate nature in all her moods. This study will help us in our search after proportion, sense of form, light and shade, and there is a nameless something we can receive from a pathless wood on a lovely spring morning or on an autumn evening; while the storm and peace of the sea, the majesty of the mountains, the ever-changing beauty of the sky, and the loveliness of detail in nature, are all profitable in their impressiveness.

Imagination.

While our education must, on the purely practical side, include the study of science, of construction, the knowledge of all trades, etc., the complete and technical treatment of heating, lighting, ventilation, and drainage, we must also study drawing from the antique, from the life, from nature, and from buildings. Architectural history and architectural design may not be neglected; but we must also find time for the study of architecture from a purely

imaginative standpoint. I would suggest that we should have time studies (say, two hours) of a finished sketch of some inspiring monument. We seem to be limited in our ideas as regards the grouping and massing of architectural composition. In this country the plan is better understood than the elevation. We should, therefore, find some method of attaining greater freedom and great perfection in composition.

Decoration.

The architect should have a thorough knowledge of the decorative quality of design and colour. We must not think of decoration as a separate art. It is architecture, and is therefore only the refined detail of the plan, section, and elevation, and the whole should be completed by the same master mind. To help us in the decorative quality of our work we should not only study good actual work, but should also be able to see landscapes, streets, flowers, etc., as decoration.

Where and What to Study.

In addition to studying in the best offices and in the best schools in our own country, we should continue our studies in Paris, Vienna, Rome, Athens, Constantinople, New York, etc., in order to learn principally what they can teach us in the grouping of masses, detail, composition generally, and the history of architecture, etc.

It is useful also to study biography, and to be influenced by the lives as well as the works of the great architects of all ages. Inspiration often comes of labour and study. Here knowledge is power. The Fine Art Palace built in Paris (1900) is the modern building that has most markedly influenced architecture in America and in our own country. In our huge capital we have many buildings worthy of study. Many of our schools, town halls, libraries, etc., are excellent in plan and elevation.

In his preface to his work on "Modern Architecture," Mr. H. H. Statham writes: "The main object of the first chapter on 'The Present Position' is to offer an answer to the views propounded by a section of architects and architectural critics of the day who wish to regard architecture as a purely ideal art, dissociated from the practical considerations which the conditions of modern life, as it appears to me, inexorably impose upon the architect; to look only at one side of the work of the architect and turn their back on the other, the more prosaic, and practical side; a position which appears to me to be entirely untenable."

The plan of a modern building, under the influence of civilisation, has become an exceedingly difficult and complex problem. The necessary relations between plan and design, so evident in a temple or a cathedral, must not be lost, but only adapted, as we carry forward the tradition in good modern work.

New Work and Old.

In the study of modern buildings we must approach the new in exactly the same spirit as we studied the old work. In the study of old buildings we take the building on its own merit, but with modern buildings we criticise the architect more than the architecture; and for true study this is against the thought that the "True hope of architecture lies in the study of good modern work." I would suggest that we study all the best examples of ancient architecture, and all

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THE LONDON MUSEUM.

One of the first results of the attempt to found a museum of London antiquities seems to be, according to a letter in the "Times" by Sir Francis Laking, the keeper of the museum, the discovery, or at least the suspicion, that the history of London as the capital of England is not so continuous as has been supposed. He points out that the finds of Roman remains in London are not nearly so important as those of Colchester and York, and that the conclusion is that there was a considerable period during Roman rule when London was not so important a centre as those two cities. However, this does not in any way lessen the desirability of founding and maintaining a special museum of London antiquities; the history of the city is long enough, and its pre-eminence in later centuries important enough, to render an historical museum of everything connected with it an undertaking of the greatest interest.

THE WELLINGTON MONUMENT IN ST. PAUL'S CATHEDRAL.

The monument to the Duke of Wellington will shortly be completed by the erection of the bronze equestrian statue which Mr. John Tweed has sculptured from a model he prepared a few years ago, based upon Alfred Stevens' original sketch-model and pen-and-ink drawing preserved in the Victoria and Albert Museum.

THE BRITISH SCHOOL AT ROME.

POSITION OF ARCHITECTURE.

Professor C. H. Reilly, M.A., Roscoe Professor of Architecture in Liverpool University, had the following letter in the "Times" recently:—

As an architect who has been engaged for several years in training architectural students, and who has already sent several of them for further study to Rome, I rejoice exceedingly in the happy combination of circumstances which has enabled the 1851 Exhibition Commissioners to found there a school which in time we may hope will be comparable to the great French institution at the Villa Medici or to the newer but hardly less excellent American School.

