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1934

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THE SOUTH AFRICAN ARCHITECTURAL RECORD

The Journal of the Transvaal, Natal and Orange Free State Provincial Institutes of South African Architects and the Chapter of South African Quantity Surveyors.

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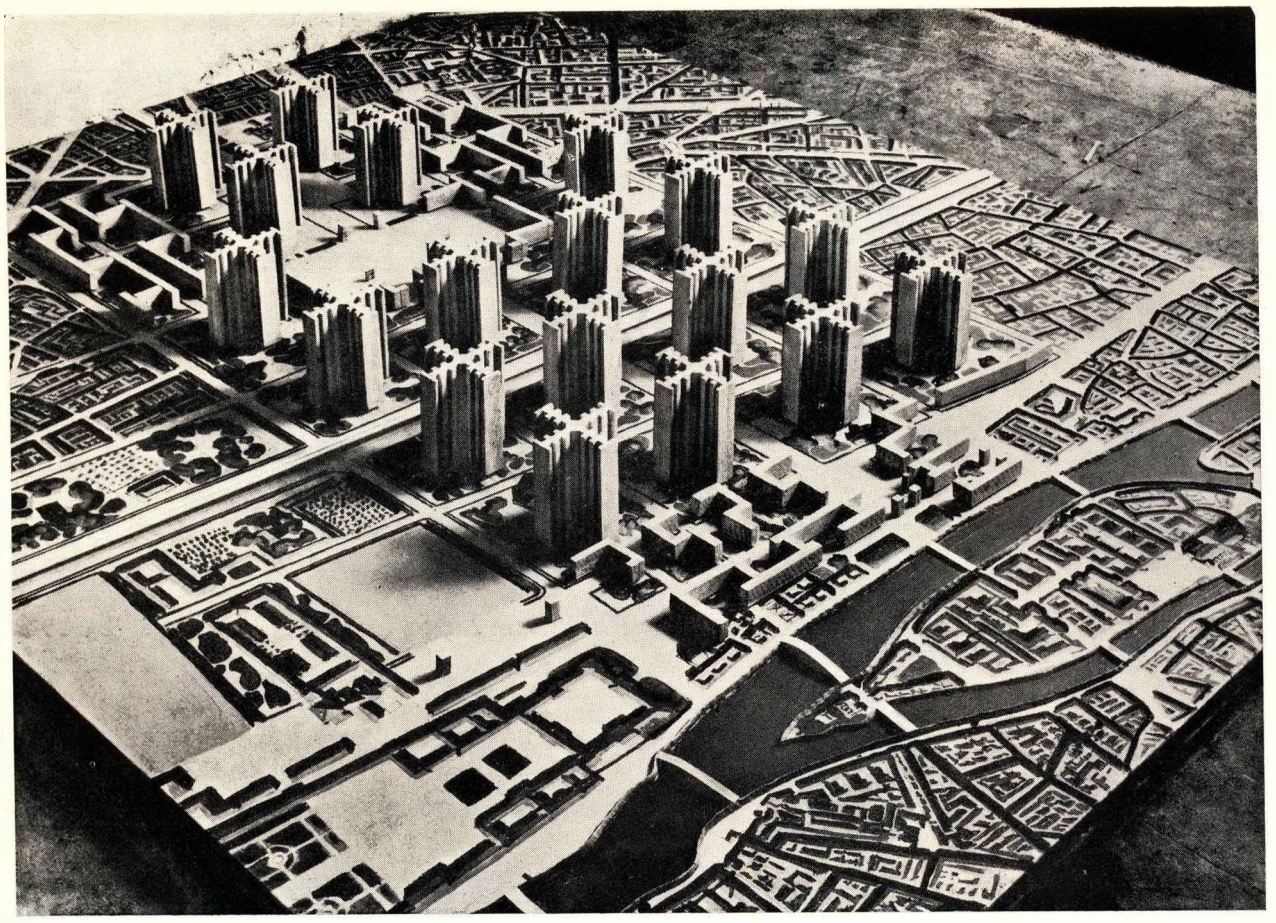
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Architect Le Corbusier

A model showing Le Corbusier's conception of the contemporary city • Paris rebuilt and reorganized in a scheme which displays a superb lyrical quality and which is the first demonstration of the new spirit in town planning

The speech by the Minister of the Interior on the Slums Bill reported in the "Star," on May 9th, is very encouraging and is an indication that the Union Government intends to follow the great slum clearance movement which has been exercising the minds of European governments since the Great War.

Mr. Hofmeyr said that he regarded this Bill as one of the most important and potentially far-reaching measures introduced this session.

"The real wealth of a nation lay in its homes and the quality of the home life largely determined the nation's strength. The Bill was conceived with the object of strengthening and enriching the home life of the people. It was one of the essential measures in the Government's social policy."

The Bill empowers local authorities to deal with slum clearance without the intervention of a magistrate. On the report of the medical officer of health a local authority might declare any premises a slum and issue an order. From that order there was an appeal only to the Minister.

Considerably more scope was given in regard to buildings that could be dealt with as slums. The Bill provided a rapid, cheap and effective method of enforcing a reduction in the number of occupants of overcrowded buildings, and the evacuation of condemned buildings. There were several important provisions, in the nature of sanctions, to make slum clearance effective. It was provided that where premises had been declared a slum, that declaration must be published in the Press as well as in the Government Gazette. That should have a considerable effect on the market value of the premises.

Where occupation of a building was forbidden, there would be no liability for rent. Effective provision was also made to prevent the entry of new inhabitants into buildings where steps had been taken to prevent overcrowding. A very important provision would have the effect of restricting the transfer of slum properties. "All these sanctions will make it in the interests of the owner to prevent his property becoming a slum, or if it can be regarded as a slum, to remove the conditions responsible as soon as possible."

"To encourage him to do so, provision is made for the recession of a slum declaration when the causes have been removed."

"It would be impossible for anybody living in premises that were under demolition orders to plead that they had no other place of occupation—the obligation rested on the local authority to provide new housing in slum clearance schemes."

With regard to the question of housing the Minister said that "the attack on the slum problem must necessarily have two aspects. In the first place provision must be made for the housing of those thus displaced. On the one side there must be legislative provision for slum clearance and on the other legislative and financial provision for new housing. These were two necessary and equally desirable features in the housing programme.

One of the difficulties of a housing policy was to ensure that these two aspects received due weight and kept pace. The housing problem would not be solved by complete machinery for slum clearance without provision for new housing.

In different countries there had been weakness in one or other aspect. In Britain the difficulty had been in new housing. In slum clearance Britain was very up-to-date. In this country the people could not complain, as far as the Government was concerned, that there had been a deficiency in provision for new housing. But there was a definite deficiency in the legal position regarding slum clearance. The Housing Act of 1920 as amended in 1925 provided housing facilities, and these functions had been satisfactory.

"Under the Housing Act since 1920, the Government had provided £3,531,000 for economic housing. Of this £955,000 had become available for new loans, and the total amount made available up to the end of 1933 was this £4,536,000. Of that amount £4,378,000 had been allocated and £4,040,000 had actually been paid out. In addition the Government, a few years ago, had introduced a sub-economic housing scheme and had authorised the expenditure of £500,000, recently increased to £1,000,000. An additional £46,000 had later been made available for the new Capetown Housing Utility Company scheme. Provision had thus been made for the erection of twelve thousand five hundred and twenty-seven dwellings under the economic scheme and one thousand one hundred and six dwellings under the sub-economic scheme, giving housing to four thousand eight hundred European families and eight thousand eight hundred and three non-European families or sixty thousand people."

"In his Budget speech the Minister of Finance had said they were determined to launch a new assault on the slum problem, and announced the financial provision the Government intended to make for the erection of new homes and the increased funds to be set aside, emphasising particularly that the Government was prepared to increase its commitments for sub-economic housing from £500,000 to £1,000,000. He had also announced the reduced rates of interest of four per cent. for economic and two per cent. for sub-economic housing."

This Bill is the first step towards the clearance of the appalling areas which are steadily encroaching upon our towns and cities and it is to be hoped that in the very near future many of these will be swept away.

The second step, however, is the question of housing and here, it is to be hoped that the question will be tackled properly.

The figures quoted by the Minister are startling not to say staggering and one would like to have details as to how these sums have been utilised.

In a recent newspaper article Mr. Waugh, President of the Town Planning Association, is reported as having said, "The Bill was certainly not going to cure slums by erecting more buildings which might be no better or very little better than those existing to-day." These remarks are very much to the point and should be most carefully borne in mind, coming as they do from an ex-municipal official with considerable experience, for the standard house, frequently erected by municipal and government authorities, should be avoided at all costs. Monotony tends to depression almost as much as unpleasant surroundings and in the tremendous would movement to eliminate slums, which is taking place to-day, this fact is becoming more and more realised. A visit to some of our municipal native townships, in various parts of the Union, is sufficient to convince one of this danger, and similar housing conditions for poor whites in this country would only lead to disaster.

Those who have had the opportunity of studying the housing schemes in Vienna, in Frankfort and many German cities are impressed with the splendid work that has been achieved.

The recent competitions organised by the newspapers in the Union and Rhodesia in connection with the ideal home for the business and working man might well be cited as an example to our municipalities of what might be done, and it is to be hoped that opportunities will be given to the architectural profession to submit housing schemes for the poorer classes.

A competition organised on the lines of those promoted by the newspapers would do a great deal of good and would create interest throughout the Union.

In making these statements one does not want to belittle the excellent work being done by some of the leading municipalities in the Union, but rather to urge for very careful consideration, in order that mistakes shall not be made. The architectural profession, in the interests of hygiene and public health as well as amenity, should ask the Minister to give careful consideration to these points.

