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1918

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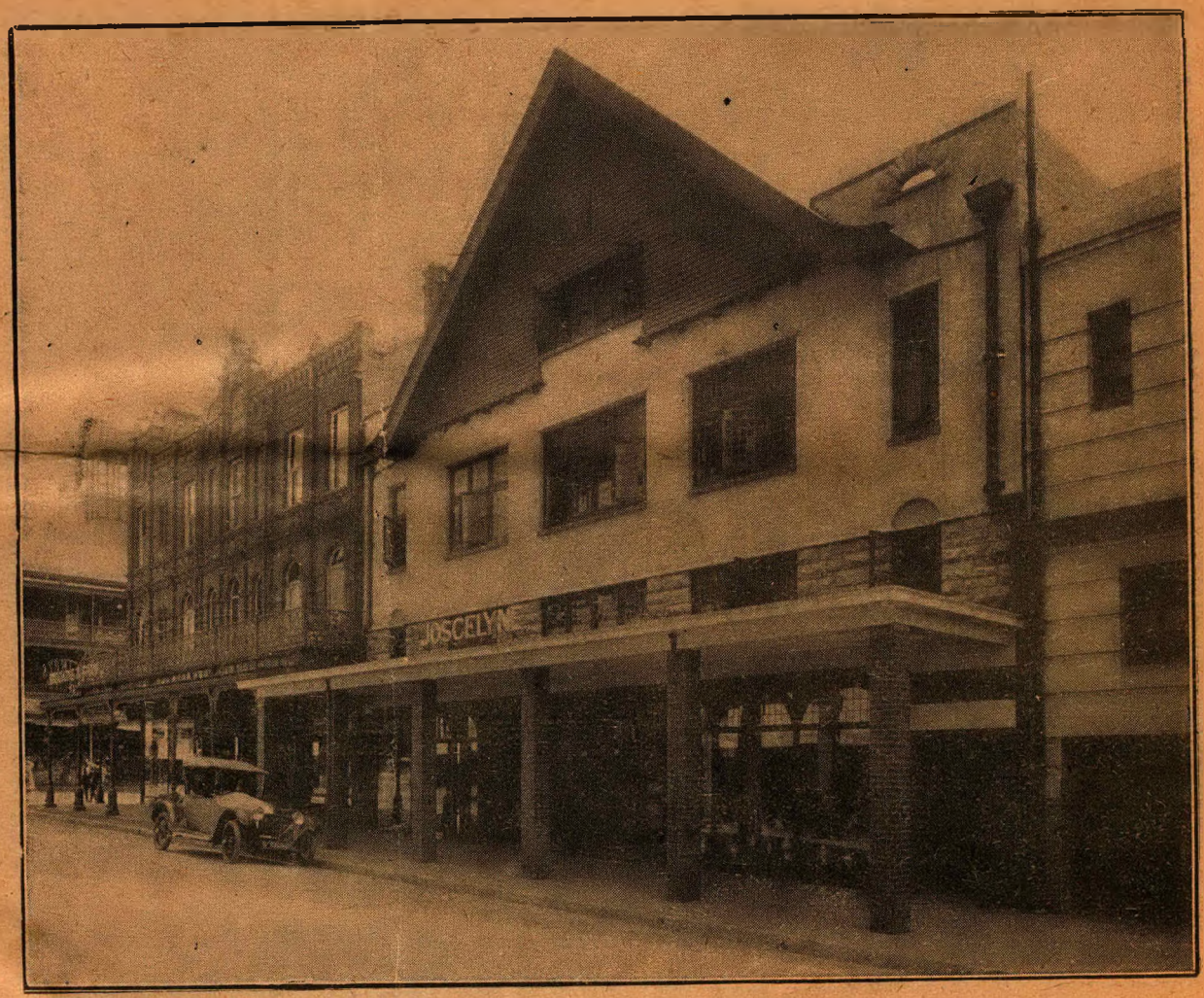
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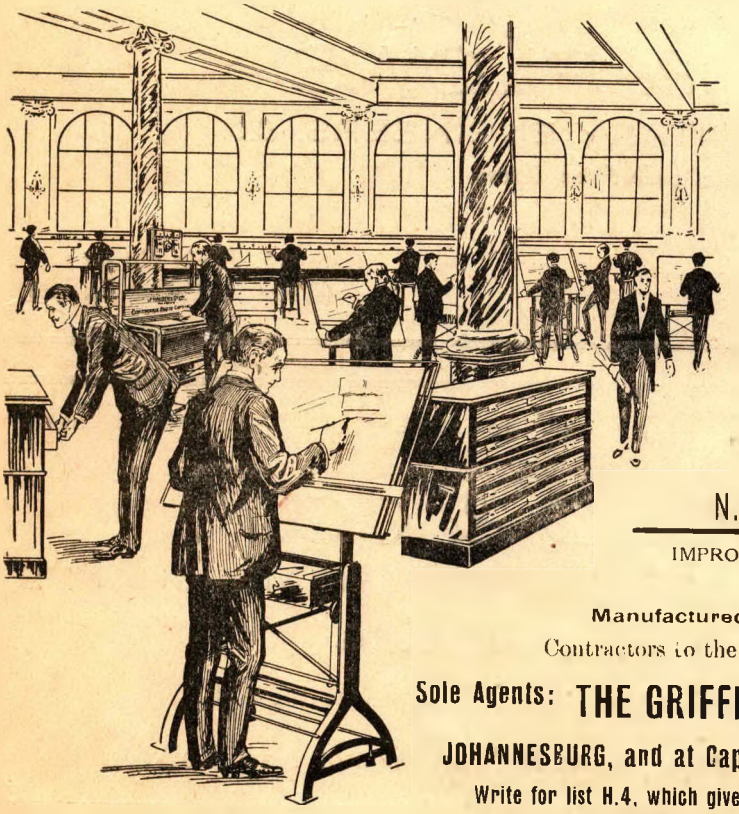
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No. 9. Vol. III. MARCH, 1918. [ISSUED QUARTERLY] Price 1/-

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ASSOCIATION OF TRANSVAAL ARCHITECTS.

ANNUAL MEETING.

A goodly company of architects faced the genial presence of the retiring President, Mr. McCubbin, at the annual meeting on the 23rd February, in the Exploration Buildings, Johannesburg.

The minutes of the previous meeting were pleasantly adopted after being taken as read, *nem. con.*

With such a cheery promise the meeting went along with a fine swing, and soon got well before the wind with its business, all superfluous deck hamper being thrown overboard, so as to get as much way on as possible and get the voyage over.

The passing of Lt.-Col. Geo. A. Hamilton Dickson was mentioned, all members standing to express their esteem for a soldierly confrère.

The annual report, appearing in another column, was adopted, everything being to all appearances so satisfactory that, beyond some commendatory references by Mr. Cowin, the passing of the report was carried through, as it were, with all flags flying. Mr. Cowin, however, pointed out the uncomrade-like conduct of some members who went in for competitions blacklisted on account of unfair conditions.

Mr. F. L. H. Fleming moved that a Committee be appointed by the incoming Council, including persons outside the profession, to act in regard to art and education on general questions affecting the public side of architecture and art. He referred to the number of people outside the ranks of the profession who could help to a larger appreciation of such questions.

With cordial support from other persons, his motion was carried through with acclamation.

The President now rose, and with a face beaming with friendly good cheer, said: "Well, gentlemen, the next item on the agenda is the solo performance" (applause), and then followed the retiring address from the chair.

THE PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS.

I do not think that anyone at this meeting will disagree with my assertion that the most absorbing topic of thought and conversation of the present time is the progress of the momentous struggle now being waged in France and Flanders. I venture therefore to depart from the usual custom of reading an address upon some particular subject of professional interest and will endeavour to vizualise my thoughts upon the future with reference to the profession of architecture, and the influence that this great War may have upon it; conceiving always that victory will be definitely upon the side of Great Britain and her Allies, because victory for our enemies would mean, I believe, utter disaster for the advancement and freedom of art and architecture for years to come.

What the effect of this stupendous struggle will be upon architecture, particularly in Europe, has no doubt seriously occupied the minds of all our professional brethren the world over for some considerable time past, and more particularly those in Great Britain, France and Belgium who, owing to advanced years or other legitimate causes have not been able to exchange the implements of creative design for tools of death and destruction. No doubt these elder brethren, some of whom are fully occupied in their professional capacity in aiding our victory on works that offer little opportunity for the exercise of their architectural gifts and training, and others who, not so fortunate, have to be content with occupations entirely apart from their desire or training, will give perhaps more thought to the future than their younger, and I may say more fortunate, brethren who have been able to take up arms and join in this tremendous fight for victory and freedom over the crude and base doctrine of Kultur preached by the foe.

These elder brethren who have grown up with the advancement of modern architecture in Europe, particularly in Great Britain during the last thirty or forty years, will recall to mind more easily the fact that history shows that all long and terrible wars between civilised peoples have generally been followed by periods of architectural decadence, and some perhaps in consequence may form pessimistic views as to the future. Others, and I venture to include myself in this optimistic group, will not share this view, but will be of the opinion that the foundation upon which the present day architectural training has been built will prove strong enough to weather the storm. The journals of the Royal Institute of British Architects and other kindred Associations are, at the present time, sad but glorious reading. Sad, inasmuch that they record the ever-increasing number of young lives cut short and talents lost, but glorious by the showing that these lives have been given in defence of a real civilisation and all that such means for their profession.

I have no doubt that most, if not all, of our younger professional brethren who may be spared to return from warfare in France, Belgium, Italy, Salonika and the other widespread areas of conflict, will absorb ideas that will be developed in their architectural designs in Great Britain and her Dominions within the next decade. And though perhaps such changes from our usual conceptions may not be pleasing to the critics, I venture to believe that we shall not see such a decadence in architecture, especially domestic architecture, as was experienced in Great Britain during the early Victorian era. The call for the architect in the old homeland will, I think, in the near future be great.

The opinion has been advanced during the last two or three years, that we are on the eve of a great social revolution which will probably be noticeable soon after the cessation of hostilities and more pronounced when demobilisation of the armies in Europe has commenced. For the British nation it is conceivable and hoped that such a revolution will be a peaceful one, and that the pre-war relations between Capital and Labour will be greatly, and rightly, altered much to the improvement of the latter.

One of the most important of necessary reforms will be the proper housing of the industrial workers in Great Britain, and in this matter the architect will have considerable responsibility to shoulder in endeavouring wherever the Housing and Town Planning Act has been adopted, to have that Act liberally interpreted and carried out. The days when the toiler lived in a depressing house in a slum neighbourhood, subject to the apathetic care of a local governing body and paying probably, in many cases, an exorbitant rental to a capitalistic landlord for so doing, are, I think, about to vanish. Capitalist and artisan, farm labour and country estate owner have now got to know each other

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better through this great war. Living for weeks together in muddy trench and dismal dugout with death or wounds ever nigh, some to die and stay behind, others to come through and return home, will probably help each class to appreciate each other's virtues and commisserate with and help to remedy each other's failings, and the result will be for mankind's good. "Healthy homes make healthy minds" is an old saw, but a true one, and in view of contemplated reforms in the matter of "housing" might be borne in mind to advantage.

To my mind the housing question is one of the foremost matters that the architectural profession will have to consider. In Great Britain it is now being given very considerable thought and attention, and not before such was wanted, I am afraid, if one can judge correctly by the state of affairs revealed in the report of the Royal Commission on the housing of the industrial population of Scotland, rural and urban. At the risk of wearying you I will venture to quote a few paragraphs of the report, viz.:—

> "The Commissioners state that the broad results of their survey are as follows:—Unsatisfactory sites of houses and villages, insufficient supplies of water, unsatisfactory provision for drainage, grossly inadequate provision for the removal of refuse, widespread absence of decent sanitary conveniences, the persistence of the unspeakably filthy privy-midden in many of the mining areas, badly constructed, incurably damp labourers' cottages on farms, whole townships unfit for human occupation in the crofting counties and islands, primitive and casual provision for many of the seasonal workers, gross overcrowding and huddling of the sexes together in the congested industrial villages and towns, occupation of one-room houses by large families, groups of burghs, clotted masses of slums in the great cities. The Report continues: To these, add the special problems symbolised by the farmed-out houses, the model lodging houses, congested backlands and ancient closes. To these, again add the cottages a hundred years old in some of the rural villages, ramshackle brick survivals of the mining outbursts of seventy years ago in the mining fields, monotonous miners' rows flung down without a vestige of town plan or any effort to secure modern conditions of sanitation, ill-planned houses that must become slums in a few years, old houses converted without necessary sanitary appliances and proper adaptation into tenements for many families, thus intensifying existing evils, streets of new tenements in the towns developed with the minimum of regard for amenity."

This is deplorable but instructive reading. Some of the evils mentioned in this report are not likely to develop in this country, as they are the result of an earlier period of habitation in towns than we possess.

What the housing question means in Great Britain may be answered in small part by the recent replies of the Housing Committee of the Glasgow Corporation to the questions put by the Local Government Board, as to housing accommodation after the war. Various reports as to the matter contained in the questions had been prepared and the answers were framed from these reports. Regarding houses of four apartments and under, it was stated that these number 213,863, of which only 2,071 were vacant. Overcrowded or sublet houses numbered 2,555; uninhabitable houses, 5,000; and defective houses but remediable, 5,000. The additional houses required were 46,709, with at least 5,000 additional in each succeeding year.

The conditions under which industrial workers live in this usually sunny land are, mainly owing to climatic causes, very much better than those existing in the towns of Europe, where mean and dingy dwellings comprise whole streets and suburbs; yet much remains to be done in this country. The conditions under which the poorer white inhabitants live in the large towns in the Union of South Africa are not ideal by a very long way, and I do not think are improving, whilst the housing of the increasing coloured and native population of our towns who in most cases, dwell on the outskirts in mean hovels constructed of odds and ends of material and even battered out old paraffin tins, is a question that in the near future will demand serious attention. Better and stringent bye-laws governing the proper construction of buildings and sanitation are greatly needed if the dwellings required by such workers are not always to be considered unsightly and dangerous to the health of the communities. The native, in increasing numbers, is becoming a workers and dweller in and about our towns, and we surely cannot expect him to live in dwellings which are depressing and insanitary, and improve in the scale of civilisation into which he has been called by us to meet our demand for labour. Generous and properly regulated schemes of town planning will do much to help us in this matter, especially in cases of new townships.

Capetown has been somewhat concerned of late, and rightly so, by the discovery that one particular portion of a district in the city was so dilapidated and overcrowded as to become notorious and a source of menace to the guardians of the law. I refer to the Wells Square matter. This city of Johannesburg, being quite an infant in comparison, by age, with Capetown, should never find itself in such unsavoury

odour, and yet it is quite possible for it to become so if apathy exists amongst those who, by training, experience or public position have been so placed that they may be considered as the city's guardians against such evils. Johannesburg has been called one of the wonders of the world, and when we come to consider the rapidity of its growth, this may be accepted with some seriousness.