Gothic Revival.

Though in England we have long suffered, and particularly during the latter part of last century, from the absence of such a school, the present time seems to me to be an extraordinarily appropriate moment for its foundation. On the one hand, the Gothic Revival of the last decades of the nineteenth century has by now largely exhausted its archaeological enthusiasms, and such good results as it has had are to be found in that broader sympathy for sound and sane construction which distinguishes our best domestic architecture. On the other hand, a new school of neo-classic architects has grown up whose members on every side are striving to turn the old but ever fresh motifs of Greek and Roman architecture to modern uses. These latter men in the hurry of their professional life, and especially through the competitive system by means of which the larger proportion of their commissions for public buildings are now obtained, live to an entirely unhealthy extent on each other's designs as exhibited in the technical journals or on the walls of the Royal Academy. A new piece of detail—some ingenious trick which looks attractive on a drawing—spreads like an epidemic through the architecture of the day. To counteract this there is little or none of that thorough study of the standard examples of antiquity which was so distinctive a characteristic of English architects in the last half of the eighteenth and the first half of the nineteenth centuries. John Wood and Robert Adam, men who achieved not inconsiderable practice, found time to write the volumes on Palmyra and Spalatro. Good taste and sound knowledge have consequently not kept pace with enthusiasm, and a great deal of modern so-called "free classical building" is free from nothing so much as the

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classical spirit of refinement and restraint. The curious fact is that in America at the present time there is a much higher and more exact standard of taste and scholarship in public and semi-public buildings than there is with us, and there is no doubt that this is attributable to the greater severity and length of their courses of study which now culminate in their school at Rome. Although the latter institution has only been founded a few years, for the last half-century American architects have been trained in the great tradition of the Paris school, either there or by Frenchmen imported to their own Universities.

Not a Focus.

It is reasonable, therefore, to hope that the new British School at Rome will, as far as architecture is concerned (and I feel sure the same will apply to the allied arts), serve as a focus for what at present are somewhat stray and even misdirected enthusiasms, and that the work of the students will react on that of the whole profession. This would no doubt be much more likely to happen if our Government would do what the French Government does, and give at once, on the return of a Prix de Rome student, some commission either for the preservation of an old or even for the erection of a new building. The men who hold these scholarships will necessarily start their professional careers later than their colleagues; it is for the good of everyone that this should not prove a handicap.

In conclusion it is interesting to remember that a good many people have been accustomed to date the modern decline of all the arts in England from the opening of the 1851 Exhibition, and the blow it struck

probably not unfelt by the commissioners themselves, at all tradition. There is, therefore, a certain fitness, that its surplus profits should now go to the founding of an institution from which as much good to the arts may reasonably be expected to result.

THE ARCHITECTURAL PROFESSION AT HOME.

The presidential address of Mr. Bond to the Society of Architects shows forcibly, says "Indian Engineering," how necessary it was, even thus late in the day, to reduce the profession to something like standardisation. The country is overrun by architects who have had no more training than a pupillage in an architect's office and who are now living practically upon the technical skill of a younger generation who have done the full educational course of a modern day architect. The position of these juniors is unfortunate in the extreme, as they are ill-paid, are compelled to do the most responsible work in the offices and to efface themselves when their work calls for any notice. The Registration Bill, which is now under consideration by the Royal Institute and the Society of Architects jointly, is naturally strongly supported by this qualified junior body and as strongly opposed by the unqualified seniors, since its first effect will be to prevent any further addition to the ranks of the unqualified, and thus automatically discredit such as are in practice. The great numbers of incompetent men in the profession is keeping down wages, with the result that those who are not incompetent are driven to accept remuneration far below their merits,

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and, in fact, no higher than that of an ordinary labourer. The president states it as his experience that the unqualified are the first to set up in independent careers because they have been unable to hold for any length of time the positions of assistants, and once they do this they are driven by necessity to use every device, many quite unprofessional, to maintain themselves. He adds that there are even at the present time probably some thousands of young men in the United Kingdom serving their articles, not an eighth of whom will ever attempt to pass any qualifying examination. It is truly surprising that so important a profession as this has been allowed to continue so long in this unsatisfactory state when others, such as medicine and engineering, were reformed long ago.

NONCONFORMIST ARCHITECTURE

Apropos of an article which appeared in our February issue, in an article on "Nonconformity and Architecture" in "T. P.'s Weekly," Mr. Martin Briggs deplores the scarcity of literature dealing with the building of Nonconformist places of worship and the conservation of architects in the matter.