We cannot entirely agree with the statements attributed to Mr. Waugh that "the cause of slums is very often not the actual

buildings. Buildings that are well designed and arranged in accordance with sound principles are often slums. The trouble in the slums, most often, is the people themselves. How are you going to get them to observe proper habits ? There is the promiscuous mixing of races and children and the filthy habit of throwing out dish water into the yards."

Vienna, to mention one city, is a remarkable example in which can be seen uncleared slum areas and the newly built and occupied areas. In the latter there is not the least sign of filth or uncleanliness. The children look bright, cheerful and spotlessly clean, and the communal baths and laundries are unequalled anywhere. During the day the children are well catered for and have their recreation grounds, pleasant walks and shady strees. The streets are narrowed down to the utmost limits in these areas in order to provide as much ground as possible for the layout. The whole atmosphere brings home to one forcibly what a municipal authority can do and has done.

In conclusion one would like to pay a great tribute to the Minister of the Interior, the Hon. J. H. Hofmeyr, for his wisdom and forethought in bringing forward the Slums Bill and also for his great work when, as Administrator of the Transvaal, he appointed a Town Planning Commission as a result of which we now have a Town Planning Ordinance in the Transvaal.

Let us hope that the men who have to carry out the provisions of these acts will be men of vision.

G.E.P.

THE BODY OF THE TOWN

Professor C. H. Reilly

" The old order changeth giving place to the new " is an often quoted proverb, and Professor Reillys' paper, so applicable to our South African problems gives much food for thought and is well worthy of study. Our greatest problem as architects is in some way to curb the licentious growth of houses designed by semi-skilled architects and speculators who are ruining the appearance of our towns as they have already done in England. Could our Central Council concentrate on such problems, how much more valuable would its work become both to architects and the general public.

A few years ago the Earl of Crawford, in giving this Roscoe Lecture, chose as his subject "The Soul of Cities." Mine is at a much lower level. He explored the romantic ideas, the poetry, the appeal to the imagination which the great cities of the world call forth. The task I have set myself is to dissect the actual bodies of our towns and to try to see whether under modern conditions these bodies are functioning satisfactorily and if not, what surgical operations it is our duty to perform upon them, painful as such may be to certain interests and nerve centres. The town, it will be conceded, should be the finest, the most interesting, the most revealing work of man. It is certainly the latter.

At the present time in most of our large towns, the main roads straggle in from the country in various directions and are crossed and recrossed by a network of narrower ones. In the centre, where was the market-place to which those roads once led, are generally a few quiet public buildings dating from an earlier century.

Near this inner centre is usually a slightly decaying Georgian quarter with straight and spacious streets and perhaps a square or two of similar houses. Next, and generally en-

circling the whole town, except perhaps along one of its main roads running west, is a vast area of small working class houses in narrow, dull streets, all slums or potential slums. Beyond this again is the ring of older suburbs, mainly for genteel people who, although their houses generally have gardens of their own, have public parks added to them, and then the new suburbs for the working classes. In most towns, and particularly in Liverpool, these new working class suburbs have the quietest and pleasantest little houses in the whole town. Interspersed with these new suburbs are areas of the little speculative houses of the modern builder for the smaller bourgeoisie. Beyond all this and far out into the country in every direction along the magnificent new roads leading to the neighbouring towns stretch the lines of similar little houses and bungalows in what is called ribbon development—a development we all deplore but, unlike other countries, and notably unlike the United States in its unspoilt parkways, seem unable to stop.

Disrupting Elements.

Into this jelly-fish of an organism, pretty enough in parts but shapeless, clammy and suffocating as a whole, have appeared with almost alarming suddenness one or two exciting and disrupting elements. The first and most obvious are the new motor vehicles already multiplying like flies and travelling at anything up to sixty miles an hour. Speed might so obviously be a blessing, capable of shortening the hours of work of all by doubling or trebling the efficiency of each town considered as a machine for getting so much work done and done well. To bend this new form of traffic to our will instead of seeing it throttle our energies, very radical alterations will have to be made in our towns. That is, in my opinion, the first new factor.

The second disturbing factor is of a totally different kind. It is the demand of the new generation everywhere for sunlight, fresh air and exercise to a degree unknown before. The large number of educated people living to-day under almost slum conditions and knowing that such conditions are no longer necessary, will not be content to remain much longer housed as they are at present. Radical changes will have to take place. Whole sections of the towns now decaying and never anything to be proud of, must be destroyed, replanned and rebuilt, or new towns must be started and the old left to rot—a very much more feasible idea to-day than it was before the existence of the electrical grid distributing power everywhere, and almost inviting the moving of factories.

That the clearance of whole sectors of the town on a huge scale is necessary is clear from both these considerations. The new fast traffic on the one hand cannot be canalized and treated as it should be to make the most of its efficiency except by radical replanning, and the new standard of life demanded by all alike cannot be achieved except by rebuilding on a great scale.

What, then, is required to meet the new conditions and to keep pace with those continental and American cities which have already got a good start of us ?

The first steps I suggest must be financial ones. Now that we have no longer great ground landlords with the power and the will to do the work for us, we must gain control of our towns ourselves. As the landlords of the London squares controlled the development of their land, whether they paid for the cost of that development or not, so must the public authority. It must take the place of the landlords and be as powerful over the whole as each was in his own sphere. As long as the individual owner of a small piece of land or of a building can stand out for exorbitant compensation, it is clear we can never have the efficient replanning of towns we need. The simplest and quickest way to obtain the necessary power is the one so often asked for by the larger municipalities. It is the power to tax land values. Once ground values are taxed so that the community gets a share at least of the increased value it creates, the private owner has not the same inducement to withhold a sale, and if in the end compulsory purchase has to be resorted to, his compensation is so much less. Already, fortunately, the authority has the right to purchase property unfit for human habitation at the bare value of the land. As our ideas develop of what fitness for human habitation means, larger and larger areas will fall in under this heading. If with us, as with the Viennese, State loans and subsidies should be cut off we

can, as they did, build the new sections of the town out of income. It takes longer, of course, but, it has this great advantage, that buildings erected out of income and not on borrowed capital have no interest charges to earn. Rent is only required as far as the buildings are concerned to cover the cost of upkeep.

The Plan.

Assuming then, as we must, that we can do what the Austrians have done, the first great need is a new plan of the city as a whole, in which the various zones of its work and activities are clearly laid down in the most convenient positions for the total efficiency. Having settled the main masses of the plan the next need to-day is to settle the lines of the main arteries, that is, the series of motor roads running directly towards the centre from the outskirts for fast traffic and connected by one or more similar circular roads. This system, which would only connect with the ordinary road system at special points by means of ramps, should either be a raised system, as already adopted in Italy, or a sunk system. The latter is obviously preferable when the land allows it. We know how tiresome and noisy elevated roads can be and how railway embankments or viaducts cut up and spoil a town. These sunken tracks, possibly running in the centre of a wide thoroughfare and with constant bridges crossing them, would deaden the sound of the swift traffic and by keeping it largely out of sight, lessen the strain on the nerves of onlookers.

Certain sites in the present business centres should be determined on which tower buildings might be erected on the understanding that they pay increased site taxes, care being taken that these sites are sufficiently far apart for the twenty thousand or so workers in each building—not at all an unusual number in New York—not to cause traffic congestion. Such tall buildings, for the sake of the town, must obviously be treated as towers. When it comes to buildings over a hundred feet high it is absurd to treat them as though they were merely lining a street in the ordinary way. Further, if high buildings are allowed in the commercial centre, wheeled traffic should be disallowed in the same area in certain hours. It should be remembered in favour of the isolated high building that it gives its users not only magnificent light and air but a sense of power and well-being, and that it provides, by its fast-running lifts, far quicker intercommunication between offices than is possible by horizontal travel.

It is the living quarters, however, of the mass of the people that are the important thing and where up till now we have made our greatest failure. Having cleared, say, a quarter of the town, how should we set about the rehousing ? We shall never provide for all the amount of sun and air and opportunity for exercise the new generation is so rightly demanding except by building higher and by having, as a result, less land actually covered and much less land wasted on roads. It is calculated that by skilful planning and by building five-storey blocks the same number of people can be housed per acre on a quarter of the land, including the necessary approach roads, and that the remaining three-quarters can be open spaces for games and gardens. If lifts, automatic or otherwise, improve and come down in cost, as no doubt they would do if made in larger quantities, instead of five-storey, ten-storey buildings would become feasible, with a corresponding increase in the area for gardens and playing fields. Alternate open spaces might be parkland and playing fields, allotments and individual gardens with their unavoidable untidyness being kept to special places on the town plan.

That the moment is right architecturally for a great rebuilding and replanning of the decaying portions of our towns is clear when we consider the course architecture has pursued in common with the other arts during the present century—a course undisturbed by the war and indeed in the end only strengthened by it. In painting and sculpture there has been a wide movement away from superficial realism towards something the artist feels is more truly real, so in architecture the architect has tried to get behind the pomp and circumstance of Classical, Renaissance and Gothic detail to something more fundamental. Such an attitude to his work means that the modern architect welcomes the arrival of each new invention which adds to his power of solving his practical problems.

The greater simplicity of form and surface which modern functional designing brings about and which is reinforced by the new materials, means the shedding not only of all the surface decoration, but also of the proportions which the Italian Renaissance palace has for the last three hundred years, directly or indirectly, forced upon the vast majority of our buildings. If they are not always among the most beautiful and typical things of our civilisation already, our new modern buildings, following strictly upon our new needs, will very quickly become so, while those erected to-day in any of the traditional styles will as quickly become *démodé*.