We have long since left behind the mining camp period of architecture, and this great war is, I think, going to help us to improve our present day architecture, especially in domestic design. The change caused by the high cost of imported building materials, such as galvanised corrugated iron and timber, brought about by the war, is already to be seen in our designs for dwellings. The better effect of tiled roofs and the absence of verandahs with much woodwork can be noted in every suburb, and I think this improvement has come to stay.

One little matter in the beautifying of this city I would like to mention now—it is not a new subject—the Council of this Association has discussed it on more than one occasion.—I refer to the want of legal power in our building bye-laws to prevent unsightly buildings being erected in our principal thoroughfares. We are going to lose some of the benefits this war is conferring upon the architectural appearance of our streets unless we can get this remedied. The war has not in this country curtailed the practising architect to a very great extent as, despite the enhanced cost of building, few can say that they have been altogether idle. Not so in Great Britain, however; there the regular exercise of the profession has been restricted to such an extent that it is practically non-existent. And what of the future for us, when peace arrives? Are we to undergo a period of depression or enjoy for some years to come prosperity and advancement? No one can say, but we all, I am sure, hope for the latter. If this is to be as we wish, then we should consider *now* how best to be prepared. In the concluding paragraphs of the Council's report I think will be seen the foundation of such preparedness, and I sincerely hope that the sphere of operations outlined there in respection to education, architectural development and the endeavour to enlist public sympathy for what is good and beautiful in form will be early realised.

One subject that will engage the architectural profession at the end of the war I have not yet commented upon, as I have left it until the last because it will be, to my mind, the most important and sacred work that the architect will be engaged upon. I refer to the memorials, either monuments or buildings, that will arise to commemorate those who have laid down their lives for right and justice. Monuments to the nation which has striven by brute force, cunning, treachery and cruelty to impose its will upon the free peoples of this earth, will for ever remain in the ruins of the Cloth Hall at Ypres, Rheims Cathedral, and other gems of architecture too numerous to detail here.

The idea has been mooted, I believe, to make a great wide road through the devastated portions of France and Flanders. A road where, on either side, the graves of countless dead can be seen and at intervals some larger monument be noted, but, somewhere near the middle of the length of this great causeway, is to be erected the crowning monument. It is difficult to imagine what form such memorial should take, but it must be something grand, something equal to, if not greater, than the finest architectural work this world has ever known, if it is to testify fully to those who have fallen in this dread and fearful war on the side of right and freedom.

To attempt on my part to outline in architectural description what such a monument should be would be presumption, but I can conceive in simple verse:—

It may perchance yet come to pass
That out of ruins will arise,
A great Cathedral, whose uplifting spires
Point Heavenwards to the glorious souls
Who fought and died for Freedom's cause,
And will for evermore enshrined be
In human memory.

A building with ethereal shape,
Toned by grim gargoyles looking down
Upon the land where hate and strife
Have left their imprints for the rest of life.

Regarding education, I beg to call the attention of the members of this Association to the pamphlet recently issued by the Commission on Education appointed by the Transvaal Provincial Council, wherein is detailed the subjects which the Commission invite intending witnesses to consider, with a view to giving evidence on any subjects with which they may be especially acquainted or interested in, as well as on any other matter related to the subject of the Commission's inquiry.

I should therefore be glad if such members of the Association who can assist in this matter will communicate with the incoming President as early as possible.

Loud applause followed the delivery of this fine effort from the chair.

The Trustees' Benevolent Fund Report brought several members to their feet to enquire why more money had not been paid from the Association funds to the Trustees. After explanation from other quar-

ters, the threatened storm passed away and sunshine again smiled from the members' faces, especially at the hearing that £50 had already been paid in.

To prepare for the election of the Council, Messrs. Porter and Henderson were appointed scrutineers.

Mr. M. J. Harris was then declared unanimously elected President, and took the chair and offered suitable acknowledgments in well chosen language for the honour done to him, and made graceful reference to Mr. McCubbin's hard and able work in the chair during the past year. He then declared Messrs. Burton and Sinclair elected Vice-Presidents.

At this stage Mr. F. Raine lodged a protest on the grounds that only members paid up for 1918 could be present and vote. It was duly noted, but the chair ruled that as the meeting was on a fair wind it had better keep to its course and not take chances of being taken aback. So with a formal note of the protest, the happy gathering proceeded with the election, which resulted in the following new crew for the Architects' ship of state:—Messrs. F. L. H. Fleming, R. Howden, D. A. McCubbin, A. J. Marshall, G. M. Powers, H. G. Veale, E. H. Waugh, and W. J. de Zwaan. Messrs. Bowie and Ellis polled equal votes,and on lots being drawn, Mr. Bowie was chosen, and scripturally "was numbered with the twelve," like Matthias.

While this election was being conducted, the meeting took a side cruise as a Special General Meeting to put through a number of necessary by-laws relating to paying up subs. and doing the proper and right things at Council elections, playing the game at competitions, and a few more additions to the Architects' Ten Commandments, with supplement. This essential but somewhat enervating excursion into the realms of the Never, Never Shore was concluded with a sincere sigh of relief, and the meeting gladly laid its keel once more on the old course of the annual general meeting which. with a view of its own speedy ending, voted a sum to the Governor-General's Fund of £25, and owing to the growth of the work necessitating combining Journal work and that of the Association, and requiring a part time official instead of a spare time one, a sum was voted to the Registrar, Mr. Alder, who is at the Front in France, to avoid any inconvenience which might arise from the change. Kindly reference was also made to Mr. Beulke, the Acting Registrar, whose services the Association would also have to lose, as it was impossible for him to continue acting, as the work was far too much for his spare time. It was with reluctance this change was decided on, but it was generally felt that it was imperative to make it to allow of the Association getting the day time it now required more than before.

A letter of advice was read from Mr. Frank Emley, and listened to with great interest, and at times, when the letter gave hard hits, the meeting accepted them with sporting-like humour and referred the letter to the Council. Mr. Emley pleaded for a more comrade-like spirit in the profession and for a concentration on war help.

Mr. Hill objected to "P" and "S" being placed on list of Architects. The letters don't mean "postscript," but "practising" and "salaried." The offending letters were ordered to be expunged in future editions.

The meeting had now reached the retiring hour, and with a conscience void of offence and a knowledge of work well done and quickly too, they prepared to depart, receiving as a last message a few hopeful words from President Harris to wish them a happy new architectural year, advising them to act like a group of merchants in the town who, instead of disparaging each other, acted companionably, ever ready for a friendly deal, and so widened the scope of all. He spoke of unexplored fields for the Council as well as for architects generally, fields now more free that the impedimenta had been clear away from the road to them.

With this pleasant "pax vobiscum" the meeting wended its way in small groups down the gloom of the unlighted marble and iron stairs to the street below, dispersing with quite evident reluctance from each other's somewhat unaccustomed and half-yearly company.

CORRESPONDENCE.

COMPETITIONS.

To the Editor, *Building*.

Sir,—Mr. Cowin's able article of above subject raises many thoughts. As one who have taken part in competitions since 1884, at Home and out here, may I be permitted to make a few remarks.

I think the writer has overlooked the educational side of competitions—quite a common thing. This applies especially to the young architect, not only in draughtsmanship, but in the requirements and design of the class of building competed for. Competitions must be looked upon as something more than the winning of a place, just as education in general, whether at college or school, as apart from the prizes to be won.

The question of assessorship is a sore one. Personally, I hold the view, and it may be a wrong one, that no one knows so much about the competition as the man who submits a design. If an assessor were required to work out (in pencil) the problem before sitting in judgment on others, then he would be in a

better position than he is at present. In some instances this has been done, when the assessor has also been engaged to draw up the conditions, as in the case of the Wesleyan Church competition, and the result is satisfactory.

The writer suggested some time ago that assessors should be dispensed with. It would save expense to the promoters in the first place; in the second, anxiety and sleeplessness on the part of such assessor in his effort to please both his client and competitors; and in the third place the competitors would have no one to blame but themselves if each one were to have as many votes as there were premiums. This would give each competitor the chance of placing his own third, fourth or fifth if he were not thoroughly satisfied that it deserved a better place, for before examining other designs a competitor is pretty well satisfied with his own production or he would not send it in; seeing other designs, however, sometimes alters such views. The competitors would thus make their own award.

Until the profession is prepared to take up the idea (for which the writer does not claim to be the originator) promoters cannot be expected to do so. It is worth the consideration of the Association.

As regards limited competitions, they are never put forward with any idea by a selfish one, and indicate a limited capacity and fear, for it matters little to an assessor whether he has twenty or fifty designs to examine, a third as a rule only coming near the winning stage, and the rest are easily disposed of.

The Park Station competition, held some fourteen years ago, is a specimen of the "limited" type, where it was directly or indirectly suggested to the authorities that a dozen architects of the first water (selected presumably by themselves) should be "invited" to send in designs and presented with an honorarium of £200 each for a sketch plan and perspective. Well, such proposers were not in the award, for the work was given to a new arrival, and the effort to guide things to their own laps failed, which caused a good deal of bitterness, and the papers heard all about it. The assessor left for a warmer climate shortly after—to be explicit—India, I think. Being engaged on similar work in a neighbouring Colony, the writer was graciously permitted by Sir Percy Giraoud himself to send in a design which would have the same chance as the others as regards a place, but without the honorarium. Had "ifs and ands been pets and pans" —well, I should have been first.

Several banks during the last year have been favouring "limited competitions," whether by advice or off their own bats, so to speak, one does not know. Apparently they are under the impression that it costs more to have a dozen designs sent in than half that number. As banks are public institutions, and the more clients they have the better, one would have thought they would favour the open competition than the limited one. Some, too, are taking the serious responsibility of acting as their own assessors, a thing to be condemned unless they are advised all the time by an architect.

Until there is unity in the profession, there will be architects who will send in designs "if only for fun," where conditions are absolutely in conflict with the best interests of the profession and architecture.—I am, etc., E. J. W.

Johannesburg, February, 1918.

RE DRAINAGE PLANS.

The Registrar,
Association of Transvaal Architects,
P.O. Box 2266, Johannesburg.

Dear Sir,—It has been pointed out to the Association that in many cases plans for new buildings and alterations do not include drainage plans. In fairness to the plumber, who has to tender for the work, the Executive would like the Architects to include these details on the blue prints, thereby curtailing a lot of unnecessary waste of time, from the plumber's point of view.

Trusting your Executive will see its way clear to recommend this to its members.—Yours faithfully,

R. TWEEDALE HOGG,
Secretary, Master Builders and Allied Trades Association, Johannesburg.

Johannesburg, 29th January, 1918.

BUILDERS' DISCOUNTS.

To the Editor, *Building*.

Sir,—The resolution adopted by the Architects' Association, as reported on page 108 of the December publication of "Building," in connection with P.C. and Provisional Sums and the recognising of 10 per cent. discount being allowed to contractors by the suppliers with whom the orders are placed, seems an unpardonable proposition for a professional body such as the Architects' Association to give the slightest consideration to. Do they not possess sufficient ability to control and direct their own professional requirements, without having to submit to any public body for guidance on what is viewed as the perquisite system? Besides, is it not a fact that specifications, bills of quantities and conditions of contract issued by the public bodies referred to in the resolution and responsible architects state that all P.C. and Provisional items shall be scheduled at a strictly net price, including receiving, unpacking, fixing and profit? (For proof thereof see P.W.D. specification and conditions of contract for the Johannesburg Hospital New Block,

for which tenders are now being called. The clause "Prime Cost," on page 4, is quite definite on the question; but if carried out is another matter). Therefore, why should it be necessary for the suppliers of material to allow contractors 10 per cent. discount, which principals have to pay for in some way, and which responsible public bodies and architects are guilty of winking at? Surely it should be the duty of those in public authority, and architects and surveyors to see that the interests of clients are duly protected against misleading if not unscrupulous methods, and those who are in the habit, as alleged, of making their profits on contracts out of merchants' discounts should be disqualified from tendering.—Yours, etc.,

JAMES STEWART DICKSON.

Abel Road, Berea, Johannesburg,
9th January, 1918.

THE ANNUAL MEETING.

To the Editor, *Building*.

Sir,—I understand that the Association of Transvaal Architects is about to call applications for the position of Registrar. Following the excellent example of the late President in introducing poetical excerpts into the proceedings of the Association, may I suggest that in future the Minutes be kept in verse? I intend to apply for the position of Registrar, and in order to show my capabilities append a rough outline of the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting as they would appear under this scheme. After reading it, I think you will agree that one who is capable of doing this is capable of anything.—I am, etc.,

INGOLDSBY, Junior.

It was just after 8, only two minutes late
When the President rose and said, "Please let me state
" That I welcome you here, and with your permission
" We'll first read the Minutes—latest edition."
When voices all round the room, pleadingly said:
" Oh, please, Mr. President, take 'em as read,
" Sign 'em, and seal 'em, and put 'em away,
" And let us proceed with the work of To-day."
This was done with a flourish, remarkably neat,
And the next moment found Mr. Waugh on his feet;
" I've a letter," he said, " and am asked now to read it
" The author requests you to digest and heed it."
He read for some minutes, much forceful invective,
When the President thought we had " reached our objective,"
Said he: " Mr. Waugh, pray desist for a minute,
" I had no idea when I let you begin it
" 'Twas so long, so I'll ask you to kindly suspend
" And later we'll hear you right through to the end."
The Financial Statement next had attention,
And Mr. Veale rose, " I would just like to mention
" The Benevolent Fund, and the annual splash
" With which you hand to it your unwanted cash.
" Up to now of your guineas you've given but fifty,
" To my mind this shows you're too terribly thrifty."
He failed in his effort—his pleading was vain—
But I'm open to bet you he tries it again!
Messrs. Fleming and Waugh in turns took the floor,
They spoke for some minutes (in fact, rather more!)
On Art and on Taste, and said " What a pity
" Such things aren't reported on by a Committee,
" For action like this there is most urgent need.
" Let us appoint one!" The members agreed.
Then Mac did a solo (I hope I don't rub in
Annoyance by cutting his name from McCubbin).
He spoke of the War—its effect on our art—
He spoke of our members taking their part;
Discoursed upon housing, hovels and slumming,
Cheered us with tales of our victory coming;
And then with great eloquence ended his views
By enlisting the powerful aid of the Muse.
Next the election—some members' selection,
Involving, of course, for others rejection,
Still, on the whole, an excellent choice,
The chair being filled by unanimous voice,
Two " Vices " by ditto, and Councillors nine
Are chosen, but votes do not clearly define
The last place of all, so by means of a hat
And two slips of paper we soon settle that.
I could tell, if I chose, how near to a close
Proceedings were brought by a member who rose
And said he would trouble us kindly to note
That he questioned the right of all present to vote.
The President newly appointed succeeded
To the chair whilst election of Council proceeded.
Gave thanks for the honour (I assure you, well earned)
And declared that the General Meeting adjourned
To merge in a moment without any pause
Into a " Special " to deal with By-Laws.
Two motions were put from the chair in a tick,
We were getting on swimmingly, passing 'em quick
When . . . . .
Dowsett, not considering the question of frugality,
Wished to take opinions on the subject of legality.
This horrifying motion being duly put and noted
With hardly a dissentient the members stoutly voted
Decidedly to " douse it " (please excuse the pun,
Like the serving wench's baby, it is but a little one).
" General " on agendas is a thing I don't go much on,
It usually leads up to unlimited discussion.
Still, we finished off this item, words of wisdom Harris said—
Thanked us for attending, and sent us home to bed.