He may be correct in his facts, but we do not quite follow him in his contention that "though one might collect whole shelves of books on cottage building, and even a fair display of literature about garages and pigsties, it is most difficult to find any useful hints for those who may be interested in the building of a Nonconformist place of worship."

We should not ourselves have sought inspiration from the source suggested nor do we altogether agree when he says "that for the great majority of the architectural profession Nonconformist churches have no interest whatever."

Mr. Briggs dates the demand for these places of worship from the seventeenth century, and to the eighteenth, a change from the humble meeting house to the more ambitious building of the Georgian period in which he finds features associated in common with some of Wren's City churches.

Gothic Revival.

The Gothic Revival, and its complete displacement of its predecessor, caused its leaders to consider the suitability of "Gothic" for their purposes. They called their places of worship "churches," and claimed a share in that national architecture of the Middle Ages which had been so successfully revived as to become symbolical of religious buildings. Indeed, a church which was not Gothic in 1870 could hardly be regarded as a church at all. Yet, for some strange reason, Nonconformist architecture from that point seems to have floundered and lost its way completely. The change was too sudden and too thoughtless. It should have occurred to those eminent divines that a fifteenth century church was primarily intended for the celebration of Mass, and not for congregational worship or for preaching; and that the rich carving and decoration of these ancient fanes represented years of patient labour, and, in modern terms, a considerable outlay. There is nothing in simple Gothic architecture diametrically opposed to a single form of worship, but it is possible to ape Gothic architecture, as its earlier revivers did, and the result is a sorry affair.

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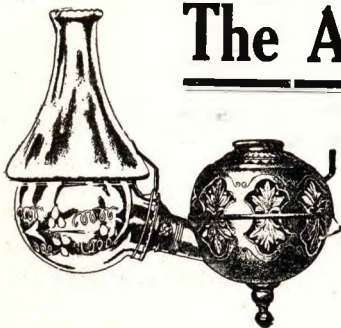
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Question of Finance.

With the craze for "Gothic" came necessarily the question of finance. It seldom happened that much more than the funds to provide the bare accommodation was available, and what would have ensured an excellent building—Gothic or Classic—of a simple design, became insignificant when spires and tracery were also wanted. So a new sort of architect came into being who specialised in shoddy carving and shoddy material. Yet, Nonconformity failed to create a new style of architecture, for the product was unworthy of its high purpose. Architects are conservative by nature and hesitate to approach so thankless a problem as setting right this wrong. Nonconformists are too anxious in many cases for a showy church, too regardless of what good building involves, and of what is suitable for their own needs in worship.

Architects decline to enter their competitions because in most cases no skilled advice is considered necessary by an unqualified committee on plans which have taken weeks of skilled work. There are, of course, exceptions, and one sees here and there a new type of Nonconformist church coming into being which bears witness to a tradition being slowly and gradually evolved on grounds of practical necessity. It has great possibilities, and some day, perhaps, Nonconformists may live to glory in an architecture which they may be proud of and which they may claim as their own.

S.A. ARCHITECTS' AND BUILDERS' DIARY.

The Transvaal Leader says : This Diary and Year-Book for 1912, issued for the first time as one of Mr. James T. Brown's publications, is an excellent production, and contains not only the information usually found in a diary, but much information of particular use to architects and builders. A complete list of the names and addresses of all those engaged in connection with architecture and the building trade in this country is given, which is a valuable desideratum supplied in the book.

The Rand Daily Mail says : We have received a copy of the "South African Architects' and Builders' Diary and Year Book" for 1912, which is one of the latest of Mr. Jas. T. Brown's publications. It contains the names and addresses of all the architects and builders in South Africa, besides much information of special use to those interested in the building trade of this country. The diary can be carried in the pocket, and suits its purpose excellently in every respect.

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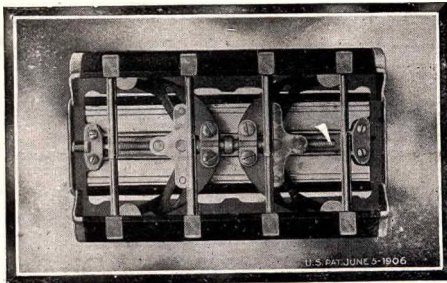
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THE APPROACH PRETTY.