It remains to consider, with the vast work that is necessary to make our towns fit so that we can face the future with confidence, whether the type of public authority in charge of it is of the kind which can safely be trusted with so great a task. There is a great deal to be said for the American practice, a few years ago extended to Dublin, of handing over a town in an emergency to a small group of commissioners. There is more, I think, to be said for the German practice of having a town manager to think out in advance schemes in which conflicting interests have to be co-ordinated, while maintaining, or maintaining till recently, democratic control over the final decisions. This seemed to me a very wise way of proceeding, provided that each new building is part of a detailed plan for the whole city which has been very carefully studied beforehand by the best experts the town can employ. Complete drawings of every projected building have, of course, as with us, to be submitted to the municipality. The chief difference, however, is that as in Paris, or indeed any considerable French or German town, these drawings are considered by the architect or architects appointed by the town. With us, in nearly all our provincial cities, they go before a city engineer or city surveyor whose duty it is to advise on their architectural fitness as well as their safety. Liverpool, Bath, Brighton and other English towns to-day have, by special Acts of Parliament, complete control over the exteriors of all new buildings, yet none of these towns administer the Act through an architect. It is indeed very indicative of our general outlook that the advice given on the appearance of our towns should be tendered by a man whose chief duty is either, where there is a city surveyor, valuing land and buildings, or where there is a city engineer, construcing roads and sewers. It is equally indicative of our carelessness in all such matters that we have no regulations preventing architects and builders and speculators in property from sitting on the Council Committees which pass these plans. All these things show that the growth and rebuilding of towns in this country is not yet considered with sufficient seriousness. So far, except in rare cases and almost by accident, our towns are not, as towns, served by the best architectural brains. Town planning has become a blessed word covering a multitude of sins and lulling us to sleep. So long does the process take —five years seem to be the quickest the Acts of Parliament allow—that speculative builders go on covering the areas as if the plans did not exist.

Let us not be too pessimistic though. We have a way of amending Acts of Parliament after a few years' experience, and no doubt we shall soon be appointing Town Planning Commissioners for the whole country, as we have appointed electricity ones, railway ones and even one on lunacy, each with a large district covering many towns and villages with the land between and helping to obliterate intermunicipal jealousy and other troubles. Private interests, masquerading as public ones on our local authorites—our peculiarly English form of graft—could, too, in this way be largely over-ridden. To such Commissioners might be assigned the difficult, but from a national point of view important, function of deciding which towns and villages or which parts of such, or which individual buildings, should be scheduled for preservation. Although we do not use them very much yet in their own country, we are to-day producing young town planners whose work is appreciated abroad. With the plentiful supplies of architectural ability in this country to-day and the number of young architects trained to think in the new grand manner, so much simpler and grander really than the old, and able to construct in the new materials, and best of all the old individualist

outlook everywhere dying down and a new spirit of organization abroad, I cannot but think with the patent fact of the inefficiency and decay of our towns and the vast work to be done in them before our eyes, that our political good sense will find a way round our present obscurantist methods and lethargy and that the brave new world we all desire in our hearts will prove to be nearer at hand than most of us think.

Above are some extracts from the Roscoe Lecture to the Liverpool Literary Philosophical Society, entitled "The Body of the Town," given by Professor C. H. Reilly, F.R.I.B.A. at the Royal Institution on Monday, March 12th 1934. Reprinted from the Architects Journal, London.

NORMAN LINDSAY AND KENZO TAKEKOSHI

One of the most interesting (and least well attended!) exhibition of prints that has been held in Johannesburg of recent times was the collection sold at Lezard's a few weeks ago belonging to Mr. G. J. Saunders. Saunders who was for some time Art Editor of the Sydney "Bulletin," had brought together here an interesting collection of prints and drawings which certainly deserved more notice than they have actually received.

Etchings such as Marcellin Desboutin's "Mou-Mou" took you to Montmartre with almost startling fidelity. Then there was "The Well," by Theodore Rousseau, Peter Jazet's "A Gentleman of the Old School," and a still-life by L. Lemaire, all of which were worth seeing.

A feature of the collection was, of course, the series of etchings by the young Japanese artist, Kenzo Takekoshi, who had a brilliant but short career in London.

The tale of how Saunders came into possession of the only twelve plates that Takekoshi finished, is curious and romantic. Some years ago, a lady walked into "The Bulletin" office and asked to see Mr. Saunders. She told him she had the plates and was prepared to dispose of them. Saunders knew the artist's work and was at first inclined to be sceptical as to their genuineness. But when he had actually taken prints from them, he became convinced and eventually acquired the plates for a nominal sum. Since then he has disposed of several hundreds of impressions among various European and American Art Galleries. It appears that Takekoshi had come with introductions to the lady in London and they had become friendly. His father, however, a Japanese nobleman of pedigree, objected to his son being a poor artist in London and eventually ordered him to return to Japan. Takekoshi, knowing his father would insist on his destroying the plates gave them to his London friend before returning to Japan, where he died about a year later. Long afterwards the lady, on a sudden impulse, while visiting Sydney, decided to part with the plates.

The etchings are remarkable for their delicate sensitive handling and yet close attention to detail, "King Charles's Statue." a snow scene, was reproduced in "The Studio" some years ago. "Peterborough Cathedral" and "A Chinese doorway" reproduced here, are typical examples and "Piccadilly Circus" has poetry and atmosphere despite a quaint exotic suggestion of eastern outlook.



LEARNING TO DRIVE

"How long did it take you to learn to drive ?"
"Three" "Weeks?" "No Cars."

Drawings by Norman Lindsay, Percy Leason and David Low, originally done for "The Bulletin," were an added attraction at the local exhibition. Saunders is full of enthusiasm and of stories about Lindsay, who now resides with his wife and two daughters in a Sydney suburb, seldom coming into town and content to remain at home and go on drawing. In Saunders, he has not only an admirer, that is not surprising, but a stout defender. Many of Lindsay's nudes have, of course, not found favour with the "unco guid." From a small child, Norman who is one of a family of ten, was devoted to drawing. He has always been delicate and drawing took the place of many other things. Saunders tells how, when Norman was barely in his teens, the white servant, who had been with the family for many years, came to Mrs. Lindsay and said she could no longer stay in her service as the drawings on the walls in "Master Norman's" room were not respectable ! His mother, though, in her eyes, Norman can do no wrong, spoke to him seriously and said that she did not want to part with "Mary" and what was he going to do about it ? The boy went to his room, locked the door and remained there for some time. When he came out, he asked his mother to come and see. He had turned all his pictures to the wall and written on their backs various quotations such as "To the pure all things are pure," etc !

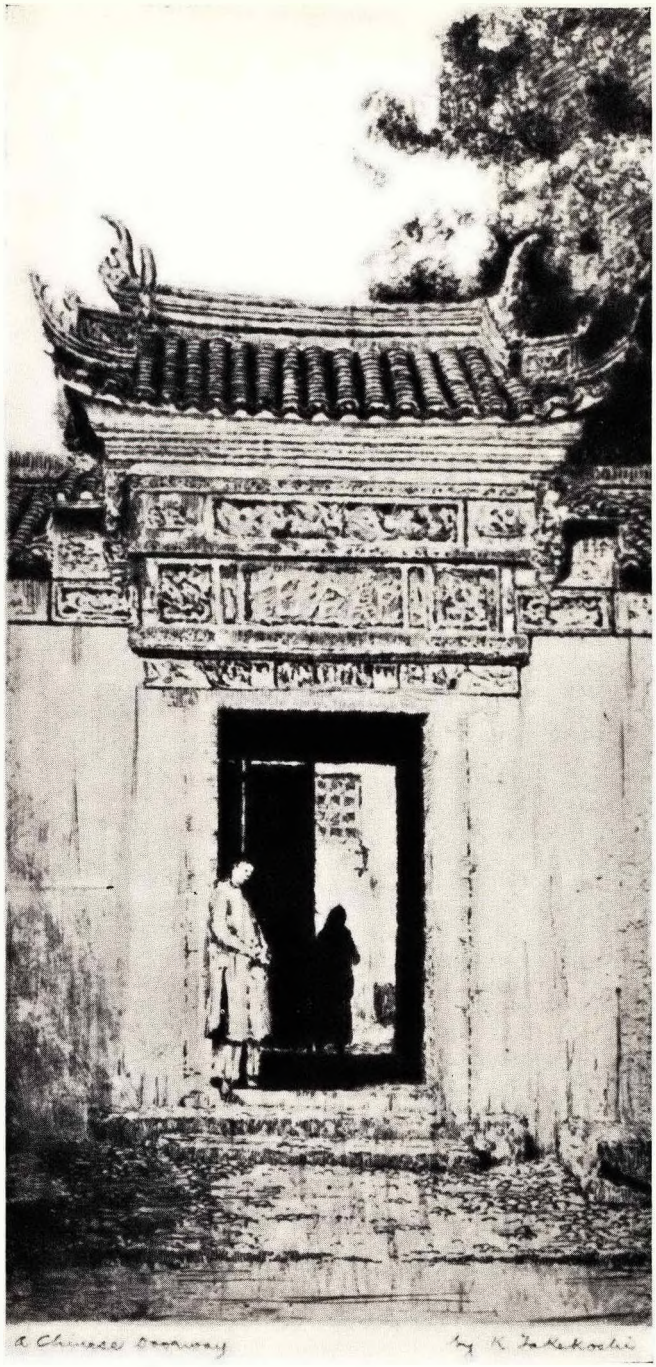
Later he was punished at school for playing truant (he would come home to draw) so he said to his mother, "Mother, I am not going to school any more. They teach me a lot of things I do not want to know, Those I want to learn I can do here." And he did.