The Association of Transvaal Architects.

EIGHTH ANNUAL REPORT.

Presented by the retiring Council at the Annual General Meeting of

23rd February, 1918.

TO MEMBERS OF THE ASSOCIATION:—

Your Council submits this, the Eighth Annual Report of the Association's proceedings, together with the usual Annual Accounts, which latter have been duly audited.

COUNCIL: PERSONNEL AND MEETINGS.

There have been several changes in the personnel of your Council since its election at your last Annual General Meeting on February 28th, 1917. Mr. D. Ivor Lewis, who was elected as one of your Vice-Presidents, left for England to take up war-work in November 1916, and on September 19th 1917, after the lapse of an extended leave and Mr. Lewis's resignation, your Council requested Mr. D. M. Burton to assume the office thus vacated.

Mr. J. E. Harrison, whom you elected as a Member of Council, resigned that position in September 1917, owing to pressure of professional duties. The two vacancies on the Council thus caused were filled by the election, on October 3rd last, of Mr. J. S. Donaldson of Johannesburg, and Mr. J. S. Bowie of Springs. With these exceptions the personnel of your Council, detailed on the first page of this report, is as elected by you.

Twenty-five meetings of Council have been held, the record of attendances at which are given in the appendices to this report.

COUNCIL: ORGANISATION FOR DETAIL DELEGATES, COMMITTEES, ETC.

Your Council has found it necessary to continue, and further to extend, the practice of appointing Committees to deal in detail with various sections of this Association's interests. The two permanent standing Committees—*i.e.*, those whose personnel is not liable to change with changes of Council—have continued their duties, reporting duly to this Council; these being (1) The Board of Trustees of our Benevolent Fund, and (2) what is known as the "Registration" Committee (our representatives upon the joint committee appointed to promote an Architects' Act for the Union of South Africa). Your Council has re-appointed a Practice Committee, and the "Journal" Committee; the Committee upon Municipal Building Bye-laws Revision has been continued, and your Council has found considerable further assistance in detail by the appointment of a standing committee on Finance. At Pretoria there has come into existence

A LIVE AND VIGOROUS OFFSHOOT

of our Practice Committee; temporary committees or sub-committees have been appointed to interview the Provincial Administration at Pretoria *re* Government Architectural Work, to interview the Johannesburg Town Engineer *re* acceptance of building plans from architects only, to frame approved Conditions of Competition, to arrange our transference to new offices, and to obtain legal opinion (on several occasions by various committees); and we have appointed committees to represent this Association upon joint deputations organised locally as follows: on afforestation in South Africa (to Minister of Agriculture at Pretoria), on stoppage of electric connections (to Johannesburg Municipality), and to joint committees or conferences on Customs Re-classification and on Industrial Census Revision. Furthermore, it has been our practice to call upon

INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS

of your Council, who do not wish to be personally particularised, to undertake the responsibility of directing the tenour and wording of correspondence, large in amount and frequently requiring delicate handling, which has been necessary in your interests with governmental, university, and various other public or semi-public bodies, *e.g.*, Chambers of Commerce, Building Societies, trades and labour organisations, etc. Lastly, though of course not leastly in importance, your Association has been represented on the following bodies; on the architectural classes at the local University by Messrs. Fleming and Powers, on the Seymour Memorial (Technical) Library and on the Johannesburg University Committee by your President.

The personnel of the permanent and standing committees (Benevolent Fund, Registration, Journal, Practice, Municipal Building Bye-laws Revision, and Finance) and of the Pretoria Practice Committee, is detailed in the appendices to this report.

THE MEMBERSHIP ROLL.

There are 161 members on our roll, 112 of whom are registered as practising architects, and 49 as in salaried employment.

We regret to report the deaths, during the year, of the following members:—

A. T. R. Hamilton, killed in action in Flanders.

J. B. Pentland Smith, died of fever while on active service in East Africa.

Robert Wallace.

A. McWilliam.

Obituary notices have appeared in our Journal, and the condolences of their co-members conveyed to the relatives of the deceased.

During the year there were three applicants for registration, one of whom was unsuccessful, and two further have still to comply with the requirements under the Act.

Your Council has taken every step to obey the mandate of our last Annual General Meeting in regard to the desired removal from the roll of Enemy Members. Only one such member appears to be on our roll, and after much correspondence with the Commandant of the Alien Enemy Camp at the Isle of Man, with the Minister of the Interior, and with our own legal advisers, we have ascertained that power to remove from the roll does not exist in such circumstances.

Our attention was drawn to certain Directories in which persons not on our roll were described as architects. Barberton, Belfast, Ermelo and Lichtenburg were the residential addresses of these persons. The matter was taken up vigorously with the Directory proprietors and with the persons concerned, and a copy of the roll has been forwarded to every S.A. Directory, which procedure should be continued annually by succeeding Councils. At Lichtenburg, a prosecution was necessary against an unregistered person who was openly practising as an architect, and a conviction was obtained. Mr. Sinclair proceeded to Lichtenburg at the Council's request to assist this prosecution.

THE DEVELOPMENT OF ARCHITECTURE.

Your Council has followed the lead given by all its predecessors along those lines of policy and action which apparently have resulted from their perceiving —consciously or unconsciously—THAT THE FURTHERANCE OF GOOD ARCHITECTURAL DEVELOPMENT IN THIS COUNTRY IS THE BASIC MOTIVE OF THE ACT UNDER WHICH THIS ASSOCIATION WAS BROUGHT INTO EXISTENCE. Equally with its predecessors, and despite a pessimistic doctrine which has recently been preached within our own ranks, your Council holds that the interests of the advancement of architecture and those of the collective body of architects are identical: and that neither one can flourish without the other. The evils that retard architecture and encourage soul-less building do not require to be enumerated, a typical instance of each will be found in the following cases in which the Council has endeavoured to bring about the adoption of better principles.

(a) A deputation, consisting of Messrs. De Zwaan, Howden, Cowin, Powers, Fleming and Harris, waited upon His Honour the Provincial Administrator at Pretoria on October 15th last, to protest against the Government method of carrying out public buildings by means of a department, comprising a small permanent staff and a large fluctuating temporary staff. Such conditions affecting public architecture obviously do not encourage skilled architects to arise, or to continue in this Country. A memorandum of the representations made by the deputation was, at His Honour's request, prepared by the delegates and handed to him the same day. His Honour was personally sympathetic in manner, but no official answer has as yet been received.

(b) A circular letter was addressed to all Building Societies and Loan Corporations suggesting that, wherever loans exceeding £100 in value were made for building purposes, these Societies and Corporations would best serve their own and public interests by stipulating the appointment of an architect. Sympathetic replies were received in all cases, but not one definite undertaking to accept the suggestion. Inferior design and construction will probably continue to mark suburban development.

(c) Representations have been made to various municipal authorities that members of their staffs occupy much time in enabling prospective builders to comply with the regulations without the assistance of an architect. The legal profession would probably not tolerate such assistance by the Court staffs to intending litigants. The result of this misdirection of municipal energy has its unsightly monuments in every street. Signal success has, however, attended upon the representations made in this connection by the Pretoria Practice Committee, the Municipality of which town has adopted a bye-law—ratified by the Provincial Council only as recently as December last—under which plans for buildings exceeding £100 in value will not be considered or approved unless signed by an architect.

Your Council, in the closing days of its year of office, has received a valuable hint, which may serve the endeavours of succeeding Councils in this matter. The City of Edinburgh, often styled "The Athens of the North," has guarded its vistas and streets from unsightly buildings by an institution known as the Dean of Guild's Court, whose approval, on aesthetic grounds, must be obtained to any building proposal. The adoption of this precedent would constitute an

immense improvement upon a system which allows any speculative builder who complies with "building regulations" to disfigure whole neighbourhoods.

(d) The Cape University New Buildings' Committee, charged with what should have been regarded as a great national undertaking, has disregarded the representations made by every architectural organisation in South Africa, that such buildings should, in the interests of education itself, show the highest available contemporary skill in architectural design, such skill being ascertainable only after the public criticism and intellectual contest consequent upon a great national open competition in architecture.

Your Council is gratified by the fact that a young South African, a member of your Association and one time member of your Council, has been chosen by the University authorities to design the new buildings. Gratifying as this fact is upon personal grounds, your Council feels that the national and educational aspects of architecture have not received due consideration. Correspondence was carried on with the University authorities, consisting of argument and request upon our side and pure evasion upon theirs, and was concluded in December last. The circumstances merely repeat what has happened, with a variation of personnel, in connection with several public architectural schemes in South Africa, and for that reason your Council recommends that its successors frame a pamphlet fully to inform the public upon this flagrant infringement of a principle which this Association has striven, and will continue to strive, to bring into due recognition.

(e) By press reports, etc., it came to the notice of your Council that the subject of War Memorials was receiving attention by the Town Council and Recruiting Committees of Johannesburg, and a letter suggesting an open competition of designs for any such memorials has been addressed to both those bodies.

(f) Several competitions advertised by various public bodies and authorities have come under your Council's consideration. In several your Council felt it to be its duty to suggest amendment in accordance with fair professional usage, and failing assent to this suggestion to advise members of the Association to abstain from competing. It is regrettable to report that a certain few members have on each such occasion sought what seemed to them a chance to score a personal advantage by ignoring your Council's advice. These occurrences led to a suggestion that such conduct be declared unprofessional, and a bye-law to that effect will therefore be submitted to you at our Special General Meeting.

(g) A sub-committee consisting of Messrs. Howden, Harris, Fleming, Powers, and A. J. Marshall were entrusted with the preparation of "Suggestions for the Conduct of Architectural Competitions," which document has been duly completed and circularised to all known public bodies, and will, it is hoped, be useful and effective. These conditions are such as the Council can advise members to accept from promoters of competitions, assuring, as they do, fairness in method and result.

(h) An important recommendation on this subject of architectural development will be found at the conclusion of this report.

MATTERS AFFECTING PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE.

In addition to the great question of architectural development, many matters in connection with the routine of professional practice constantly arise affecting our collective interests as architects. The most important of these during the past year has arisen in connection with the rapprochement arrived at between the Master Builders and the Trades Union Organisations, under which a Joint Conciliation Board has been established with a view to bettering all conditions obtaining in the building trades. We as architects must sincerely welcome any such endeavour. We know that, given a normal craftsman or artisan, good conditions of working make for that good sound workmanship with which the architect's design should be translated into material form.

Your Council regrets to report, however, that the Trades constituent of the Joint Conciliation Board has shown some misdirection of zeal by means of intimidatory letters to individual architects. The matter was promptly dealt with by your Council. An interview with the Joint Conciliation Board is still to be held, and it is hoped that as a result of that interview, which must now be left to the succeeding Council, future endeavour for betterment in the building trades will be made and will be in the necessary direction of ensuring the sympathy and co-operation of the Government, Municipalities, Chambers of Mines and Commerce, and the large employers generally, with a view to the introduction (by consent) of greatly desir-

able legislation.

Arising to some extent out of this last, your Council has considered representations made by the Master Builders' organisation in reference to fairer conditions of contract, embracing improved clauses regarding builders' discounts, the abolition of piece-work, etc., as before-mentioned, the guaranteeing and supply of bills of quantities, a suggested Arbitration Court to determine building disputes, etc. On several of these points your Council has during the year addressed circulars advising members generally as to improvements which appear desirable. So many other clauses in Conditions of Contract appear to require reconsideration, that your Council recommends its successors to undertake an entire revision with a view to general publication.

During the year a serious position arose, threatening to restrict building enterprise in Johannesburg, that Municipality having passed a resolution under which electric light connection would be refused to all new buildings. Owing to the war, machinery cannot be imported, and the electric plant at the local power station is greatly overtaxed by the extent and constant increase of the demand for current. Your Council appointed a Committee consisting of Messrs. McCubbin (President), Harris, Harrison, Powers, Howden, Burton, Sinclair and Fleming, who with committees similarly appointed by the Electrical Engineers and Master Builders, jointly waited upon the Municipal Light and Power Committee. Suggestions were made as to rationing the current, etc., and the restrictive decision was satisfactorily modified.

A committee for the revision of municipal building bye-laws was appointed, consisting of Messrs. Powers, Harris, Howden, Fleming and the President. Considerable ground for discussion was discovered, and the Town Engineer of Johannesburg, Mr. G. S. Burt Andrews, has welcomed the Committee's suggestions as of assistance in guiding urban development. Your Council believes that this sphere of labour must be continued by all successive Councils.

Your Council has asked for, and has since been in regular receipt of, returns from all Transvaal municipalities, showing the number and value of building plans approved and the number of same for which an architect is responsible. These returns are instructive as to the extent and direction of necessary activity by our Association. They will be found regularly published in the columns of "Building."

The war has emphasised the desirability of increasing local production. Our building materials, mostly imported, have become so scarce and dear as to threaten the continuance of building work. In these circumstances it is thought that some greater effort should be made to improve the vast Government areas of land suitable for afforestation, particularly as employment must soon be found for numbers of returned partially disabled soldiers. Jointly with representatives of other callings interested, your Council has made representations to Government upon this subject. Many months have elapsed since the first of these representations, but there is reason to fear that the reply received, that "the Government is fully alive to the necessity for increased afforestation" will prove to be merely a conventional official phrase. Your Council regards it as the duty of this Association to apply every spur to Government progress in this matter, involving, as it does, both the interests of its members and the welfare of the country as a whole.

Jointly with other bodies summoned to conference under the auspices of the S.A. Association for the Advancement of Science, your Council appointed a committee, consisting of your President, Mr. McCubbin and Messrs. Burton, Fleming and Hill, who have assisted the Government advisorily on Customs Tariff Reclassification and on Industrial Census Revision.

A case of alleged unprofessional conduct was investigated by your Council, happily resulting in the unqualified withdrawal of the allegation. In another case brought to the notice of your Council by the Natal Institute of Architects, a Pretoria tradesman had issued a catalogue in which "architects' discounts" were offered! A stern remonstrance resulted in the withdrawal of the catalogue and a very humble apology by the offender.