In these days when beauty and utility are so often combined one cannot but fail to be struck with the real artistic finish of a house whose immediate approach is guarded by an ornamental wrought-iron gate. Tubular gates are probably quite as effective, nevertheless the ornamental style gives a degree of finish otherwise lacking. Doubtless it is only a matter of time before the tubular gate for private enclosures will be superseded; but, meanwhile, anyone who would like to compare the different styles for their own satisfaction can easily do so by calling on Mr. S. C. Brown, the fencing expert and manufacturer, at Raine's Buildings, Fox Street (near Eloff Street), Johannesburg, who has a large stock of all classes of material on hand. Their catalogue is also quite a neat brochure, well illustrated, and can be had on application being made for same.

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Owing to its technical and specialised nature, very few people outside those immediately concerned realise that during the last few years an entirely new method of construction for practically all classes of buildings has become general, and so rapid has been its progress that it bids fair to outrival all other methods. There is no doubt that reinforced concrete has come to stay, but, like everything else, it has taken a number of years to finally overcome the unreasonable and unreasoning prejudices, added to the innate conservatism, of the man in the street. A very sure sign that this has now been achieved is the ever-increasing number of new inventions, either of material or method, or both, which are being placed on the market.

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In practice it is easy to use, as there is no spacing out of members, or tying, and once in position it cannot be accidentally displaced or damaged or moved from its correct position. This is a feature which cannot be claimed for meshwork with loose or separate strands, nor for bars, as it is almost impossible to maintain a number of separate units in their correct theoretic position during construction.

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In a short article like this, it would be impossible to give all the uses to which expanded metal may be put, but it may be said that wherever concrete can be used, there also can expanded metal be used with advantage, both as to efficiency and economy.

The Expanded Metal Company, Ltd., of London and West Hartlepool are manufacturers of this material, and a handbook on its uses is issued, which in some three hundred pages illustrates and describes a number of the more important uses to which it may be put. There are also a number of tables and formulæ, which, divested of all unnecessary technicalities, show clearly how to obtain any desired result, and can be understood and carried out by anyone, even with the most elementary knowledge of the subject.

We should advise all who are interested in the subject to apply to Messrs. Jenkins and Co., of Durban, Cape Town, and Johannesburg, who are the local representatives, and from whom all information and copies of the above book can be obtained, and who always have large stocks on hand.

EXCAVATIONS IN THE SUDAN.

Mr. John Garstang's excavations at Meroe and Kabushia are making great progress, writes a correspondent to the "Times," and the work on the royal city is revealing a large number of buildings. The Palace near the Temple of Amon, which has now been cleared, contains over forty chambers and a large court. Important reliefs have been brought on the foundations. Three hundred natives, with a staff of trained Egyptians, are now employed, while a light railway and an aerial cableway have been constructed to facilitate the removal of the excavated material.

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ROMAN RESEARCH IN ITALY.

Dr. Ashby's recent communication on archaeological research in Italy was a good deal occupied with the differences of archaeologists on little points which turn mainly on the interpretation of history. The interest of it for the general reader consisted in the fact that a new ground of exploration has been opened up at Ostia, the ancient seaport of Rome, which is expected to vie in interest with the discoveries at Pompeii. The main street has been unearthed, and the baths, which are described as having fine mosaic pavements. Probably a great deal more will be found there; but the comparison with Pompeii leads one to ask, when is the remainder of Pompeii, and Herculaneum, to be uncovered? Owing to the special circumstances connected with their overthrow, by which everything was covered up just as it stood, there is no knowing what remains of ancient art and architecture are still waiting to be discovered there; and the exploration of Herculaneum has been long talked about and written about, and nothing done.

THE HONOURS LIST OF THE WORLD.

The world's greatest men cannot be named to the satisfaction of everyone, and a symposium in the current "Review of Reviews" is the latest proof. Mr. Carnegie's list of twenty is challenged by Mr. Frederic Harrison, whose own list is not beyond criticism. Lord Rayleigh gives us hope when he suggests that sculpture, painting, and music should be represented. Some of the other contributors, who include Leonardo da Vinci and Michel Angelo, do not say in what capacity they are named, though we are inclined to say that their work as architects was not considered; for in the epitome of votes, Michel Angelo, halfway down, is described as "painter and sculptor." Is this more evidence of the general unconcern about architecture, or cannot an architect be found to rank with the engineers, inventors, soldiers, statesmen, authors, and others who have caught the public eye?

THE CARE OF ART TREASURES.