Once a mutual friend on "The Bulletin" brought Melba to see him. Lindsay greeted her casually and began a conversation with Mr. "X" on artistic topics. They stayed to lunch, Lindsay still continuing to pay little attention to the great artiste. During lunch, to Mrs. Lindsay's confusion, he offered Mr. "X" a glass of wine and told the servant to bring two glasses ! After lunch, Mrs. Lindsay and Mr. "X" agreed they must make an effort to throw the two geniuses together, so they settled them on the verandah and left them alone. An hour after they were talking eagerly.

On the way home Mr. "X" asked Melba her opinion of Lindsay. She expressed great admiration. "Do you know," she said, "that he even gave me points in music !" (Lindsay is a born musician.)

Saunders is firmly persuaded that even in Lindsay's most outre work, the great artist is pointing a moral. Saunders tells a story of a University Professor who once, in Saunders' presence, warned his students against the evil in a Lindsay drawing. When he had finished, Lindsay asked if, as a friend of the artist, he might be allowed to show the students what the artist really meant by the picture under discussion. When he had finished, the Professor apologised.

Norman has an only less distinguished brother, Lionel, whose name is no doubt familiar to some of my readers, but the whole family progeny of a wild Irishman and the daughter of a missionary are all more or less artistic in temperament.



A Chinese Doorway

The drawing shown here is of the ordinary newspaper type as regards subject, but indicates notwithstanding, something of the magic of line and grasp of character that permeates Lindsay's work.

In these days when so much is said and written about art and the facile amateur flourishes—and sells—it is useful to think of the lives of these two artists—the Japanese etcher and the Australian wizard with pen and pencil. Both—though in one case it was a very short one—devoted their lives to developing the gifts that the high gods vouchsafed.

To both, though in very different measure, came the joy of self-expression.

D.L.

THE SOUTH AFRICAN ACADEMY 1934

The S.A. Academy has come and gone ; its fifteenth show must now be weighed in the balance. What did the architects in their imagination set out to do ? What has been done ? Are we in art going up hill or down ? Is there ground for hope that the profession and the public are gaining thereby ?

The Mayor (Mr. Penry Roberts) opened with a speech which might be a plea for more of art in life as an aid to humanity. His approach to art is through music.

Hogarth, some two hundred years ago, said that too many pictures were being painted or were in existence.

The president of the Royal Academy, London, dilated on the over supply in terms of millions painted since Hogarth's time. The power of absorption would seem to have ceased. Sir William Llewellyn's speech dwe't on the plight of clever artists who paint in poverty with no one to buy their products. It ended with the detail of relief distributed by the Artists General Benevolent Institution of £10,069 during the year.

The Hon. John Collier (since dead) on the eve of his eighty-second birthday was congratulating himself on the fact that he had enjoyed his life, having been happy in marriage and the choice of a profession. At eighty-two he was still painting away happily.

There lie both sides of the profession.

Later, the artist confessed that he thought science had done more for the betterment of the world. If he had to live again that might be his choice. Probably this was due to failure to appreciate Modern Art, which, to him, was "a decaying thing."

The Architects Association, I think, might have expected greater help from the local Art Clubs and been justified ; but all Academies are thrown at.

The "Old Guard" and the "Revolutionists" are present in this fifteenth show, and there are "Wreckers" outside. Artists and schools should rally round this beginning of a good show and make it a better one. Let us drown jealousy, and control temperament.

There are painters who object to payment for space, and others who are above the jurisdiction of juries. Doubtless there are grievances. Better luck next time !

Going through the catalogue we first see Elsie Adams showing three little things—but her own. Her own vision of things set down however lamely. The same might be said of Dorothy Ashford. W. W. Battiss shows more sophisticated treatment and evidently derivative

Benjamin Brodie is surely over coarse for the scale of his work.

Nils Anderson pleases with his free use of the water colour medium ; his painting "Loteni" suggests something done without effort and a bit empty.

A. Savile Davis has four water colours wherein he gives us the pictured result of his holiday and of his mine environment.

Joy Krause's work is always welcome ; this year the supply is not enough ; she has broad treatment with good colour in her landscapes.

John Lawson has attained to brilliance in his garden ; it is a subject that would scare most of us into compromise.

Erich Mayer is reduced to a shack among the Mine Dumps for a subject. Where are his Boer Romances ?

A. A. Paterson exhibits three water colours. The fishing smack pleases best.

Wm. A. Stanford in "The Citadel, Jerusalem," breaks fresh ground.

Joyce Leonard submits compositions in wash and chalk, one in oil and a "nude." There is ability undoubtedly though her sense of colour is either under a cloud or wanting.

Mrs. Connon has four " doggy" portraits. I am not a judge of points but trust that they are all commissions.

Fewer works were accepted this year; possibly less were submitted.

I think the Exhibition is better shown ; less very doubtful exhibits.

There is a picture of two Zulu huts and a background of mountains.

The artist has gathered the threads of all the beautiful colour that experience and observation have shown him and woven them so as to fix an impression of a few glorious moments when sun is setting in mountain country.

Threads of red and gold and green haze that hangs blue and purple, valleys of shadow and mystery, lifting peaks that find the light, mountains that get lost in sky, and two near-by huts add a mind moved by the beauty of it all, a hand trained to obedience—and the thing is done.

It is a lesson from Alfred Palmer. This is but the expression of a preference on my part which finds no echo or is echoed by few. I hope that his impression may be floating still, and gain acceptance.

G. Canitz, if you go by what you hear, paints the truth about South Africa, and inspires a desire to buy a picture for reproduction as a calendar for Christmas ; for sending Home.

Before a work by A. Grieve you may hear—"Fine country for a holiday, good fishing there."

"After the Rains," by Tinus de Jongh "is full of freshness and charm"–it is a quotation from a morning paper and may be a printer's error. These three painters get the palm by virtue of subject matter. I do not mean to put them as equal, or like, or begrudge them the applause.

Aesthetic impulse (or a bright idea) has moved P. A. Hendricks to paint—"A native mother and her child." Possibly there is a desire for originality too. You turn from appearance, look inwards, produce art incomprehensible, and the result—can it be enjoyed ? But who wants to be a dull tame academic imitator of the obvious ? Why spoil a design for the sake of the naturalism of a neck or a shoulder when you can get rhythm by shoving it about a bit ? I feel that I am quoting and I cannot give my authority.

But why cramp your style ? In criticism there is no absolute and final truth.

Alfred Martin is another who would not mind, I think, being called a trifle revolutionary. In the call to arms, "Mayihlome," and in the hockey player he has full scope for impetuosity and skill. If you draw with " reverence and exactitude" from "Nature" you are dubbed "natural historian." It is not meant as a compliment. The expressive idiom is now to the fore. Is it hurry, or carelessness ? However, the academic may not now appeal to Mr. Martin, who shows versatility in his six works, figure and landscape. He has aroused interest, too, in his modelled work.

We welcome the Natal contingent, which includes Martin, Sharp, Oxley, Francois and Nils Anderson ; and regret the lack of sales which might pay expenses incidental to sending so far.

Hugo Naude has sent of his best. Namaqualand in spring must be a paradise when rains have fallen. The place is usually thought of as a desert. His picture of "Hermanus Harbour," I find impressive. There is a spirit moving, a sense of doom, figures and boats in sunlight, ominous sea and sky. The incoming boat and the corner of sea makes one wish for a few seascapes from him of "dirty weather." It would pay somebody to acquire this work, there is a lot for the money.

G. Powell-Jones is developing. He sends a varied exhibit of five oils. "Newlyn : Evening," realises a desire for something other

than technique (though it has what painters call "a nice feeling for paint"). You may call the appeal one of poetry or sentiment. Why should painters be shy of being styled old-fashioned? Nature is not commonplace; and the cult of ugliness is doomed. Matisse may be the great pattern-maker but as an idol he has a tendency to cause in his worshippers a loss of touch with humanity.

"Oom Kootje" is by W. H. Coetzer and has good colour. Has he worked too near to his model so that there is a feeling that the fingers dwarf the figure which seems in danger of disappearing? Or is it just fancy on my part?

Ruth Prowse treats us to a good low-toned study of "A country store." Would it have gained if a little more light had been let in at the open door?

Ch. Sachse is another who works in sombre richness. In certain effects that is as it should be but light in daylight effects of landscape must not be sacrificed.

C. Thornley Stewart has succeeded in a truthful study which he calls "Melrose."

W. Sharp, of Durban, sends something that was worth doing, entitled "Between Showers."

There are portraits by Monica Macivor, J. Leonard, Romola Russell, E. Roworth, Sydney Carter, W. H. Coetzer, J. Vice and A. E. Gyngell. And there is possibly as much difference in the quality of the work as in the status of the subjects. One could ask a heap of questions. Were the sitters satisfied? Did this man feel that he looked as shrewd as he felt? Was this woman satisfied with the shape of her neck or her shoulder? Is he really as alert looking as that? Could you not make me look a little more pleasant? Don't you think you have made we look a bit hard? I did not know that I looked so long! Is my nose so much out of drawing? And so on. The portrait painter must be a happy man when he can say in his might—"Take it home, you'll like it when you get it there." Happy, too, the man who gets all the sittings he wants. Sitters do look unhappy and may feel so. Relatives and friends can be terribly candid. The man who can paint but poorly insists on likeness; another who revels in paint and facility is liable to prefer brushwork; and there is the fellow who can persuade his sitter that she makes a pleasing pattern. I dare not criticise the portraits after what I have written.