OUR RELATIONS WITH OTHER ARCHITECTS' INSTITUTES, THE DRAFT UNION ACT, ETC.

Your Council has worked in harmony with the Cape and Natal Institute of Architects in its representations to Government regarding public architecture, and in connection with its advice to members regarding competitions.

Our "Registration Committee" has continued its duties in endeavouring to further the promotion of an Architect' Act (in extension of our own) for the Union of South Africa, in accordance with the principles approved by this Association. Members will be well aware that an obstacle to progress has been the delay of the Cape Institute of Architects in accepting, or even discussing, those principles; the consequence being that there is as yet no common basis upon which the architectural organisations of South Africa can unitedly approach Parliament.

Your Council has given the Cape Institute a pledge that this Association will bear its pro rata share of the costs of promotion, provided always that the intentions of this Association in regard to the nature of the Act shall be fully safeguarded by methods

detailed in the correspondence. Finally to settle doubts which have at times been expressed as to the competency of this Association to promote a Union Act, or to give a pledge such as above-mentioned, your Committee obtained legal opinion, and after considering the advice of our Solicitor, Mr. P. C. Chivers, followed by that of Messrs. J. Stratford, K.C., and J. Van Hoytema, your Council and Committee are unanimous in agreeing that this Association has the

POWER TO PROMOTE,

and to unite with others in promoting, our Union Act. Following upon the obtaining of Counsel's opinion, your Committee and President jointly met Mr. Arthur H. Reid, Past-President of the Cape Institute, who was on a visit to Johannesburg. Your Committee was surprised to find that so little is known in the Cape Province as to the reasons underlying our desire to increase the bulk of our own Act in any extension to the Union. The failure of our Act to protect architects from competition by unqualified "building engigineers, draughtsmen," etc.; the repeated failure of its bye-laws in the Courts, owing to their being declared "ultra vires" the Act; the necessity to provide, in this country of long distances, for a federation of local institutes; and many other matters for which our Transvaal Act makes no provision, were carefully considered and noted by Mr. Reid, upon whose personal influence the possibility of any early progress in this matter now appears to rest.

To the Natal Institute your Council is indebted for frequent valuable suggestions and co-operation, and it is pleasant to note that that Institute shares in our Journal as its official organ.

THE JOURNAL.

The establishment of our quarterly official journal, whose title has lately been changed to "Building," has afforded your Council an invaluable medium of communication with the members, as well as for advocacy of professional interests and instruction in architectural and constructional progress. Mr. Waugh, as Editor, assisted by Mr. Howden as Sub-Editor, Mr. Sinclair as Business Manager, and the Journal Committee, have laid a foundation upon which much highly skilled effort will be needed worthily to build and follow. It has been the aim of these founders to interest all connected with the building trades, and some correspondence has passed with the Cape and Natal Institutes of Architects (in the latter case with the pleasing result before mentioned) and with Master Builders' Organisations, the Institute of Valuers and the Quantity Surveyors' Institute. The Journal proposes as a feature to publish the premiated designs in competitions whenever obtainable. Several improvements will be effected in future issues, improvements based upon experience which first had to be obtained, and members are under continual request for suggestion and contributions. The advertisement columns of our Journal themselves afford instruction as to available materials and products suitable for architectural construction.

THE WAR.

In the appendices to this report is given a list of those of our members who have engaged in war work or gone on active service, as well as a list of those who have lost their lives as a consequence of their so doing.

Lieut. Gordon E. C. Leith, Royal Artillery, formerly lecturer at the architectural classes of the Johannesburg University College, has been awarded the Military Cross for gallantry in the field, but unfortunately lies severely wounded.

Basil Reid, second son of our former President, Mr. Walter Reid, has been badly wounded. George McCubbin, of the Royal Aviation Corps, our President's son, is still unfortunately suffering from the effects of the wound he received in 1916.

Honour to them all!

NATIONAL SERVICE AND THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL'S FUND.

Several of our members have been interested in the scheme of National Service inaugurated in the Old Country, and on their behalf your Council has obtained particulars, and forwarded names, to the Home authorities.

You will be asked at our Annual General Meeting to authorise a contribution of £25 by this Association to the Governor-General's Fund.

BENEVOLENT FUND.

On January 9th, 1918, your Council found it necessary to recommend to the Trustees of the Benevolent Fund that a further grant of £20 be made to the widow of a deceased Transvaal architect to assist in the education of her two sons.

The report of the Board of Trustees will be found among the appendices to this report.

GRANTS IN AID.

Members should note that grants voted by their Annual General Meeting in 1916—two years ago—which were "to be held until funds were available," were paid by this Council as follows:—

Benevolent Fund	£50	0	0
Seymour Memorial Library	21	0	0
S.A. School of Mines, Architectural Classes	10	10	0

FINANCE AND INTERNAL ADMINISTRATION.

Arrear Subscriptions.

Your Council has put forth its loyal endeavours to obey the resolution of your last Annual General Meet-

ing, under which all members in arrear with subscriptions were to be pressed for settlement. Of an amount of, roughly, £1,130 due for these arrear subscriptions as at the commencement of the year, £390 has been paid, and of the remainder £250 is being paid in periodical instalments agreed to by the Council. A balance of about £490 is in the opinion of your Council irrecoverable, being either bad, wrongly charged, or due by members now on active service for a period prior to 1914. Note however that by resolution of the Council, members on active service or on war work are exempt from subscription. In the category of members wrongly charged—or seemingly so—there has been a regrettably large number of instances in which your Council has good reason to believe that our books of account have been at fault, and in the absence of our Registrar the Council has been advised to accept sworn statements, and official receipts which have been produced, as sufficient evidence of membership dues having been paid. Your Council has further found it necessary to order the purchase and opening of a ledger, and generally to recast the system of keeping the books of the Association as from January 1st, 1917.

The Position of Absentee and Salaried Architects, etc.

Questions have arisen during our year as to the position under our Act and Bye-laws of absentee, non-practising, and salaried architects in reference to payment of subscriptions. These questions have arisen largely as a result of your Council pressing for payment of arrear subscriptions, on such points as to the necessity of notice to transfer from one class to another. At our Special General Meeting you will be asked to accept an amendment to Bye-law 29 with a view to validating the abated amount of subscriptions payable by salaried, non-practising and absentee members.

Board Room.

Another mandate to this Council was that contained in your resolution, also at last Annual General Meeting, that the Association find new offices. Accordingly, on July 1st last, the old Board Room in Winchester House was vacated, and we are now in our new headquarters at Exploration Buildings, Johannesburg, under an arrangement which gives us a suitable centrally situated office, large enough for Committee meetings, and containing a strong-room for the Association's records, with convenient arrangements for our use of an adjacent fully furnished board-room whenever required. Certain of our furniture was thus not required and was sold at public auction, of which due notice was given to all members; originally costing the Association £124 17s. 6d., it realised £80 2s. after five years of use, during which period more than that loss had been written off in depreciation.

Officials.

Mr. P. C. Chivers, of Norwich Union Buildings, has been appointed Solicitor to this Association, and your Council has found his advice of great assistance in almost every branch of its work, and particularly so in matters appertaining to the Registration and Finance Committee's work, and in the interpretation of our Act and Bye-laws in relation to many questions which have arisen.

Mr. P. Hofman, Hon. Secretary to the Pretoria Practice Committee, has acted as the Registrar's deputy, whenever required, at that centre, and your Council, appreciating his good services, has asked his acceptance of an honorarium as some token of your recognition.

Your Registrar, Mr. Cecil Alder, left Johannesburg immediately after your last Annual General Meeting, and now holds a lieutenant's commission with the Army Service Corps in Flanders. At your Council's first meeting a letter was read from Mr. Alder asking the appointment of Mr. A. E. Beulke as Acting Registrar. To that request your Council acceded, and agreed that Mr. Alder be granted leave on half pay for the current year. The necessary permission of the Town Council to Mr. Beulke's appointment was obtained, and at the end of its term your Council must record that the painstaking and thorough manner in which Mr. Beulke has performed the Registrar's duties has been a source of pleasure to every committee and individual concerned in the efficiency of the Association's work.

CONCLUSION.

In last year's Report the Council noted that the proper handling and constant consideration of the advancement of architecture as an art was cramped by the limitation of the time at the disposal of the Council. The record of the past year emphasises this, and there will therefore be moved at the approaching Annual General Meeting an urgent instruction to the incoming Council for the appointment of a permanent Standing Committee of Art and Education, not liable to change with changes of the Council. The Committee, with power to add to their number from within or without the Association, or to appoint sub-committees, to be subject to the bye-laws controlling committees and to report to Council monthly. The sphere of the Committee's operations to be:—

(1) *Education.*—Keeping in touch with School of Mines, Trade Associations, Trades Schools, Elementary and Secondary Schools, Schools of Art, Public Libraries and Galleries and all other organisations that provide or could provide facilities for the education of artistic ability in general or for the training of archi-

tects and craftsmen in particular. Fostering their encouragement and directing their development as far as possible.

(2) *Architecture.*—Viewing in the broadest manner the architectural development of the country, drawing attention to its opportunities, frankly criticising its failures; acting as a constant spur to public bodies, private persons, architects and craftsmen, to create the better and to remove the worse.

(3) *Public Taste.*—Doing all that is possible in the Journal (by regular contributions), in the public Press, by lecture, by enquiry, by interview, by illustration, by reference to past and present achievements elsewhere, to arouse the public mind from dormancy into a habitual taste for what is good, seemly, orderly, and beautiful.

TRUSTEE'S REPORT.

BENEVOLENT TRUST FUND, YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31st, 1917.

An amount of £150 has been placed on fixed deposit, and £110 18s. 10d. is now standing to the credit of the Fund (current account).

The two sons of a deceased Transvaal Architect have been helped with their education, one of whom is now old enough to take a situation, and gives good promise for the future. Without this help, these two lads would have been unable to secure sufficient education or clothing. They both reside in England.

No applications for assistance had been received during the year, but an application is expected.

The following is the list of donors to the fund since its inception:—

H. Baker, Esq.	£100	0	0
E. H. Waugh, Esq.	10	0	0
D. M. Burton, Esq.	5	5	0
W. H. Stucke, Esq.	100	0	0
Society of Architects (S.A. Branch)	10	10	0
D. M. Burton, Esq. (second) ...	5	5	0
Association of Transvaal Architects	50	0	0

Of these, the last three amounts have been received during the year, totalling £65 15s. 0d.

The Trustees are Messrs. H. G. Veale, Walter Reid and E. H. Waugh and, together with the President and Senior Vice-President of the Association form the Board.

On behalf of the Board,
Signed, E. H. WAUGH,
Trustee.

REVIEW OF ARCHITECTURAL JOURNALS.

Considerable interest is being taken in the National Housing Competition promoted by the Royal Institute of British Architects. It appears the Local Government Board invited the R.I.B.A. to co-operate in the housing scheme by providing the best typical plans for cottages, which might be a guide to those in charge of housing schemes to be used as instruction to the architects to be employed by them. An adequate sum of money was allotted by the Board as payment for these plans. The R.I.B.A. forthwith promoted a public competition. The conditions provided for four classes of houses, and first and second premiums to be awarded for each class, the payment of the premiums conveys the absolute possession of the design, including all copyright.

Amongst other of the conditions the following are of interest, viz.:—The plans may be prepared without regard to any existing by-laws or local Act provisions. In all cases back additions are to be avoided.

Needless to say a great deal of interest, leading to much correspondence, has arisen over this competition, and will no doubt result in much good. Amongst the several criticisms offered the following are of some interest:—

It was contended by some that with so many architects on active service, this was not the time to have a public competition partially promoted by the R.I.B.A., in reply to which it was pointed out that the competition was not for the work but for designs, the buildings themselves are not to be erected till the return of architects on active service, who would then have their chance of being employed to design houses the basis of which would be one or more of the winning designs of this competition.

In classes B. and C. a parlour was required, and this has raised considerable controversy, some contending that the parlour is nothing more than a museum, in which are deposited all the household treasures, the family bible, pictures, photographs, a sort of domestic chapel consecrated to parties, visits, and other social functions. Omit it, says one, and you lower the tone of the house, and those who suggest doing so have a poor acquaintance with the psychology of the working classes.

The reference to by-laws is considered to foreshadow a much-needed modernisation of antiquated by-laws, particularly from the point of view of construction, and the clause is evidently intended to give the designer full scope regarding the many new materials and methods of construction not yet permitted by most of the local building by-laws.

One suggestion made by a contributor which will

no doubt give rise to much controversy is that the assistance of women with close knowledge of household economy should be sought in regard to details of interior construction, such as the design of stairs, the provision of cupboards, larders and storage accommodation.

Another contributor lays down the law that a W.C. should not be placed in a bathroom.

The most unique suggestion made is that the competition should have been made in three stages, viz., each class, A., B., C. and D. should be competed for, for the plans only, having selected the most suitable plan for each class, these plans should then be submitted to competition for the best elevation, having selected then the best plan and elevation for each class, they should finally be competed for the best method of construction; this method certainly possesses some outstanding advantages, but at the same time seems diametrically opposed to the essential principles of design, and would no doubt meet with disfavour amongst the artists of the profession.

The controversy over heights of rooms is as bitter as ever, and the arguments for and against low ceilings would occupy columns, and in the end each side seems satisfied to agree to differ with their opponents.

With regard to the question of assessing competitions, the most novel suggestion ever put forward was that of the competitors being their own assessors, each competitor was enforced to vote for his own design first, and the one he considered next best to his he was to vote second and the majority of second votes was the winner. This idea originated from a Grecian ruler who wished to decorate the bravest man of his army, and as each soldier returned from battle he asked him who was the bravest man in the battle, but as each one said he himself was, he hit upon the idea of asking who was the next bravest man, and so discovered by the majority of next bravest men the bravest one.

We shall wait with interest the result of this interesting competition, and would in the meantime congratulate the Institute in rising to the occasion as a body in rendering assistance to the Local Government Board, and trust that the Association of Transvaal Architects may have a similar opportunity of rendering services to the Government or Provincial Government in some such similar way, whether it be for houses, schools or any other building scheme contemplated by them.

The only other matter of great interest in the recent Journals are reference to the death of the great sculptor and artist, Rodin, and to quote from the Journal would not be here out of place.

From the "Architects' and Builders' Journal":—

So Rodin is dead. It is as if the monarch of the forest had fallen. One instinctively classes him with the great elemental, strong, rugged, simple souls that stand out among their fellows like giant trees amidst the brushwood. He was seventy-six; yet we had hoped that he would live long enough to see his beloved country's triumph and to commemorate it in an immortal group. For great men often exercise the creative faculty at an age when meaner men, if they attain to it, are feeble and palsied. Walter Savage Landor, who springs to mind because his genius, though exercised in another medium, was akin to Rodin's in its Greek almost Bœotian—austerity, was nearing ninety when he wrought some of his most exquisite fragments of poetry, and published them as 'Last Fruits Off an Old Tree," and "Dry Sticks Fagoted." Like Landor, Rodin might have said—and even with a nearer step towards truth—

"I strove with none, for none was worth my strife.
Nature I loved, and, next to Nature, Art;
I warmed both hands before the fire of Life;
It sinks, and I am ready to depart."