Mr. Edward Hamilton Bell writes to the "Times," in answer to the customary "outcry" concerning the removal of works of art to the United States of America, to point out, that really from the point of view of civilisation as a whole it is perhaps a good thing, as they are so much more zealously guarded—and, we may add, displayed—in that country. He animadverts on the management of Hertford House, instancing the wiring for electricity of the great chandeliers and the wanton exposure of the jasper perfume-bearer of Gouthière, known as "La belle coupe." And certainly it seems as though this and other objects of "virtu" might suitably be enclosed in airtight cases to guard them from too appreciative fingering and the corrosive effects of our deplorable atmosphere.

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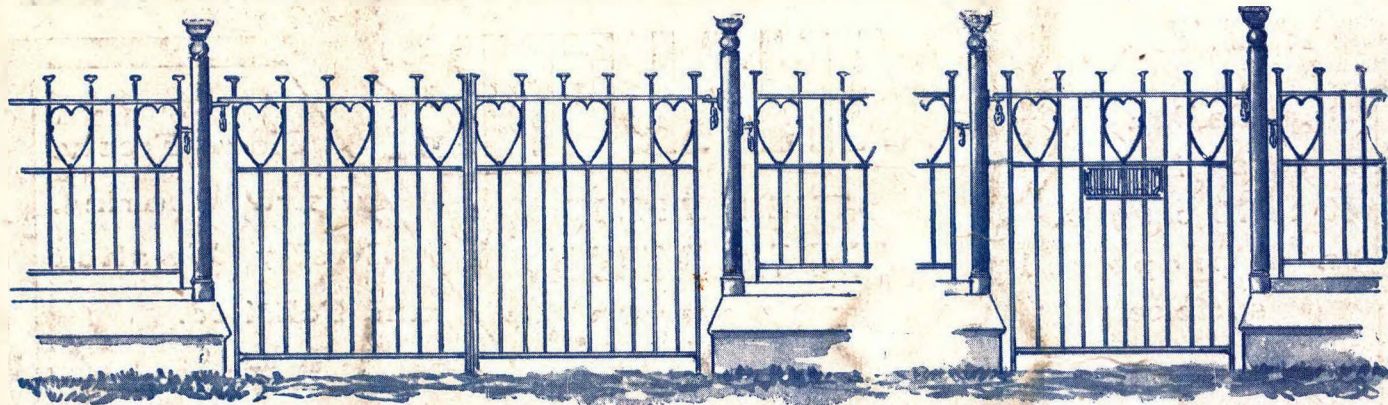
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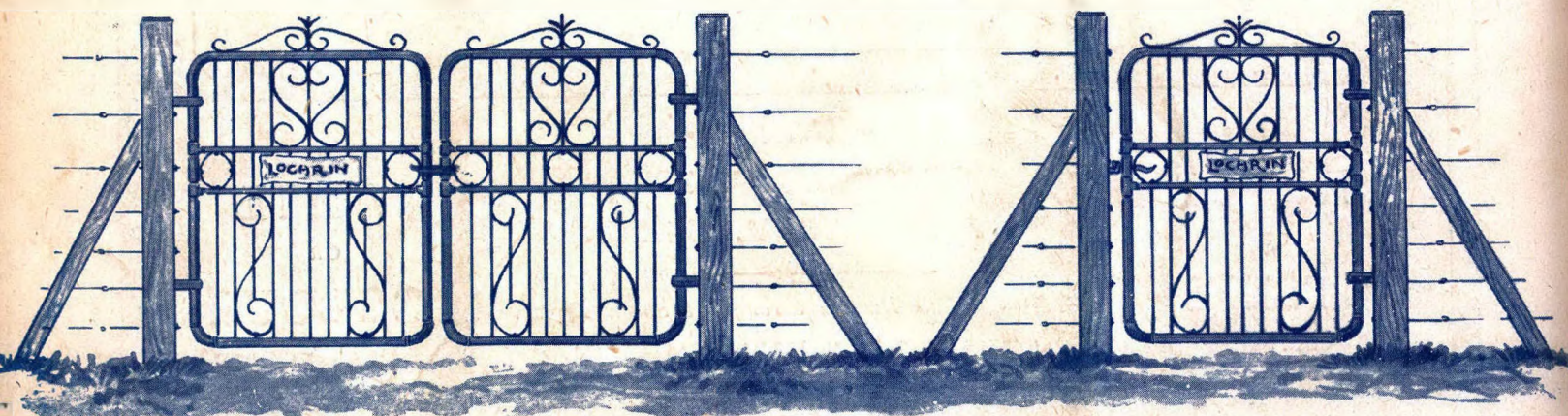
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