Pretentious is not a nice word to apply, yet there is a tendency shown, and some shallow witted student may be tempted to stray in haste to be great without the trouble of growing up.

And what can be said of the "Black and White" section? Surely it should be stronger. The big men of the past and the present gained strength by such exercises.

D. J. Avery, of Rhodesia, has sent two etchings and a lino cut.

Henry E. Winder and W. W. Battiss send pen drawings.

Seymour F. Haden and W. H. Hall show etchings.

W. H. Coetzer has a drawing of a Creole girl—a portrait. A. E. Gyngell and Guss Friendly exhibit portraits. Possibly the latter has a vision, a method and an aesthetic impulse that is singular. Probably the only person capable of expounding capably is the artist himself, and he may disclaim any aesthetic impulse.

The section from students is a good one, but where is the work of the batch that emerged a year or two ago with diplomas from the Art School?

A.E.G.

THE CRAFT SECTION S.A. ACADEMY 1934

The Craft Section at this year's Academy Exhibition was not as large as usual and it is to be regretted that the work of several of the regular exhibitors was not included. The work of the School of Arts and Crafts may be particularly mentioned. The display of pottery by the students was most effective, one of the most charming pieces being a green incised vase made by Sheelah Smith. Another much admired piece in this Section was a copper Toilet Set by Mrs. Bryan.

Mr. Byde-Barnard's beautifully incised leather frame enclosing a picture of Queen Victoria was an excellent piece of work and was worthy of the admiration it received.

Mrs. Woodman-Goch exhibited an attractive poker work plaque entitled "The Kill."

Miss E. M. Pedersen's exhibits included a pair of carved book-ends with an elephant design and a well mounted stool, which set off to advantage her wool embroidered Protea.

The Table Top with a design of Disas, by Miss Smit, was a pleasing and well done piece of embroidery.

Mr. J. Rocchi exhibited an exquisite violin case made of six hundred and seventy-two pieces of various woods.

Included in Mrs. Whiteford's exhibits was an attractive oval tray with a sailing ship design.

Mrs. Einstein's well made gloves and Miss Joyce van der Reit's jewellery were much admired.

Miss Gwendoline Moore had a large exhibit of leather work, and her plaque "Zulu Woman" was one of the outstanding exhibits in the Craft Section.

Miss Greta Holtz had two charming boxes in Tempera and the Ceramic Studio, Olifantsfontein, again had a good show of their delightful work.

It is pleasing to note that the high standard of this section was maintained this year.

THE IDEAL HOME COMPETITIONS

The ideal home competitions which have recently been organised by the "Rand Daily Mail," in Johannesburg, and the "Rhodesia Herald," and "Bulawayo Chronicle," in Rhodesia, are very much to be commended and should do a great deal to make the public conscious of what their homes might be like.

The standard of domestic architecture in the Union of South Africa, for the average man is as bad, although perhaps not worse than that of any civilised country in the world, and the few, very few, small houses erected by competent architects in Johannesburg are great assets to our city. This is borne out by the fact that the well designed house rarely comes into the market but rather changes hands by private treaty and usually at increased value in nearly every case.

It is encouraging to see that the younger generation of architects has done so well in these competitions. The authors of the winning design in the Rhodesian competition, which we illustrate in this issue, were Messrs. W. D'Arcy Cathcart and J. P. Nelson. Mr. Cathcart was trained at the A.A. School in London and is an Associate R.I.B.A. He won the competition for the Municipal Offices, Salisbury, recently. Mr. Nelson was trained in Johannesburg at the University of the Witwatersrand and in the office of Messrs. F. Emley and Williamson.

In the Johannesburg competition the premiated designs were by Mr. Douglas Cowin, first, Mr. W. Gordon McIntosh, second, and Mr. Kenneth Mackenzie, third.

All three competitors were University trained men. Messrs. Cowin and Mackenzie have obtained the degree of B.Arch., at Liverpool University, and Mr. McIntosh, the degree in architecture at the University of the Witwatersrand. Their designs, as well as those which were commended show a high standard of proficiency and considerable ingenuity in solving a problem which was none too easy. The assessors were unanimous in their decision and in their report state :—

In assessing the competition the jury laid particular stress on the following points :—

(1) Good light and ventilation throughout.

(2) Correct placing of rooms in regard to aspect. Bedrooms and bathroom facing east and north, kitchen and pantry south or east, living rooms north.

(3) Avoidance of long dark unventilated corridors.

(4) Garage conveniently arranged with covered access to the house : and outbuildings suitably planned round a kitchen court.

(5) Direct access from the bedrooms to the kitchen without traversing living or dining room.

(6) The arrangement of the furniture and fittings and general design of the individual rooms.

(7) Privacy of the bedrooms.

(8) The design of the kitchen to avoid the smell of the cooking permeating the house.

The type of design or style did not influence the assessors. They were more concerned with obtaining an ideal plan which would function well in every respect : but at the same time they were anxious to select designs which would be interesting and attractive in appearance.

It has been decided not to exhibit the drawings until the winning design has been erected in the Show Grounds in connection with the "Rand Daily Mail" Ideal Homes Exhibition in September.

This exhibition which is being organised in aid of the "Mail" Xmas Fund, will fill a long felt want and should create great public interest.

Messrs. Kallenbach, Kennedy and Furner, have been appointed as exhibition architects and Mr. Harold Porter as landscape architect.

The "Rhodesia Herald" and "Bulawayo Chronicle" offered prizes of one hundred guineas and fifty guineas to architects for designs of houses which can be built at a cost of £1,000. The Salisbury Municipality has set aside an area on the Gatooma Road where houses of this type are considered to be particularly suitable, and designs, in some respects, had to be based on this fact.

The report of the assessor, Major Michael Waterhouse, M.C., F.R.I.B.A., is now available and is printed below.

The awards were made to :—

(1) Messrs. Cathcart and Nelson, of Bulawayo ;

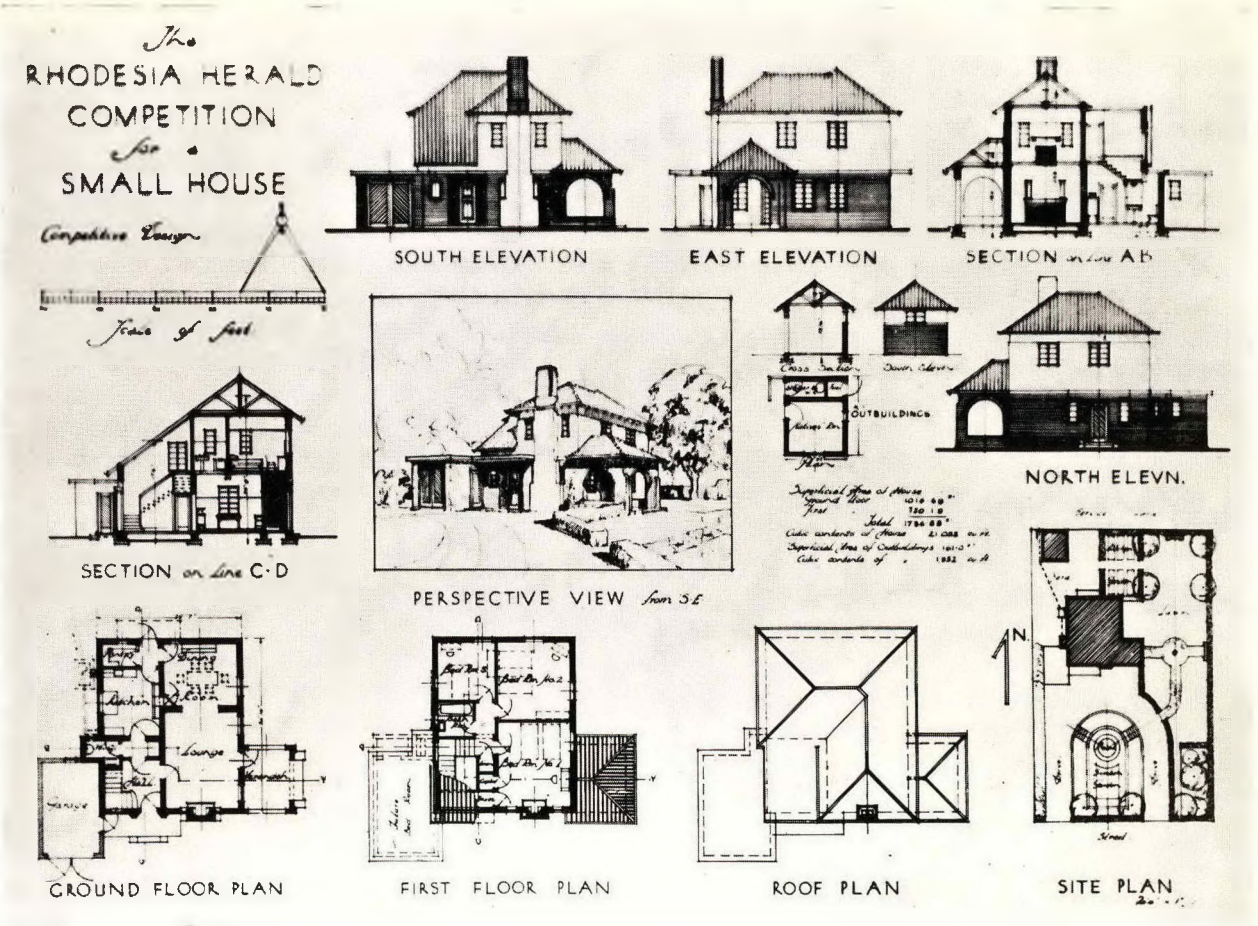
(2) Messrs. McGillivray, Son and Pallett, of Salisbury ;

while the design of Messrs. Robertson and Whiteside was highly commended.