Rodin's must have been the larger experience of life, for he had known the bitterest poverty, and had triumphaned over want, obloquy, derision; Landor was a Dives compared to this Lazarus.

Francois-Auguste Rodin was born in the Latin Quarter on November 12, 1840. He had to leave school when he was fourteen, but then went for a while to an art school, where he began to try his hand at modelling. His mind was of the slowly maturing type, and three times he failed at the competitive entrance examinations of the Beaux-Arts School; though possibly the real failure was that of the examiners to understand his peculiar qualities. He then went to Barye, who encouraged and stimulated his love of nature. "And, next to Nature, Art." Young Rodin loved music and old church architecture. On the death of his dearly loved elder sister, Clotilde, he became a neophyte of the Church, but at the end of a twelvemonth returned to secular life. For six years he "devilled" for Carrier-Belleuse, helping, notably, with some of the relief decorations in the Louvre, and patiently subordinating his own personality to that of his master. After the war Rodin joined Van Rasbourg in decorating the Exchange at Brussels; worked, also, on carvings in the Brussels Palace of the Academies; and it was in Brussels that he shook off the shackles of the employer and began to assert his own individuality; there, too, that he learned the secret of giving to stone images an appearance of life and motion which could not be attained by merely copying faithfully the living model, but only by creating an illusion comparable to that produced by entasis. Flesh produces its effects in one way, stone in another; and Rodin dis-

covered how to shape stone to give it the effect of flesh.

This is no occasion for examining Rodin's works in detail. A mere list of them would extend to several pages, and probably could not be made complete, seeing that for a score of years he had worked anonymously for taskmasters. His three great monuments —the "Claude Lorrain," "The Burghers of Calais," and the "Victor Hugo"—are so varied in conception and execution as to leave no doubt that Rodin had the fecundity and versatility that inhere only in the great masters. He has left, it is said, in his studio, a monument to Puvis de Chavannes that is fully as noble and beautiful as the others, but the enthusiastic accounts of those who have been privileged to see it leave us in doubt as to whether it is quite finished, but evidently it is far enough advanced to fulfil its purpose. And prolific as he was in busts, he never repeated a pose or an expression; each has its own unique poise of the head and glance of the eye. It somehow seems that each is more characteristic than the normal self of the original, and this without the slightest trace of caricature. It is as if the sculptor had surprised and revealed the secret of the sitter's soul. Sometimes, as in the case of the Balzac statue, it was not a happy secret; and Rodin's artistic conscience forbade him to flatter. I do not know how to express this mystery better than in the words that sprang to my lips as I gazed for the first time on the bust of Henley. "Is it like him?" a friend asked me. "More like him than he was like himself," I replied. It has been said, by somebody who perhaps loved epigram better than truth, that "France, whose general output in art is to-day far above that of any other nation, has nevertheless produced no really great artist." A sufficient answer to this, were none other possible, would be—Rodin. R. H.

COMPETITIONS IN THE CAPE COLONY.

RHODESIAN, NATAL, FREE STATE AND TRANSVAAL ARCHITECTS BARRED!

Some feeling has been aroused among Transvaal architects by two advertisements inviting competitive designs for buildings to be erected by public authorities at Capetown and Port Elizabeth in which the invitation is restricted to architects practising in the Cape Province. The Association of Transvaal Architects has taken the matter in hand, and the subjoined correspondence will be allowed to speak for itself. Meanwhile, and before further comment becomes necessary, it is hoped that the Cape Institute of Architects will have added, on the Association's friendly suggestion, to advise the removal of this unusual restriction:—

Letter from Association of Transvaal Architects to Cape Institute of Architects:—

Residential Hotel, Humewood, Port Elizabeth, and Polytechnic School, Capetown.

Enclosed I beg to hand you copy of letters which have this day been forwarded to the Town Clerk, Port Elizabeth, and to the Principal of the Salt River Technical Institute, regarding the above two projected competitions.

My Council, in addressing you on the subject, trust that your Institute will give its hearty support to these letters.

The object which my Council have in view is that in all South African competitions promoters be advised to issue invitations to the profession throughout the whole of the Union. In the interests of amity and unity in the profession, my Council have consistently advocated this course—and with unvarying success—whenever a public or open competition has been advertised in the Transvaal. They hope that the policy of your Institute will be reciprocal in this direction.

Letter from Association of Transvaal Architects to Town Clerk, Port Elizabeth:—

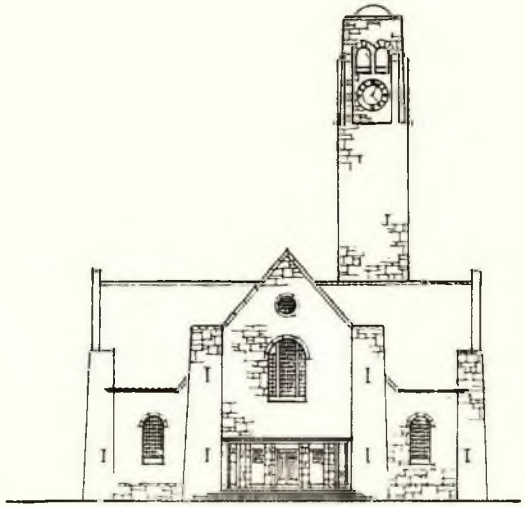
Residential Hotel, Humewood.

I am directed by my Council to thank you for your favour of the 15th inst., and to request that you be good enough to place the matter before your Committee. Where a public or open competition has been advertised in the Transvaal, my Council has consistently advocated that it should be thrown open to the Union, and this course has invariably been approved. It is thought advisable to point out that some firms practising in the Transvaal have also offices in the Cape Province, and consequently these firms will be able to compete, whereas firms solely practising in the Transvaal are debarred.

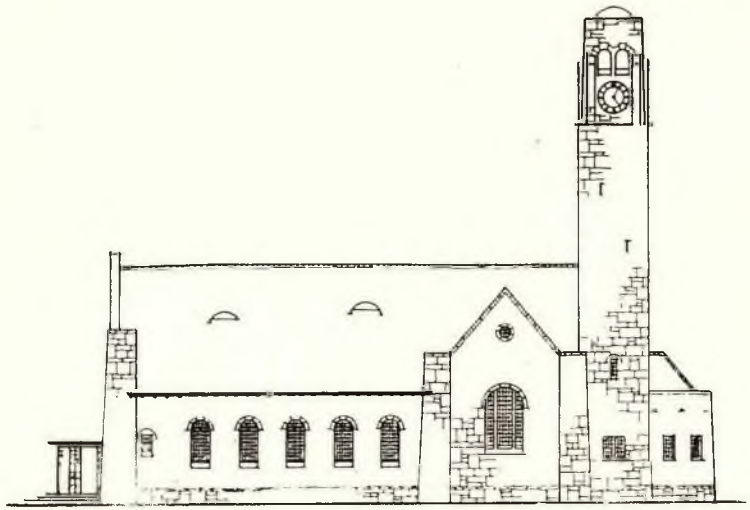
The course advocated by my Council is in the interests of amity and unity in the profession, and also gives the promoters a larger selection of designs. With regard to the competition having been advertised some time ago, we note that queries relative to the conditions will be received up to March 29th, and as replies to these may affect any design, no competitor would complete his drawings until after that date.

Reply from Town Clerk, Port Elizabeth:—

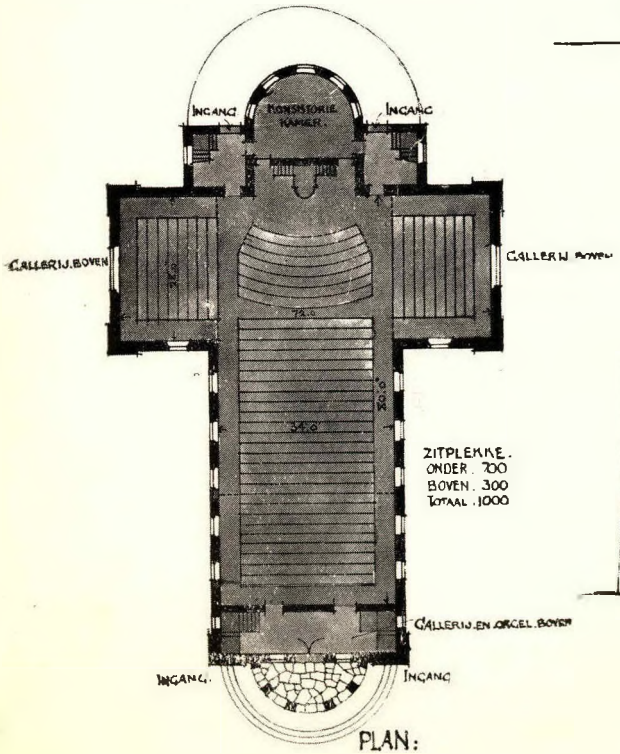
With further reference to this matter, I beg to inform you that your letter of the 11th February was placed before the City Council yesterday, and I am directed to state that in confining the competition to architects practising in the Cape Province, my Council is acting on the advice of its expert adviser and is unable to deviate from same.



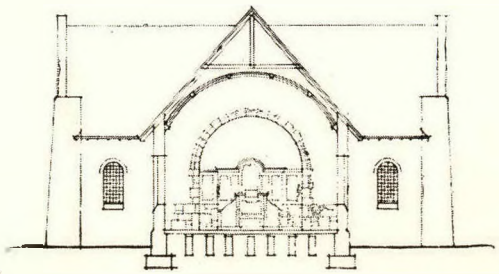
VOOR:GEVEL:



SIJ:GEVEL:



PLAN:



DOORSNEE:



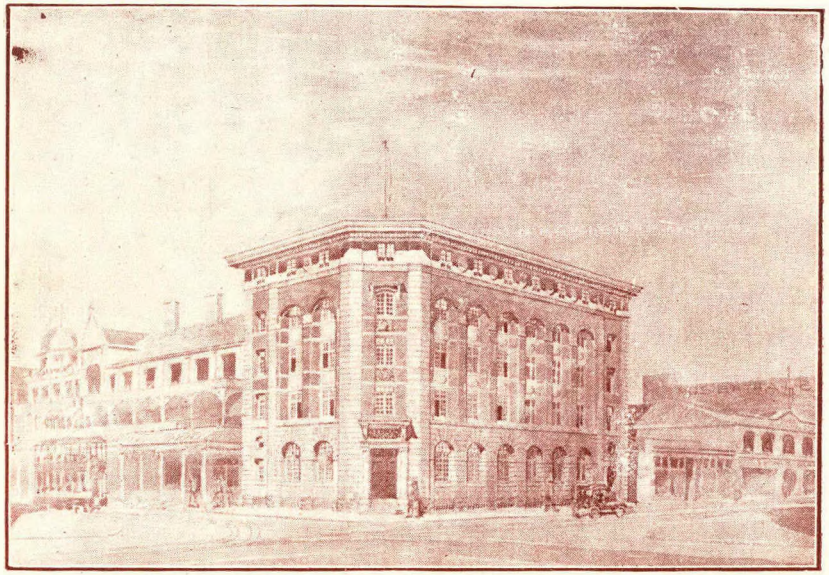
PERSPEKTIEF

Design for Church at Bothaville, O.F.S.

By Messrs. Emley & Moerdijk, F. & A.R.I.B.A., Associate Architects.



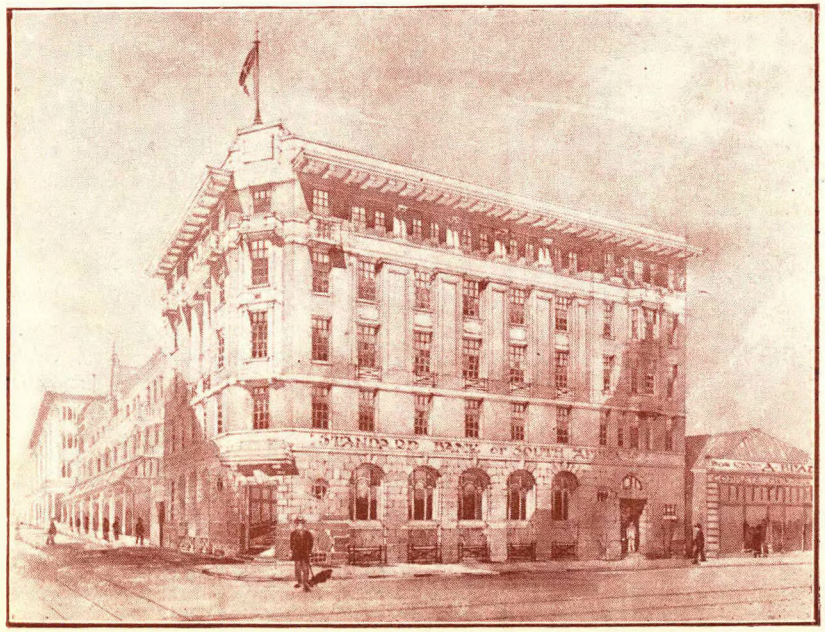
Time-Limit Sketch in Oils
by Mr. Frank Emley, F.R.I.B.A.



Messrs. A. & W. Reid & Delbridge.—Architects.



Messrs. Howden & Stewart.—Architects.



Messrs. Cowin & Powers.—Architects



Mr. Frank Emley.—Architect.

STANDARD BANK, ELOFF STREET, JOHANNESBURG.—Designs submitted in limited competition.

Letter from Association of Transvaal Architects to Secretary, Salt River Institute, Capetown:—

Proposed Polytechnic, Capetown.

My Council's attention has been drawn to the fact that Your Council contemplate erecting a Polytechnic School at Capetown, and that invitations have been issued to all architects practising in the Cape Province to submit designs for same.

I am now instructed by my Council to ask whether your Sub-Committee will consent to issue their invitations so that the competition may be open to architects throughout the Union.

The present limitation appears to be unusual and undesirable.

Reply by Secretary, Salt River Institute, Capetown:—

I am directed by my Committee to thank you for your letters of the 11th and 23rd inst., and regret to inform you that my Committee are unable to make any alterations in the conditions already sent out to the competitors for the Architectural Competition.

UNION TRADE RETURNS.

The returns of imports for the complete year 1917 are now published, and the decrease continues to be still very marked, and would be still more if the old values still held, but most materials show sharp advances, hence the decrease of quantity is offsetted to a certain degree by increase in price.

As against 1916, window glass fell from £75,681 to £38,000, and plate-glass from £37,500 to £28,000; stoves from £73,000 to £51,000. Angles, channels and T iron were imported in less quantities, 14,800 cwt against 17,700 in the previous year, but the cost rose from £10,700 to £14,400. Bar, bolt and rod iron came in to the quantity of 252,347 cwts., costing £461,000, as against 353,500 cwts. costing £468,500, or two-thirds the quantity for the same price. Girders and steel joists fell from £27,750 to £12,700.

Plain corrugated iron shows a drop from 50,778 cwt. to 20,750 cwt.. and the value from £56,662 to £33,562. Corrugated iron figures are as follows: 191,000 cwt., value £192,570, fell to 123,700 cwt., value £180,000, or an increase in cost of about 40 per cent.

Piping of iron and steel kept well up, 170,670 cwt., value £196,737, coming in as against 220,057 cwt., value £207,239. Linseed oil 218,000 gallons, value £52,200, against 386,303 gallons at £66,475 for 1916, a marked increase in price.

Teak comes more and more into use, the import being 50 per cent. in advance of 1916, being 92,800 cubic ft. at £30,000 against 62,850 cubic ft. at £19,000.

Deals and other unmanufactured timber came in at the rate of 4,895,000 cubic ft. at £482,500 against 5,878,000 cubic ft. at £516,850 for 1916.

Flooring and ceiling accounted for 906,800 cubic ft. at £145,290 against 1,192,600 cubic ft. at £136,396 for 1916, showing a much higher price.

As regards countries of origin, the United Kingdom's exports to this country fell from 57.8 per cent to 51.3 per cent. of total imports to the Union. On the other hand, rises were recorded from other British Dominions; Canada from 2.2 to 2.6 per cent., Australia from 3.2 to 3.5 per cent., India from 3.7 to 6 per cent.; and Japan rose from 1.4 to 2 per cent., and the United States from 15.4 to 17.6 per cent., and the Belgian Congo from 2.6 to 3.8 per cent.

The returns gives every evidence of increased internal production of goods consumed in the Union and a decreased quantity of imported stuff in practically every building line except teak. The pressure is most felt in goods such as internal house fittings and furnishings, which this country has so far made only a very feeble attempt to produce, and of course heavy structural steel sections are very scarce, the manufacture of material of this nature being confined to the rolling of the lighter types, such as bar and flat iron.

NEWS AND NOTES.

The lecture in this issue on "From Gothic to Renaissance in England" is one of a series of public lectures delivered by various lecturers at the Technical College, Durban, with an object of interesting the people in "The Renaissance" in art, life and literature. Great interest was aroused, and the audiences reached as high figures as five hundred persons.

Messrs. R. L. Esson and Co., of Johannesburg, have been endeavouring to meet the want of drawing materials arising from scarcity of overseas imports, and have succeeded in manufacturing a very fine quality of tracing paper which is highly transparent, and is being extensively used by the mines and the railways. Ferro-prussiate papers and linens are also made, as well as engineers' and surveyors' sectional pads. All South Africans will welcome these evidences of increasing manufactures in our midst.

News has been received through an indirect source that Mr. W. H. Mason (Member) has been killed in action in France. While there is only a slight possibility of the information being incorrect, we are sorry to say that we feel it to be only too true. Mr. Mason has of late practised in Salisbury, Rhodesia, but was well known along the Reef, and was successful some years ago in winning the competition for the Presbyterian Church, Boksburg. He was a skilful architect, and still in the early prime of strong manhood.

A cable message a few days ago announced a recommendation by Sir A. Kenyon that Sir Edwin Lutjens, and Messrs. Reginald Blomfield and Herbert Baker (Member) should exercise general supervision of the construction of memorials and monuments to soldiers who had fallen on the various battlefields, and further that each dominion should adopt a distinctive headstone for the graves of soldiers from their countries. The choice of the supervising professional committee is excellent, but as no details are furnished as to the *modus operandi* in obtaining designs, it is not possible to make further comment beyond expressing an earnest hope that all capable of doing so will be allowed the opportunity to submit designs for memorials to those who have made the great sacrifice, and there are few of us, alas! who have not lost relatives and dear friends in the Great Cause of Freedom.

The King's Bench Division of the English High Court has given a sensible judgment in the case of the Repton School vs. Repton District Council. An addition was made to the front of one of the boarding-houses. The by-laws gave the Council the right of claiming that rear space must be given to this addition to the front, as it had to be regarded as a "new building," and therefore as from its nature it could not be provided with rear space it must be pulled down, as it was illegal without such rear space. Mr. Justice Bailhache, in giving the decision, gave an imaginary case where a house was surrounded by 30 acres; if the owner wished to enlarge his dining-room by a projection in front, then that projection would be a "new building" unprovided with air space in the rear. There could be no reason for such a by-law, as it prevented an owner doing what he ought to be able to do. In short, the whole thing is too absurd for words, but the Council was not able under the law to use discretion and so insisted of about the most ridiculous thing of its sort ever brought up. Any ordinary person would have taken the discretion and not run into an obviously impossible position. Still, the Judge said, the local authority would not be free to act reasonably, because it was bound to enforce the by-law." However, the school won, and attempts to apply irrelevant by-laws will not now be so easy, for, as Lord Russell of Killowen said, "by-laws must be benevolently interpreted" and "credit must be given that they will be reasonably administered."

The many Australians in South Africa who knew Mr. Percy Oakden will be sorry to hear of his death. He was one of the oldest and best known architects in Melbourne, and occupied an almost unique position because of his professional and personal worth. Born in Launceston, Tasmania, in 1845, he learned his business in Hobart, and subsequently in London under Sir Digby Wyatt and the London University College. In 1868 he started practice in Melbourne, and built some of its noblest structures, such as St. James's Buildings, William Street; the Working Men's College, Queen's College, for which he has left a beautiful design for a chapel as a war memorial, the City of Melbourne Bank, New Zealand Chambers, and also the Ballarat Town Hall. Where the subject suited he always veered into Gothic, with which he had an acquaintance only to be expected from the period of his training when it was all the rage. His cultured form, always clothed in a big Beaufort coat and topped with a silk hat, was one of the most familiar to the many hundreds of architectural youths the "Southern Venice" has possessed for half a century.

Col. Sir Swinton Jacob, K.C.I.E., C.V.O., Hon. A.R.I.B.A., formerly engineer to the Jeypore State, a great authority on Indo-Saracenic architecture, and collaborator for some time with Sir Edwin Lutiens and Mr. Herbert Baker on the architecture of the New Delhi, has passed away in England at the age of 77. From 26 to 71 years of age he was engineer to the Jeypore State, viz., from 1866 to 1911, a marvellous record!

The passing of Rodin, the great French sculptor, at a ripe age, is the loss of a truly great man. We have two or three pieces of his rare work in our Johannesburg Art Gallery. He made stone look so like flesh so that once he was accused of taking casts off his model. If history places him with Michael Angelo and Leonardo it will probably be doing his genius only the justice which is its due. Reference is made elsewhere to this sublime artist.

News has been received that Mr. Everard White, formerly Quantity Surveyor of Johannesburg has been promoted Major R. E. and has received the Military Cross for gallantry in the field in France.

Association of Transvaal Architects.

Vacancy as Registrar.

Written applications are invited, and will be received by the undersigned until the 20th inst., from gentlemen capable and willing to undertake the combined duties of Registrar to this Association and Business Representative to its Journal. Remuneration (including certain commissions) guaranteed minimum £20 per month, office provided. Full particulars of duties and emoluments can be obtained from the Hon. Business Manager to the Journal, Mr. D. M. Sinclair, No. 7, Sauers Buildings, Loveday Street, Johannesburg, between the hours of 2 and 3 daily.

By order of the Council,

A. E. BEULKE,
Acting Registrar.

'Phone 4999,
P.O Box 2266,
JOHANNESBURG.
March 6th., 1918.

CAPE NOTES.

The Cape Institute has lately been dealing with several matters of interest to the profession at large, among them the following:—

Cape University.—The University Council was written to suggesting the desirability of establishing a Chair of Architecture. After various letters and interviews, the Institute's action has resulted in favourable consideration now being given to this matter.

Technical Institute Building.—The Institute, by letters to and interviews with the various authorities interested, have succeeded in getting this work thrown open to competition.

Local Building Material.—The matter of the supply of building materials from the resources of the Union has been taken up. The Government has been asked and has agreed to appoint a Forestry Officer with a special knowledge of the treatment of timber for the building trade. A Standing Committee has been formed to deal with the development of our national resources.

"Our Day."—The Institute was asked by the organizers of this fund to subscribe as other professions. A notice was sent round to the members of the profession, and in response the architects of Capetown subscribed £64 2s.



The Major: "Don't you know it's against orders to take hay from the farm? What the blazes were you in civil life?"

Driver: "In a draughtsman's office, sir."

Major: "Draughtsman, eh? What would you say if I came into your office and pinched some of your draughts?"—"London Opinion."

SKETCHING.

It has always been a source of wonderment to me how little architects in this country seem to do in the way of sketching! There seems to be nothing short of extremes—the devotee, like Paton and Pilkington, and the rest non-starters. It was not thus at home. I remember that we students—practically all—belonged to sketching clubs, and I almost fancy that we showed more rivalry and anxiety for success in this direction than in what one might call our proper sphere. We would show each other the results of our efforts and fight fierce friendly fights as to their comparative merit. Some of these students became so enamoured of their prowess that they sold themselves body and soul to the artist's profession. I have seen pictures in the Academy by men who had struggled with me to swallow and digest the exact proportions to a hair's-breadth of an order. I was guilty myself of a clandestine love for the artist's profession, and the finest hours of my life have been spent in their company painting with them. It seemed to me that from the study of the human form I got a better idea of proportion than from anything the Orders taught me. The human form was the living organism; the Order was a striving after its perfection in dead matter—and a live dog, if we believe proverbs, is better than a dead lion.

We all know that the beauty of Grecian architecture—the columns and its entablature—is traced to the study of the human body or said to be, and it is probably more than true, for almost unconsciously one recognises something in common between the two. I am not dealing with accepted facts, proofs or demonstrations, but merely expressing the personal confirmation one receives by study and comparison, apart from tabulated fact. I know that the more I worked from the nude figure the more I appreciated the proportions of the Orders, and—more than that—the more I seemed to realize some common factor in the law of proportion.

The sketch illustrated was the work of one of those lighter evenings when, for the time being, one was fed up with the more serious study of the nude. It was a time sketch, the idea being to travel as far as one could in an hour, and which hour included a couple of rests of ten minutes each for the model. It certainly seems to have nothing to do with architecture, and yet there were two great essentials in architecture present and which one aimed at—form and repose.

Some day, when architects are more of a brotherhood, and architecture appreciated for its own beauty rather than for its possibilities for personal success, there will be architectural sketching clubs, where we shall compare notes and help each other on in this splendid study.

F. E.

FROM GOTHIC TO RENAISSANCE ARCHITECTURE IN ENGLAND.

By John Adams, A.R.C.A. (Lond.)

(A Lecture delivered at the Arthur Smith Hall, Durban.)

To-night I wish to give you some idea of English design in buildings from the landing of the Normans in 1066 to the later work of Sir Christopher Wren at the beginning of the eighteenth century. I do not propose to devote much time to Gothic architecture, as our main business is to consider the introduction of the revived classic style into England. From the advent of the Norman style in 1066 until the accession of Queen Elizabeth in 1558, mediaeval design formed a continuous stream of development for nearly five centuries. One must insist that there was no break in the mediaeval tradition throughout that time, but it is usually considered convenient to divide the style into the following periods, according to the phases of development—Norman, 1066 to 1189; Early English, 1189 to 1307; Decorated, 1307 to 1377; and perpendicular, 1377 to 1558. By this time the Renaissance had made its appearance in England, and through the reigns of Elizabeth and James I. (until 1625) English work shows the efforts of those trained in Gothic traditions to adopt features derived from classic sources. After 1625 we get the fully developed Renaissance, when the traditional English workmanship and the revived classic style were fused into a perfect national art.

There will only be time to consider a few main facts of mediaeval architecture. There had been nothing even remotely like it in the history of the world, and the work of the masons during the whole period was just a great adventure. Almost everything they attempted was in the nature of a daring experiment. The architecture of the Greeks and Romans had been solid and inert, but the work of the Gothic craftsmen possessed a greater poise and equilibrium. As one century succeeded another, their towers went higher and became more slender, their walls became almost entirely of stained glass with the minimum of stone support; their stone vaulting overhead is so fine in the later period, that from the ground it has the appearance of lace. There are expressions of grief, joy, etc., which can be better expressed by music than literature, and so also there are expressions of mystery, wonder and infinity which very soon get beyond the means of music and literature. We are face to face with a means of expression by architectural forms, and we shall find that there is thought-expression in masses of masonry and in arrangements of line. Then from another point of view, buildings are witnesses which cannot lie. They are not so much records of the past, as samples of actual history. Westminster Abbey is a great piece of the middle of the thirteenth century still projecting above the lower strata of English life and effort.

I know of no more fascinating study than that of English architecture. Before the Conquerer's reign, the architecture of the Saxons was of a very crude kind. The Normans brought with them a freer use of stone than the Saxons possessed, and a knowledge of large churches on the continent. Their plan is in the form of a cross, and the sub-divisions of the plan are rather important, because they are the compartments which had to be roofed with stone, by a method known as vaulting. We shall find that the designing of the stone vaults provided the mediaeval builders with their chief problem for several centuries, and the history of Norman and Gothic architecture is intimately linked up with the progress of vaulting design.

The Norman cross-vault, covering a square compartment, was a legacy from Roman times, the structural factor being the vaulting surfaces, while the intersections of the vaults were not of great importance. In the twelfth century the ribs at the intersections of the vaulting surfaces became the constructional elements, while the stone in filling was made of thin slices of stone laid between the ribs. So long as the builders used a semi-circular arch, these intersections were weak constructionally, and, as a natural consequence, their vaults were unsatisfactory in appearance. In the case of a square compartment, the diagonal ribs, having a longer span, were bound to rise above the transverse ribs. The difficulties of reconciling these various heights were increased when a rectangular compartment had to be roofed. Very few of these intersections stood the strain placed upon them. Winchester is a very interesting example of a place where this vaulting has stood, but in most other English Cathedrals, sooner or later the tower over the intersection came down, as at Chichester, Peterboro' and Westminster Abbey. The obvious solution was to put semi-circular arches over the diagonals, and then employ pointed arches for the transverse ribs the same height as the diagonals. We now not only have an arch capable of supporting the tower above, but also a form of design which is capable of dealing successfully with compartments of varying proportions.