The opinion is expressed by the Assessor that a public service has been done by the competition which "will disclose to many in Rhodesia a hitherto concealed wealth of architectural talent."

Generally the designs submitted were of such a high order of excellence that the task of the Assessor was one of great difficulty. Nor was it made easier by the great variety of solutions to the problem.

These points, however, are matters of sincere congratulation to the architectural profession of Rhodesia and should be warmly appreciated both by the general public and potential building owners. It will be of the greatest interest to them to see at the public exhibitions of the drawings the wide variety of treatment and the many excellent ways in which £1,000 can be expended on a house ; and according to the variety of different tastes and requirements of different clients the architectural profession as a whole should benefit by this demonstration of their skill.



First Premiated Design

Cathcart and Nelson

The Assessor would have liked to have had at his disposal funds for awarding further premiums to several designs, but he is consoled by the thought that those premiums given by the Rhodesian Herald and the Bulawayo Chronicle will not be the only rewards, and that undoubtedly many designs worthy of recognition will receive their well-deserved reward by attracting work and clients to their authors.

The main features looked for by the Assessor as complements to the requirements of economy, efficiency, comfort, and suitability, stated on the conditions, will be discussed and exemplified in the criticism of the winning design.

In connection with the detailed report on the various designs it must be borne in mind that owing to their general excellence, the Assessor, in order to arrive at any elimination, was compelled to search for possible defects to the minutest degree from every angle of criticism.

In arriving at general conclusions on the designs after he had gone through them it seemed obvious that those which provided in the first instance, three bedrooms would give to the ordinary family greater satisfaction and greater value for money, so long as this result was obtained by clever planning and was not gained at the expense of either greater cost, loss of comfort, or undue reduction of the size of rooms. Of the nineteen designs submitted, ten achieved three bedrooms, and two others two bedrooms with extra sleeping porch.

It is particularly noticeable that the maximum accommodation was attained by all the two-storeyed designs submitted.

It was stated as one of the unbinding suggestive conditions that probably a one-storied building would be most suitable but competitors were instructed to use any method by which they could best obtain the general object of the competition—so long as the binding conditions were adhered to—and further were allowed to send in two designs each.

The winning design by Messrs. Cathcart and Nelson, Bulawayo, has outstanding merits which place it in a class by itself. The two-storied building is of extremely attractive appearance and would look almost equally well without the garage (which although shown in the drawing is not included in the cost). By skilful treatment it avoids any appearance of undue height. It has the usual advantage of a two-storied building of additional security for women-folk and the facilities for better natural ventilation. In addition it has the advantage of occupying less space on the site than a single storey, an advantage that has been used to the full by the designer.

This question of siteing is of primary importance especially on a restricted area and the winning design has made better and more attractive use of the ground available than any other competitor. The house, set well back from the road, is approached by a drive that wastes no space and encloses a pleasant sunken garden. The garage, set forward as part of the house, entails no wasteful road to the back of the site, it is easily approached by cars and connects under cover with the house. The garden is laid out to make the utmost use of the space available in the most pleasant way and the native quarters excellently concealed.

The living rooms are so placed that the occupants can enjoy to the full their own garden—instead of having to look over a dreary drive, the public road, a sanitary lane, or their neighbour's fence ; a series of faults which, though avoided by most competitors—are often a drawback to many plans.

The plan is readily adaptable for any aspect and capable of adjustment to different orientations of site.

The general planning is extremely ingenious and the authors are to be congratulated. It shows how real skill and knowledge can evolve a plan in which the staircase of a two-storied house can be made to occupy less cubic contents than the average corridor of a single storied building.

The verandah is well situated as a pleasant and useful feature. It avoids the fault generally so common in Southern Rhodesia of the verandah being nothing more than a glorified, useless and extravagant porch which is uncomfortable to sit in and where the owner of the house is at the mercy of any callers who come to the front door ; and is so often the case with a verandah which leads directly into the main sitting room as the only entry to a house. In this connection also the separate front door entry as in this design, is a refinement of planning the comfort of which, though comparatively rare in the past in Rhodesia, should not be lightly dispensed with.

The living rooms, both of good size, are comfortable and attractive ; the fireplace well situated. The dining-room separated by sliding doors which disappear into the wing walls has a well designed serving hatch. The kitchen and pantry are well isolated from the house both as regards noise and smell of cooking—both vital essentials in this country. Access can be obtained by the housewife to the pantry without passing through the kitchen, another important feature, especially if there is no store-room.

On both floors there is a good natural ventilation. Upstairs are three good bedrooms which both individually and in the aggregate are very much above the average size obtained by most competitors. The bedrooms all "furnish" well with well-placed windows and doors—a most important point.

A good linen cupboard is conveniently situated and the bathroom would be capable of taking a second w.c. if required. The drainage is economical and well concealed.

One built-in cupboard is provided where it fits conveniently in the plan and the authors have wisely been content with this rather than reduce floor area to contrive others where they are not obviously dictated by the plan.

As shown on the alternative elevation a sleeping porch can easily and cheaply be added at any time over the verandah and a fourth bedroom over the garage. Thus not

only does the house provide the maximum of accommodation in the first instance but it is capable of more economical expansion than any other design.

It is economical and labour-saving to run and maintain and combines to a remarkable degree the qualifications for a Winning Design.

The Assessor would like to record his appreciation of the public service done to the community by the "Rhodesia Herald" and "Bulawayo Chronicle" in promoting this competition. He is certain that it will disclose to many in Rhodesia a hitherto concealed wealth of architectural talent.

Reprinted from the "Bulawayo Chronicle," April 26th 1934.

O B I T U A R Y

Howard Pim

Art in South Africa has sustained a very real loss in the death of J. Howard Pim. Few people in South Africa and certainly on the Rand possess his keen interest in art and artists, and the driving power that was such an asset in the various schemes that he initiated or supported with the object of advancing what was a life-long interest. Sometimes, perhaps, a soft heart and impulsive nature made him kinder to the student or artist than the work or talent actually deserved. But that is a pleasant and not too common failing in a censorious world.

Apart from the fact that he started the fine collection of prints, that he has now left to the Johannesburg Art Gallery, some forty years ago, he was generally to be seen at any picture exhibition of interest. I remember, too, meeting him several times in that corner of a bookshop where J. H. Wenning used to be the centre of a little coterie of people interested in such matters, now, alas, over twenty years ago. The name of Howard Pim also appears on the committee that started the first official art classes in Johannesburg, which Lady Phillips initiated and which were held in those days in the Old Public Library Building. From that time, no art movement in Johannesburg was complete unless Howard Pim was in it.

As Chairman of the selection committee, he took a prominent part in the making of additions to the fine nucleus of pictures and statuary that Sir Hugh Lane procured for the Johannesburg Art Gallery. In other directions, the administration of the Art Gallery and in making it accessible to and popular with the public, he spared no effort and spent much valuable time and energy.

In recent years, his interest in native problems tended to overshadow his other interests, a keen sense of justice and a downright and sincere viewpoint making him a keen protagonist of any cause he took up. Natives in Johannesburg have reason to hold his name in grateful memory, if only because he was one of the first of Johannesburg's prominent citizens to realise the importance of usefully employing the native's energies and giving him helpful and healthy occupation in his spare hours.

To go back to Howard Pim's art interest for a moment. One of the afternoons I shall always remember with pleasure was spent at his house going over some of the prints that gave him and many other people so much pleasure. At that particular period, he had suspended a long continued practice of loaning selected examples of his prints to the gallery for a few weeks at a time, and I remember telling him how I hoped he would resume it as his doing so had given pleasure to many people who visited the gallery. I know he was pleased to think that his kindly impulse had not gone unappreciated.

That afternoon, as well as on other occasions, I could not help being struck by the way in which he handled his prints. Genuine booklovers do the same with books. There is a sort of je ne sais quoi, as the French say, about it that is only met with when the collector collects for love and not because he

thinks it is the proper thing to do. A subtle but very real difference.

In regard to Howard Pim, the man, I know little. But this I do know. Beneath a manner that concealed considerable sensitiveness, there was a very real and sincere human sympathy that showed itself in unsuspected ways and in quiet places. Only the other day, a young artist said to me, "once Mr. Pim asked me to go and see him. When I did so, he handed me a beautiful book on a subject in which he knew I was interested." "I thought you might like this," he said. He would do similar things to many others.

The art impulse here and Johannesburg generally are the poorer by his death just because he was so single-hearted and so human.

We could well do with more men of Howard Pim's calibre.

J. Waterson.

Johannesburg lost one of its oldest architects on the 11th May, when the death occurred of Mr. John Waterson, F.R.I.B.A., at the age of sixty-nine. Born in Dulwich, London, Mr. Waterson came to South Africa at the age of twenty-four and practised as an architect in Durban.

In 1892 he came to Johannesburg and opened an office in Victoria Buildings, and subsequently practised in partnership with Mr. Veale, as Waterson and Veale, for many years.

In 1906 Mr. Waterson was elected a Fellow of the Royal Institute of British Architects and on the formation of the Association of Transvaal Architects under the Private Act of 1909, he became a member.

As one of the oldest members of the profession in Johannesburg, Mr. Waterson was looked upon with affection and respect by all the younger architests and was always ready to lend assistance to the inexperienced.

Mr. Waterson was one of the earliest members of the Rand Club and recently supervised the work of certain internal structural alterations to the building of this club.