For various reasons the introduction of the Renaissance style of architecture into England was a slow process, and from first to last it occupied a period of about 100 years from the time the first Italian work made its appearance to the date when one can say

that the new point of view in architectural design was definitely accepted. First of all we find foreign workmen, usually Italians, making isolated attempts to introduce their own methods of workmanship. But it rarely progressed further than ornamental features. Secondly, we have the efforts of the English builders, trained in the Gothic workshops, attempting to design in the new style, and side by side with their efforts is the work of Flemish and German workmen employed in England, who understood classic design perhaps even less than the Englishmen. These two phases bridge the interval of about a century between the two styles, between the fully developed Gothic tradition and the time when Renaissance work was completely understood and had assumed a national character. While this intervening century produced little that could be compared architecturally with what had gone before, and that which was to follow, it is nevertheless a period of great interest. In the main it was a struggle between the mediaeval ideals and methods of work, and the more scholarly classic ideals. But we shall find that the old mediaeval workmen was not easily conquered or converted, and even in the seventeenth century, after the Renaissance had become established, buildings in the old Gothic manner continued to be erected. The new ideas gained ground in one place, while the Gothic builders clung to their old traditions in another, and sturdily refused to alter their design or their craftsmanship. So that, taken altogether, English building design is a fascinating study between about 1500, when the first Italians appeared in England, and 1622, when Inigo Jones completed the Banqueting Hall at Whitehall in the new manner In the late Gothic work is seen the last serious effort of the Mediaeval world to face the magnificent freedom of the Renaissance. It is the architectural expression of the dying brilliancy of religious fervour. The glory of the old inspired work has gone, the Reformation has come and the way is paved for the Puritans, but the English craftsmen loved their old ways of work too well to adopt in a hurry the new fangled ideas of building.

The first introduction of Italian workmen into England was due to Henry VIII. and Cardinal Wolsey. The most famous of the Italians in England at this time was Torrigiano, who is remembered by most people as the man who broke Michael Angelo's nose while they were fellow students in the Medici Gardens at Florence. Torrigiano, or Peter Torrysany, as the English called him, was employed on the tomb of Henry VII. in Westminster Abbey in 1512, and this is probably the first appearance in England of the new style. The Italians were never called upon to design the fabric of a building, which was done by Englishmen after their own fashion, and the Italian carver afterwards set to work in his own way, covering the surface with cherubs heads, festoons of fruit and ribbons, and other fancies he had brought with him from his own country. So that the change from Gothic to Renaissance spread from ornamental details to the structure itself at a later date.

Wolsey was commencing to build Hampton Court in 1515, and while the main fabric of the building is in the English tradition, built by Englishmen, certain decorative details and ornamental parts are by imported Italian workmen. At this date the Renaissance was at its height in Italy, and no doubt the introduction of Italian workmen was due to English scholars who had travelled in Italy and had become familiar with classic architecture and design, as well as classic literature. The terra cotta insets at Hampton Court are by Giovanni da Majano, and of course they are purely Italian in spirit.

About the time of the short reign of Edward VI. the Italians disappear from England, probably on account of Edward's poverty and the consequent lack of commissions. They were succeeded by an invasion of Flemish and German workmen during the reign of Elizabeth. The powerful corporation of German traders known as the Steelyard had been in existence since 1296, and, in spite of the protest by English merchants in 1552, the merchants of the Steelyard continued to flourish until 1601, when they were finally banished from England by Elizabeth. This large importation of foreign craftsmen and traders had its effect upon the details of Elizabethan work. The designs of the Germans were coarse and often barbarous, and their strapwork gables, the notion of using columns as chimneys, and the shapes of men and women ending in balusters display their heavy hand and mechanical instinct. History has a habit of repeating itself, and I suggest that the peaceful penetration of the Germans is no new thing, and the invasion of Italy by the Huns has happened once before. But these invasions of style did not penetrate very deeply into architecture, and they were mainly surface decorations, which were finally routed by that most English architect, the first professional architect England ever had, Inigo Jones. It is true that there were many able master builders in Elizabeth's days who were responsible for the splendid old mansions, but they were not architects in the sense we employ the term nowadays as representing men who possess scholarship and are capable of designing freely and with knowledge. The Elizabethan builders derived their details mainly from pattern books, generally of German origin, and what they lacked in knowledge of style they made up in adventurousness, often with the most picturesque and lovable

results. If for a little while the country workman lost some of his Gothic vigour and traditional skill under the influence of the foreign invasion, we shall find that after Inigo Jones, the Englishman, regained independence of thought and that kindliness of manner which has stamped both our mediaeval and Renaissance architecture with a character unmistakably English. In the execution of woodwork, brickwork or masonry, no country is capable of such delicate refinement and unsurpassable workmanship.

The extended use of gunpowder had rendered obsolete the mediaeval castles, and Elizabeth's day saw the erection of great domestic mansions. Very few churches were built in this period, as during the middle ages a sufficient number had been erected for the use of the people, and the suppression of the monasteries under Henry VIII. caused the diffusion of vast sums of money and land amongst the statesmen, successful merchants and newly-enriched gentry. So that until after the Fire of London in 1666, when the city churches were rebuilt by Sir Christopher Wren, the most vital work of the builders is shown in the country mansions, public buildings, and colleges. In the mansions many mediaeval features were still retained, such as the inner courtyard and the great hall, and while such internal features as wood panelling, staircases, and fireplaces had been used in earlier times, their shapes and decoration were constantly changing as scholarship advanced, and men began to build not for defence but for comfort and pleasure. Many of the colleges at Oxford and Cambridge were erected during this period, and these buildings, situated within the impetus to the new style, as object lessons to the rising generation. Many interesting town houses of the period still exist in places like Chester, and there are such notable examples as Staple Inn, Holborn. They are usually of half timber construction, and are extremely picturesque with their pattern of black timber across the white plaster. Sir Paul Pindar's house, which used to stand in Bishopsgate, London, and whose front is now preserved in the Victoria and Albert Museum, South Kensington, is a most interesting example of timber construction of the 16th century.

Through the Jacobean period (or the reign of James I., 1603-1625) architecture continued the development of Elizabethan work in the direction of classic ideals, gradually emerging from Gothic picturesqueness as classic literature and models became better known, and the use of the columns with their entablatures became more general.

Before we discuss the examples by Inigo Jones, it would be wise to glance at the five orders of architecture as arranged by Palladio, the Italian architect of the sixteenth century. Throughout Elizabethan and Jacobean times the orders had been used at random, without regard to the relations between their several parts determined by the usage of either the Roman or the Italian Renaissance architects. Inigo Jones deliberately adopted Palladio's standard as the most mature and refined expression of the orders; and from his time forward up to the early nineteenth century, when architecture in England fell into a state of chaos, this was the accepted model. So that it is to this particular version of the orders that Englishmen turn for the next two hundred years. Inigo Jones was born in 1573 in the parish of St. Bartholomew's, Smithfield, and little is known of the first thirty years of his life, except that it is said he was apprenticed to a joiner, and towards the end of the sixteenth century he went to Italy at the expense of certain noblemen. It was no unusual thing in those days for an architect to be employed in the designing of staging, Palladio himself had been so employed at Vicenza. In 1605 the University of Oxford desired to entertain King James with three plays in the Hall of Christ Church, and an old record says that "They also hired one Mr. Jones, a great traveller, who undertook to further them much, and furnish them with some devices, but performed very little of that which was expected. He had for his pains, as I heard it constantly reported, £50." It was not until after a second visit to Italy that he settled down entirely to architecture, but in the meanwhile he had made great improvements in staging. The mechanical resources of Shakespeare's stage were quite primitive. There were no such things as moveable scenes, and the lighting consisted of hanging candles and half a dozen footlights. The stage itself was on the ground floor surrounded by galleries which made anything but a background impossible. Inigo Jones returned from Italy inspired by the work of Peruzzi (whose architecture we discussed two weeks ago), and for his Masques he designed what is practically the form of the theatre as we have it to-day, with a stage raised above the floor of the auditorium, mechanical devices for scene-shifting and scenic effects, and brilliant lighting. In considering Renaissance art we are apt to overlook this transition of the art of staging. The old stagecraft displayed a homely fancy, and a traditional instinct which were mediaeval in their directness and simplicity. Henceforward, staging, like architecture, was to be dependent on scholarship almost as much as design; it was to live on a different plane and to become conscious; it was to lose its loveable humility, and depend upon clear thought and the control of a central designer.

In 1619 he was ordered to design the Palace of Whitehall for James I. It was a huge scheme, containing a courtyard in the centre, and only a fragment

of the whole was built, the Banqueting Hall, which still stands in Whitehall to-day. There was no precedent whatever in England for such a magnificent design in the new manner, and it is amazing in its originality of conception compared with the work that had gone before. The work of the Elizabethan builders had been picturesque, though lacking in distinction and refinement, and they certainly failed to embody any large architectural idea. Here, straightaway, Inigo Jones erects in the complete Renaissance manner a building which is not inferior in proportion and scholarship to the work of the finest Italian masters. And, moreover, he managed to stamp his work as being definitely English, not Italian, and so he started the national style on the distinctive path it was to follow for the next two centuries. Thousands of people pass this building in London every day, and only a relatively small proportion of them realise its significance in the history of English thought, or appreciate its dignified refinement.

The old York water gate is by Inigo Jones, and once formed the river entrance to Old York House, since destroyed. It is now in the Embankment Gardens below the Hotel Cecil. About 1636 he built Roynham Hall, in Norfolk, a country house which is extremely refined in design, showing the unfaltering touch of a great master in architecture. This doorway from Raynham Hall is in exquisite proportion, and in spite of its classical taste, it could be of no other country than England. He had freed English architecture from the imbecilities of the German designers and had started it in these and other works on a fresh line of development, as we shall see in the works of his successors. He died in 1652, and was buried in the church of St. Bennet, Paul's Wharf.

His only pupil was John Webb, who was a conscientious but not very original architect. The stream of development was never really arrested, and there were two other men who formed the link between Inigo Jones and Wren. They were Marsh and Gerbier, but their work was not of particular merit. There was still a certain amount of building done in the Gothic manner, one example being as late as 1672, but it lacked the vitality and artistic freshness of the true mediaeval work, and may be regarded as the last flicker before the mediaeval ideals are extinguished forever. The profession of the architect had become established, and there were few masons who designed and carried out the work. One of the last of these mason-architects was Thomas Grumbold, who in 1638, as a working mason, supplied a design for Clare College Bridge, Cambridge (for which he received 3s.), which he also built.

That great genius, Sir Christopher Wren, was the next outstanding figure. He was born in Wiltshire in 1632. Wren had a wide mathematical knowledge, and possessed singular ability in applied science as then understood. This proved to be a great advantage in the problems of construction that confronted him in building certain structures, such as domes, which had never been attempted before in England. His first work was Pembroke Chapel at Cambridge in 1663, a simple well-proportioned design. He never visited Italy, but in 1665 he journeyed to Paris to learn what he could from the buildings themselves, and "to pry into trades and arts." At this time Bernini (who designed the colonnade in front of St. Peter's at Rome) was engaged on designs for the Louvre, and Wren made the most of his opportunity for study. In the work executed after this visit to France, the influence of the French architects is very marked, especially in his rather exuberant and untasteful ornament, as we shall see at St. Paul's. About this time he was called in to repair old St. Paul's Cathedral, a Gothic structure, but the Fire of London happening in 1666, gave him his great opportunity, for it swept away not only old St. Paul's, but a number of other city churches. He had been made Surveyor-General, and at once drew up a masterly plan for the rebuilding of the city, which the King accepted, but difficulties intervened and the merchants were allowed to build again on their old sites, with the result that the citizens of London to-day have to suffer waste, inconvenience and delay, to say nothing of the comparative dinginess of the surrounding streets.

After many experiments, a design for St. Paul's was decided on and the first stone laid in 1675. Strong was the master mason, Richard Jennings the chief carpenter, and the wood-carving was by Grinling Gibbons. The last stone on the top of the lantern was laid by Wren's son in 1710. It has been said by a distinguished architect that, leaving St. Peter's at Rome out of account, as differing both in scale and intention, the result is unquestionably the finest church in Europe produced by any architect of the Renaissance. The plan is really based on Gothic precedent, with a choir and aisles, transepts and nave with aisles, and with a dome over the crossing. Wren set himself the task of building "a dome conspicuous above the houses," which should as far as possible indemnify Londoners for the loss of the spire of Old St. Paul's. There is no grander sight in all London than this magnificent dome seen either from the bridges or from Fleet Street at any hour of the day, and under any atmospheric effect. It is one of those sublime things that never ceases to inspire awe and reverence, and to travellers from all the ends of the earth it stands for London itself. The shape which is

seen from the outside is of wood covered with lead, while the flatter curve seen from the inside is of brick decorated by Sir John Thornhill. If Wren had relied merely on the shape of his outer shell, the effect from the inside would be like looking up a chimney. If the inside dome were relied on without an outer dome of greater height, the outline would have been little more than a hump over the centre of the building. St. Paul's is one of the very few large churches that have been started and completed by the same architect. The internal length is 460 feet, the breadth 100 feet, and the height to the cross at the top is 365 feet. It took thirty-five years to build. Wren was also responsible for the erection of no less than fifty-three city churches between 1670 and 1711. He also did much work at Oxford and Cambridge, including his early work, Pembroke College Chapel, the Sheldonian Theatre, and the Library of Trinity College, Cambridge, and the Inner Court, Trinity College, and the Library of Queen's College, Oxford. We have already discussed Cardinal Wolsey's Gothic brickwork with Italian terra-cotta insets at Hampton Court. In 1689 Wren commenced additions to Hampton Court in red brick with stone dressings for William and Mary, part of Wolsey's structure being removed to make way for Wren's beautiful Fountain Court. One gets to love Hampton Court for its homeliness and restraint, in spite of its size; with its oak panelling and its deep window seats looking across green lawns and superb flower-beds, with its simple sky line and its rows of well proportioned windows that never become monotonous in spite of frequent repetition. If ever a building could be called a gentleman, this is it—and an English country gentleman in the best sense of the term. Wren's masterpiece in public buildings was the portion of Greenwich Hospital completed by him in 1715. His problem lay in incorporating buildings already existing, which were erected by Inigo Jones and Webb, with his extensions, and this he accomplished in splendid fashion.

Wren's last days were clouded by the intrigues and jealousies of inferior men. Blomfield says that "George I., from whom he had hoped much, turned out to be stupid and unintelligent, and the German clique at Court had no sympathy with the man, who, alone among his contemporaries, represented the noblest tradition of English art." In 1718 a charge of mismanagement was brought against him, and a person named Benson was appointed in his place as Surveyor-General, a post Wren had held for fifty years. Ker of Kersland, in his Memoirs published in 1728, says: "It is very well known Mr. B. was a favourite of the Germans." The House of Lords in 1719 prayed His Majesty to remove and prosecute Benson, and the King ordered this to be done. Says Ker: "But though he was removed, instead of being prosecuted he was presented with the wharf of White Hall, worth yearly above £1,500, for thirty years." The Home papers have for a long time past been attacking what they call "the hidden hand," but the hidden hand has been at work for centuries, and being well in practice, is likely to remain hidden. I mention the sadness of Wren's declining years because I know of no more grand and dignified figure than that of the old artist, whose custom it was to drive once a year to St. Paul's and spend some time sitting under the great dome he had built. He passed the few remaining years of his life in quiet at his home, which is still standing on Hampton Court green, and died on February 25, 1723, after a last visit to his great masterpiece.