There are innumerable monuments to Mr. Waterson's memory in the many buildings in the city for which he or his firm were responsible, among which are Westcliffe Flats, Norwich Union Building, Fox Street ; Park Gate Mansions, King George Street ; St. Aidan's Church, Yeoville ; Messrs. Randles Bro. and Hudson's building at the corner of Von Brandis and Market Streets; the warehouse of Messrs. J. W. Jagger and Co., in President Street. The old Fire Station in Von Brandis Street is the work of Mr. Waterson.

In addition to the many large buildings he designed, Mr. Waterson had a large domestic practice and designed a great number of residences in all parts of the city.

Mr. Waterson is survived by his wife, Mrs. Louise Waterson, a son, Mr. S. F. Waterson, member of Parliament for South Peninsula, Cape Province, and a daughter Mrs. E. D. Wackrill, the wife of Mr. E. D. Wackrill, of the firm of Roberts, Allsworth, Cooper Brothers and Company, accountants in the city.

Mr. Waterson's youngest son, Malcolm was drowned in the Galway Castle when, as a hospital ship, she was torpedoed during the Great War.

At the time of his death Mr. Waterson was engaged on the plans of the new building being erected by the Central News Agency, Ltd., at the corner of Rissik and Commissioner Streets, Johannesburg.

J. N. Davie.

The death occurred on the 7th May of Mr. J. Nicoll Davie, an old member of the Institute. Since April, 1909, the late Mr. Davie was employed with the Union Telephone Department and was registered as a retired member of the Institute.

Minutes of Seventh Annual General Meeting, held in the Committee Room, Master Builders' Hall, Johannesburg, on Saturday, March 10th, 1934, at 10.30 a.m.

Present :—Mr. J. W. Cowling (President), in the Chair, Mr. R. J. C. Prentice (Senior Vice-President), Professor H. Bell-John, Messrs. A. A. Bjorkman, C. L. F. Borckenhagen, N. T. Cowin, John A. Cowling, D. Duncan, E. B. Farrow, Dr. E. J. Hamlin, Messrs. R. Harrison, Frank Hickman, R. Howden, G. E. Howgrave-Graham, D. J. Laing, A. J. Lane, R. J. Law, W. A. McKechnie, Dudley S. Mann, T. Moore, Lt.-Col. W. E. Puntis, Messrs. John Roos, P. M. Roos, W. Selkirk, J. P. Smyth, A. W. Springthorpe, and J. S. Lewis (Secretary).

Student :—Mr. H. M. Goodwin.

NOTICE CONVENING MEETING.

The notice convening the meeting, dated January 26th, 1934, was taken as read.

ATTENDANCE REGISTER.

All members present signed the attendance register.

WELCOME TO MEMBERS.

The President extended a cordial welcome to members present, with especial reference to Mr. D. Duncan, formerly of Nairobi, and to Mr. H. M. Goodwin (Degree Student).

APPOINTMENT OF SCRUTINEERS.

It was agreed unanimously that Mr. Dudley S. Mann, Mr. Roger Harrison and Mr. E. B. Farrow, be appointed scrutineers.

re VISIT OF H.R.H. PRINCE GEORGE.

It was agreed unanimously that, as the official welcome to H.R.H. Prince George had begun at 10 a.m., the meeting should continue forthwith, and not adjourn.

re MR. A. T. BABBS.

It was agreed unanimously, on the proposition of Mr. Moore, seconded by Col. Puntis, that a telegram be despatched to Mr. A. T. Babbs, at Cape Town, conveying the Annual General Meeting's sympathy in the loss of his father.

MINUTES OF SIXTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

It was agreed unanimously, on the proposition of Mr. Cowin seconded by Mr. Mann, that the minutes of the Sixth Annual General Meeting of the Chapter, duly circulated, be taken as read and confirmed.

No discussion arose out of the minutes.

ELECTION OF 1934-35 BOARD.

(a) The Secretary, in reply to Mr. D. S. Mann (Scrutineer), stated that the ballot envelopes submitted by those members of the Chapter who had paid their subscriptions, had been placed on one side. In addition, seven ballot envelopes had been received from members who had not paid their subscriptions. The President, in the presence of the meeting, opened the seven envelopes referred to, in two of which cheques were found. These two envelopes were added to the list of those which were "valid," the remaining five being destroyed. Moreover, one ballot envelope, which contained neither cheque nor signature was also destroyed.

(b) The scrutineers then retired, and duly reported that the following twelve members had been elected :—A. T. Babbs, W. E. Puntis, R. J. C. Prentice, J. W. Cowling, R. Howden, D. J. Laing, E. J. Hamlin, T. Moore, H. Bell-John, F. D. Hickman, C. L. F. Borckenhagen, J. E. McEnanem.

(c) The President declared the above-mentioned 12 members duly elected as the 1934-1935 Board.

VOTE OF THANKS TO SCRUTINEERS.

The meeting, on the proposition of Mr. Moore, passed a hearty vote of thanks to the scrutineers for their assistance.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT.

The Report of the Retiring President (Mr. J. W. Cowling) was taken as read. On the proposition of Mr. Moore, seconded by Mr. Roger Harrison, the meeting accorded the President a hearty vote of thanks for his Report.

BOARD'S REPORT.

Mr. Borckenhagen proposed, and Mr. Laing seconded, the adoption of the Board's Report.

(i) re Students' Prizes.—Professor Bell-John pointed out that the reference to the winners of the two Book Prizes (vide page three of the Board's Report) related to the year 1932, and that the award of the Book Prizes for 1933 had not yet been made. For the year 1932 the winner of the Chapter's Gold Medal was Mr. A. R. D. McIntosh.

(ii) re Chapter's Finances.—Mr. D. S. Mann referred to paragraph (iii) on page four of

the Board's Report, and asked the Secretary to detail the item of £289 15s. 0d. shown as 1933 subscriptions received from "Practising Members" during 1933.

The Secretary replied that, in round figures, the details were as follows :—

Received from "Dual Practising" Members. £150.

Received from "Solely Practising" Members, £139.

(iii) Appointment of Inspectors to Attend Quantity Surveying Examinations.

Mr. N. T. Cowin asked for further information in regard to the appointment of Inspectors to attend Quantity Surveying Examinations.

The President replied that the Inspectors referred to were not invigilators. They were appointed by the Standing Committee on Education and Examinations, and reported to the Standing Committee on the subjects of the examination and on the conduct of the examination.

Mr. Moore, as a member of the Standing Committee, expressed that Committee's appreciation of the Report submitted by Messrs. Cowling and Prentice, the two inspectors in respect of Quantity Surveying Examinations.

Mr. Howden, as Chairman of the Standing Committee, said that the suggestion to appoint Inspectors to attend Examinations in Architecture and Quantity Surveying was made by the Principal of the University of the Witwatersrand at a meeting of the Standing Committee. The underlying idea was to co-ordinate, as far as posible, the views of the profession on the one hand, and the educational and examining bodies on the other.

The President added that the Report submitted by the Quantity Surveying Inspectors to the Standing Committee would in due course be referred to the Board of the Chapter, and would therefore be referred to the Board's minutes.

The Secretary pointed out that the three Examining Authorities appointed in terms of the Act (viz., the Universities of Cape Town, Pretoria and the Witwatersrand) used to function jointly, but now acted separately and independently. For that reason it was felt by the Universities themselves that they should keep in the closest possible touch with the Professions, so as to co-ordinate the standard of education and examinations in South Africa.

(iv) Votes of Thanks.

(a) To Secretary :—The President, referring to the concluding paragraph of the Board's Report, asked the Annual General Meeting to record its appreciation of the work done by the Secretary during the year. Agreed.

(b) To Mr. T. Moore :—The meeting, on the proposition of the President, recorded its appreciation of the action of Mr. Moore in placing his office at the disposal of the Board, continuously during the year, for its meetings.

(c) To Mr. A. T. Babbs :—The meeting, on the proposition of the President, passed a hearty vote of thanks to Mr. Babbs for his services during the year, and for his very generous donation to the Chapter of the sum of £21, the amount due to him in respect of travelling expenses in connection with Board Meetings.

(d) To Mr. J. E. McEnanem :—The meeting, on the proposition of the President, passed a hearty vote of thanks to Mr. J. E. McEnanem, of Durban, for his generous donation of the sum of £4 5s. 0d. towards the cost of the Chapter's Gold Medal.

(e) To the Witwatersrand M.B.A.:—It was agreed, on the proposition of the President, to write a letter of appreciation to the Witwatersrand M.B.A. for its kindly action in placing its Committee Room at the disposal of the Chapter for its Annual General Meeting.

(f) Chapter's Delegates to Provincial Finance Commission :—On the proposition of Col. Puntis, the meeting expressed its gratitude to Mr. A. T. Babbs, and Mr. T. Moore for their excellent work on behalf of the Chapter in giving evidence before the Provincial Finance Commission.

(g) To Members of the Board :—The meeting, at the instance of Mr. Dudley S. Mann, expressed its very great appreciation of the work done by the Members of the Board during the year 1933-1934.

(h) To the Retiring President :—Mr. R. Howden said he had had the pleasure of proposing a vote of thanks to the Retiring President, on behalf of the Board ; he now wished to do so on behalf of the Chapter generally. Mr. Howden added that no previous President

of the Chapter had done more in the interests of the Chapter, during his term of office, than Mr. Cowling.

Col. Puntis seconded the proposition, which was carried with acclamation.

LIST OF LEADING STUDENTS, 1933.

(i) The President announced that he had just received the following information from the University of Pretoria, giving the names of the Quantity Surveying Students who had attained the highest marks in their respective years' examinations :

"Degree I.—No recommendation can be made.
Degree II.—I. E. Hope-Jones.
Degree III.—H. M. Goodwin.
Degree IV.—No candidates.
Degree V.—T. H. Louw.
Diploma I.—R. M. Kennedy.
Diploma II.—B. F. D. Wood.
Diploma III.—(for Four Year Course) : J. W. M. Clark, and L. Dornonville de la Cour.
Diploma III.—(Three Year Course) : B. A. Barker.

(ii) Discussion re Non-Award of Chapter's Gold Medal, 1933.

The President stated that, although the Chapter's Gold Medal for the year 1933 had not been awarded (in that seventy per cent. of marks had not been attained), the position was being reconsidered by the Board in view of the fact that the first Degree in Quantity Surveying had been conferred during the year, and that the student concerned had been awarded "Honours," which meant attaining sixty-six per cent. or over, of marks.

Dr. Hamlin said that, as an Examiner who knew what was expected of a student, he wished to move that the Board award the Gold Medal for 1933 to the Degree Student who had obtained "Honours." In his view the fact that a student had been awarded an "Honours" Degree by a University was of more importance than fixing on an arbitrary figure of "seventy per cent."

The Secretary pointed out that the figure of seventy per cent. had been laid down by a previous Annual General Meeting of the Chapter as the minimum required before the Chapter's Gold Medal could be awarded.

Mr. Moore pointed out that, at the time the "seventy per cent." resolution was adopted by the Annual General Meeting, there was no Degree Course in Quantity Surveying. He therefore moved : "(i) That this Annual General Meeting rescind the "seventy per cent." resolution ; and (ii) that the percentage of marks required to obtain an "Honours" Degree replace the figure of seventy per cent."

Mr. C. L. F. Borkenhagen seconded Mr. Moore's proposition.

Mr. P. M. Roos agreed that it was necessary to withdraw the previous resolution fixing the minimum number of marks required for the Gold Medal at seventy per cent. As the member who had moved the "seventy per cent." resolution, he now wished to propose that that resolution be withdrawn, and that the figure be fixed at sixty-six per cent.

Col. Puntis said he wished to propose that the previous resolution be allowed to stand ; but that, where a Degree Student passes with Honours, he shall be awarded the Gold Medal ; if more than one Degree Student obtained "Honours," then the Gold Medal to be awarded to the Degree Student obtaining the highest number of marks.

Mr. D. J. Laing suggested that the matter be left to the incoming Board. A Sub-Committee of the Board had gone into the whole position, and when the matter came before the new Board, it would be guided by the discussion at this Annual General Meeting.

Mr. Dudley S. Mann, who said he also spoke as an Examiner in Quantity Surveying, deprecated any attempt at reducing the standard of work expected from students. In his opinion the figure of seventy per cent. referred to was not high enough.

Dr. Hamlin said that, although he sympathised with the views expressed by Mr. Mann, he felt that the Chapter should be guided by the standard laid down by the Universities.

The President said that in his view it would be invidious to grant the Gold Medal to a Degree Student at a lower level than that required of a Diploma Student. The President added that in his opinion the standard of the Degree Course should be improved ; this was a matter which would be considered in the near future when the Inspectors met the University Examiners.

Mr. Borckenhagen expressed the view that the standard of examinations could be raised without in any way affecting the granting of the Gold Medal. He agreed with Dr. Ham-

lin that if a student was awarded an "Honours" Degree by a University, that student should also be awarded the Chapter's Gold Medal.

Mr. R. J. C. Prentice proposed that, in view of the fact that the conditions had changed materially since the "seventy per cent." resolution was passed, this Annual General Meeting rescind that said resolution, and recommend to the incoming Board to review the conditions under which the Chapter's Gold Medal is awarded.

In reply to the President, Professor Bell-John said no "Honours" marks were awarded to Diploma Students in Quantity Surveying. Professor Bell-John counselled the meeting to hesitate before reducing the percentage of marks required for the Gold Medal.

Mr. Laing asked for the President's ruling as to whether it was necessary to rescind the previous resolution referred to.

The President ruled that, as the previous resolution did not deal with the position of Degree Students (in that there was then no Degree in existence), it was not necessary to rescind that resolution so far as a Degree Student was concerned.

(iii) Voting on Resolution and Amendments.

Because of the number of propositions and counter-propositions, it was agreed that the following resolution and two amendments crystallised the discussion :

(a) Resolution (Proposed by Col. Puntis, seconded by Mr. D. J. Laing) :

"That the issue of the Gold Medal and Prizes be referred to the incoming Board, with the recommendation from the Annual General Meeting that the case of the first holder of the Degree in Quantity Surveying be reconsidered, on the point of the award to him of the 1933 Gold Medal, in view of the fact that he has been awarded ' Honours ' by the University of Pretoria."

(b) First Amendment (Proposed by Mr. Dudley S. Mann, seconded by Mr. J. P. Smyth) :

"That this Annual General Meeting recommends to the incoming Board that the standard for the award of the Chapter's Gold Medal shall not be lower than that already required of Diploma Students, namely, seventy per cent."

(c) Second Amendment (Proposed by Mr. P. M. Roos, seconded by Mr. W. A. McKechnie):

"That this Annual General Meeting recommends to the incoming Board that, where a University awards "Honours" to a Degree Student in Quantity Surveying, such student shall be awarded the Gold Medal ; if more than one Degree Student be awarded ' Honours,' then the Gold Medal be allocated to the Degree Student obtaining the highest number of marks."

On being put to the vote, the First Amendment was defeated (seven votes for ; twelve against).

On being put to the vote, the Second Amendment was carried (fourteen votes for ; six against).

On being put to the vote, the resolution embodying the second amendment was carried nem. con.

re FINANCIAL STATEMENTS.

Dr. Hamlin proposed, and Mr. Roger Harrison seconded, the adoption of the Balance Sheet and Revenue and Expenditure Account.

There being no discussion thereon, the proposition was put to the vote and carried.

APPOINTMENT OF AUDITORS FOR 1934.

Mr. D. J. Laing proposed, and Mr. C. L. F. Borckenhagen seconded, that Messrs. Aiken and Carter be re-appointed auditors for the year 1934, and that their remuneration be left to the Board. Agreed.

OTHER BUSINESS.

(i) re Fees for Transvaal Provincial Quantity Surveying Work.

In reply to Mr. E. B. Farrow, the Secretary stated that the question of the fees payable in respect of Transvaal Provincial Quantity Surveying Work had been referred to a Sub-Committee of the Board during the year under review, but finality had not yet been reached.

(ii) re Johannesburg Municipal Architects taking out Quantities.

Mr. J. P. Smyth drew attention to advertisements issued by the Johannesburg Municipality seeking architectural assistants who must be capable of taking out Quantities for Jobs £2,000 to £2,500 in value. He felt the position should be clarified : were such architectural assistants themselves required to prepare the Quantities, in such cases ? He moved that it be a recommendation to the incoming Board to investigate this matter.

Dr. Hamlin pointed out that Johannesburg was one of the few Municipalities that had instituted a panel of Quantity Surveying practitioners for the giving out of the "Quantities" in respect of its larger projects. Certain architectural assistants employed by the Johannesburg Municipality were also taking the course in Quantity Surveying; it was desired that the Quantities for the Municipality's smaller works be done departmentally by those who were qualified.

The President said that the Board had already considered the question, and had given a ruling thereon, as to what was required of a student who completed his Architectural Course and who thereafter wished to become a Quantity Surveyor.

It was agreed that this matter be considered by the incoming Board.

The meeting terminated at 1 p.m.

PROFESSIONAL NOTES AND NEWS

Architectural Competitions.

(1) New Town Hall, Benoni, Transvaal.

The Central Council wishes to draw attention to an Architectural Competition for designs for a proposed New Town Hall, Benoni, Transvaal. The estimated cost of the proposed building is approximately £25,000.

A copy of the Conditions of Competition may be obtained by intending competitors from the Town Clerk, Benoni, on payment of a deposit of one guinea.

Competitors' questions are to reach the Town Clerk, Benoni, not later than May 30th, 1934. Designs are to be delivered on or before August 30th, 1934.

(2) New Magistrates' Courts and Government Offices, Johannesburg.

The Central Council wishes to draw attention to an Architectural Competition for designs for proposed New Magistrates' Courts and Government Offices, Johannesburg. The estimated cost of the proposed building is £315,000.

A copy of the Conditions of Competition may be obtained by intending competitors from the Secretary for Public Works, New Government Offices, Vermeulen Street, Pretoria, on payment of a deposit of two guineas.

Competitors' questions are to reach the Secretary for Public Works, Pretoria, not later than May 30th, 1934. Designs are to be delivered not later than July 30th, 1934.

The Hon. Editor,

"South African Architectural Record."

Sir,

The letter signed "H.R.S." in the last issue of the "S.A. Architectural Record," gives vent to a state of affairs that is fast becoming a scandal, and one may ask, What about the Act ?

Alas ! the Act is a wash out.

The scale of fees laid down in the Regulations is, I am afraid seldom observed and, as far as I can gather, the scale is "Ultra Vires," as architects and clients can contract outside such.

The Act should be amended on the lines of the Wages Act, so that it would be a criminal offence for a client to pay less than a reasonable fee, and likewise a criminal offence for an architect to accept such unreasonable fee. I doubt, however, that even if this could be brought about, it would completely put a stop to the practices stated in H.R.S.'s letter as, without doubt, some of the members of the parsimonious building public, who H.R.S. refers to as "gentlemen," would find a method of getting plans on the cheap.

I wish R.H.S. had been explicit re his mention of "the species of gentlemen that is fast becoming notorious."

D.A.McC.

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