There is no time to talk of the architects of the eighteenth century, who continued the sane English methods founded by Inigo Jones and Wren. Even in the cottages and farms one can trace the solid building traditions of the country. There were many architects in the provinces doing work in some cases very little inferior to that of the great architects, as in the perfect specimen of a country Town Hall at Abingdon by an unknown designer. They continued the use of brick and stone, of wood and of modelled plaster with incomparable skill and sweetness until the beginning of the nineteenth century, when we lost not only our genius in building design, but our faculty for good design in every artistic craft. All pleasantness in the houses men lived in and the things men made for use or decoration became degraded by the ugly Victorian industrialism, from which we have only of late years begun to emerge.

OUR BOOK SHELF.

"Some Modern Methods of Ventilation," by R. Grierson, A.M.I.M.E., A.M.I.E.E., etc.

This is a concise volume of 187 pages with 40 tables and also illustrations of appliances. It is particularly suitable to architects to whom modern ventilation is too frequently a little known world. A perusal of this work will meet a felt want, as it deals with general principles of ventilation and explains the latest phase of "-recirculation of used air" with only a very small introduction of new air. The old fashion of measuring air pollution by the volumetric amount of carbon dioxide is discussed, and the somewhat startling conclusion is reached that notwithstanding the apparent pollution judged by the carbon dioxide, a plant has been installed capable of operating with only 10 per cent. of outside air. The effect of air on the skin is of supreme importance, and relative humidity

naturally follows as a subject not to be ignored if success is to be obtained. A concise specification is embodied in the work, setting out such conditions as an architect would require. Full explanation is given of fans of various types and heaters, and the introduction of ozone, and the apparatus used is well described and illustrated. A whole chapter is devoted to "Tests," and another to "Motor Drives," and "Schedules for Design" are given at full length, as are also "Purchase Specifications."

With this book at full intimacy, no architect need feel that he is entirely in the hands of "the expert," and should feel that he is able to form opinions on a subject which has so much to do with the success of public buildings of all kinds. The text is easily read and understood, and the print is large and open. The size and price of the book bring it within the reach of any person, and it should form a useful work of reference on any architect's book-shelf, as it is specially for use by the ordinary practitioner. even to the fixing of an ordinary 12 inch fan upwards to installations of a large size.

London: Constable and Co., 10, Orange Street, Liecester Square, W.C. Price, 8/6 net.

SENATOR J. J. WARE.

Mr. Ware has just returned from a long visit to Australia, where he arrived just in time for the first great Australian Town Planning Conference at Adelaide in October, and attended all the meetings, which he describes in an article to the Johannesburg Town Council. of which he is a member. There were nearly 300 delegates from all the States, including one from New Zealand. Twenty-three papers were read, including one by Mr. Walter Burley Griffin, the designer of Canberra. Health officers, engineers, architects and politicians all took part in the conference, which had a tremendous educative effect. Contributors were not expected to read their papers word for word, but to speak, and were limited to 15 minutes. and the chairman rang a bell three minutes before each man's time was up, a most salutary provision suitable for briefing the loquacity of talkative architects.

Mr. Ware speaks of Adelaide as the "City of Statues and Roses," aptly called "The City Beautiful." Designed about 1840 by Col. Light, the admiring citizens have kept up his memory with a large bronze statue. A broad belt of park lands surrounds the city, 1,900 acres in extent, on which no house may be built. A grove of olives gives a return of £5 per ton to the Town Council.

The Conference decided on a continuation of regular Town Planning Conferences, the next to be at Brisbane. It also resolved that 10 per cent. of areas should be set apart for parks. etc.

A special vote of thanks was passed to Johannesburg and Pretoria for sending exhibits. (It is rumoured that the Pretoria exhibit was a worthy one, but the Johannesburg one was mean beside it.—Ed.)

After leaving Adelaide, the Senator got home to his native Sydney, whose population is now 632,624 persons, Melbourne, once the leader, now having 588,971 persons.

In some places he found a street tree planted for every soldier who had gone forth. with the lad's name on it, 840 being put in in Ballarat alone.

His report, which covers many matters of civic interest, is being presented to the Town Council, and it is to be hoped that they will order it to be printed and distributed, as it is fully worthy of it, and the Senator deserves hearty congratulations of turning his trip into a most useful tour of research on behalf of his adopted town.

OUR ILLUSTRATIONS.

We illustrate drawings for the church at Bothaville, O.F.S., which were amongst those sent in in the above competition. They are interesting in their very simplicity, and seem to us a thoughtful stone treatment for a church dominating a flat country-side, such as we believe Bothaville to be. The design is a study in simple outline rather than the seeking after detail, and in that respect may be worthy of note. It was not the successful design. That we will publish later.

The four perspectives of the proposed Standard Bank, Eloff Street, Johannesburg, were submitted by various architects in the recent limited competition held by the Bank. They are shown to give our readers an idea of some of the treatments adopted. The corner treatments will be found specially interesting. We are sorry space does not permit showing all the plans.

The sketch of a "man in the street" in a sitting posture is referred to in the article called "Sketching."

The frontispiece is a recent piece of work for Messrs. Joscelyne and Co.'s furniture warehouse in Joubert Street, Johannesburg. It was chosen unanimously by the Journal Committee as a subject for illustration of current architecture, as it was considered to be a highly cultured treatment of a shop-warehouse Johannesburg, and like his recent work shows that he "goes from strength to strength," and that his art front. It is by Mr. Frank Emley, F.R.I.B.A., of does not "faint or grow weary."

THE CATHEDRAL OF NOTRE DAME, RHEIMS.

A brief sketch of the world-famed Cathedral of Rheims can be but a poor endeavour to portray such a masterpiece of the assembling of mass and detail; it is in fact beyond mere word expression and can only be appreciated by a personal visit, or I should say visits, as a whole day spent there could only vaguely impress the mind with its awe-inspiring grace and grandeur.

The Cathedral of Notre Dame stands amongst the pre-eminent monuments of architecture of the world, and is gifted to a degree with the quality of impressiveness, this quality it owes to the animated harmony of its members, and to the impression of massiveness which is yet not heavy.

The special charm of the art of architecture is to be seen in this edifice, in the deft arrangement of the materials, the blending of refinement with strength; broad and vast in design, and the magnificence of proportion; and now after proudly proclaiming its attributes of art, appreciated for centuries by the lovers of beauty, venerated by millions, and hallowed by the romance of history, it has been ruthlessly desecrated by the minions of a monarch whose boast is his belief in his allegiance with God.

Nothing can efface that first breathless sense of soaring height and beauty which impresses one on one's first entrance, as one looks up to the great windows of the clerestory set between the long slender shafts of columns which seem to spring from the ground and leap upwards like a fountain clear and undivided to the roof. There is in the first view of this vast Cathedral Nave something almost overpowering in its sense of ordered beauty.

This edifice is 455 feet long and 98 feet wide; the height from Nave floor to vaulted veiling is 125 feet; and its western flanking towers are 267 feet high, the walls of these towers are 6ft. 7in. thick at the lower storey, and the main walls of the building are built of massive stones measuring in places 12ft. x 3ft. 6in. The principal stones were brought from the quarries of Marsilly, they are shelly, and to some extent porous. Upon a great number of these are Mason's signs and marks, and are observed both inside and outside the building, no doubt these were guiding marks which the master workmen used in the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries; they occur upon a stone as many times as there are courses superposed.

The present building replaced an older church which was burned down in the early part of the 12th century. The foundations were laid during 1211. Two inscriptions prove somewhat as to the date of the erection of the south-western tower; one, 1381, at the commencement of the first floor in the arcading facing the Archbishop's palace; the other, 1391, is inscribed upon the sill of a small door at the foot of one of the King's statutes in the gallery of Kings.

Cardinal Guillaume Fillastre gave a considerable sum of money for the purpose of completing this same south tower, which was accomplished three or four years later. But on the night of July 23rd, 1481, some workmen who had been attending to the roof left a brazier half extinguished among the timbers, and on the following morning smoke and flames were seen issuing from the fleche which crowned the choir of the Cathedral. During the afternoon the roof, the central fleche, the trancept gables, and the parapet arcading crowning the walls were completely destroyed before the fire abated. In 1516 the repairs of the damage caused by the fire of 1481 were suspended, the western towers having been covered with a slate roof; so that after thirty-five years they had not been able to completely reinstate what a few hours had sufficed to destroy. Only the lower parts of the transeptal towers remain, but as they do not rise above the spring of the roof, play no important part in the outline of the Cathedral.

The two western towers, most graceful specimens of middle pointed work, remain to this day as they were roofed in 1515; they were originally designed to rise 349 feet. The one on the south contains two bells, one of which weighs more than 11 tons.

The principal facade is remarkable for its grandeur. It has a triple portal, a magnificent example of medieval work, a work unsurpassed in any country or age for originality of designs and excellence of execution, comprising nearly 600 statutes, many of which are of colossal size. The statues generally are beautifully executed and, unlike much of the statuary of other Cathedrals, which border on the grotesque, have more the finish and delicacy of the classic; some of the angels, carved about 1225, at the angles of the apsidal chapels under the cornice, are equal in point of execution to Greek statuary.

The gallery of kings extends across this facade, and is formed of a series of foliated arcades, surmounted by gables and supported by groupes of slender shafts. There are forty-two statues of Kings of Frances, from Cleves to Charles XI.

The plan comprises a nave with aisles, transepts with aisles, choir with double aisles, and the apse with five radiating chapels.

The columns of the arches which divide the nave and choir from the aisles are alike, and of uniform character throughout, being composed of a massive cylindrical nucleus with four slender shafts grouped

around it. The capitals are beautifully worked and closely copied from natural foliage.

The lighting, though beautiful, has not that dark, religious gloom, all is light and sunny, even so there are scintillations of splendour within these consecrated walls, which nothing within the whole range of pictoral art can surpass.

In the west front is seen a gorgeous rose window filled with exquisite amber-coloured glass, this rose window is 40 feet in diameter, and from an exterior point of view has the appearance of a halo crowning the structure.

As I have already stated, nothing can efface a visit to this magnificent piece of architecture as one looks up to the great windows of the clerestory and the beautiful rose window at the close of the evening, surrounded by a superb and majestic harmony of marvellous stone work, and the filtration of light through the windows, one is struck by the mysterious eloquence of its silence; and one must realise it to be a place not only for prayer, but for a salutary conception of man's insignificance.

LOWELL MASON,
Member, Natal Institute of Architects.

PUBLIC HEALTH NOTES.

Provided a sufficient number of candidates are forthcoming, a course of instruction in "Sanitary Science, etc." for persons contemplating entering the profession of sanitary inspector will be inaugurated at the School of Mines, Johannesburg. The classes will be held in the evening, and all applications for enrollment should be addressed to the Principal, School of Mines, at once.

While on the subject of the profession or calling of a sanitary inspector, it may prove interesting to some, and particularly to those who contemplate entering the field as "sanatarians," to quote a few of the salaries in Great Britain and contrast them with those prevailing in South Africa:—

Chief Sanitary Inspector, Glasgow ...	£1,000
Chief Sanitary Inspector, Bethnal Green	400
Chief Sanitary Inspector, Wimbledon ...	360
Chief Sanitary Inspector, Bath	375
Chief Sanitary Inspector, Battersea ...	360
Chief Sanitary Inspector, Johannesburg ...	420
Chief Sanitary Inspector, Germiston ...	480
Chief Sanitary Inspector, Krugersdorp ... and free house.	500
Chief Sanitary Inspector, Port Elizabeth and free house.	400

It will be seen that the leading city of South Africa—where the conditions of life from an inspector's point of view are trying, where the population is cosmopolitan, where epidemics of smallpox, plague and fevers are comparatively common—sets the lowest standard from a pecuniary point of view on the Reef. And it is certainly much below the prevailing standard oversea. Can it be wondered at that the Johannesburg papers print articles such as have recently appeared, "Chaos in the P.H. Department"? There is something rotten in the state of Denmark!

The following table is interesting as showing how Nature acts in accordance with certain well defined conditions, and should be borne in mind by those interested in town planning. The tables deal with certain districts in Manchester and Salford:—

Withington ...	55,572	10	11.39	16	52
Ancoats	39,831	100	27.09	398	164
Hulme	62,698	131	21.29	329	168

Ancoats and Hulme are typical working-class districts, containing mills, factories and canals, amongst which the workers' houses have been built, and which the Withington citizens are not blessed with.

Housing conditions and overcrowding on space account for the great discrepancy in death-rates, and Johannesburg could well learn a lesson from the figures. No more than one dwelling on one stand is the moral. Consumption is a disease very closely allied with bad housing and industrial conditions.

Sanitary inspectors in England have been appointed on Food Control Boards, and receive extra remuneration from £50 to £100 per year. This is due to their having technical qualifications and particularly training and experience in food, drugs and meat inspection.

Coal tar creosote is the latest specific for fly destruction. This is the result of a Government Commission appointed in England for investigation on all the "fronts" as to the best specific for fly destruction and as a fly repellant. Some of the conclusions are interesting:—

(1) Flies have been kept from such places as dug-outs by hanging sacks treated with creosote oil mixtures over the entrance.

(2) Adult flies in dug-outs and other situations and on putrescent material are killed by spraying.

(3) Latrines have been kept free from flies by spraying.

(4) Manure should be treated by spraying with creosote oil at the earliest opportunity. If made into heaps each incremental addition should be sprayed at the date of at least 100 cc. per horse per day. This does not spoil manure for garden use.

(7) In towns the breeding places of flies could probably be treated with little expense and the number of flies very greatly diminished.

(8) The chief objections to the use of creosote oil for such purposes are (a) its irritant action on the skin and mucous membranes; (b) its inflammability; (c) difficulties of transport.

Official statistics which were published in Berlin on December 3, 1916, state that on 1st August of that year there were 1,663,794 prisoners of war in Germany. In the two years of the war 29,297 prisoners had died, of these 6,032 died from tuberculosis, 4,201 from typhus fever, 6,270 from wounds, and 6,605 from other illnesses.

After a period of 70 years malaria has made its appearance again in Essex and Suffolk, and the interpretation given is the fact that infected soldiers returning from fronts were malaria prevails accounts for the outbreak.

AFFORESTATION.

23rd November, 1917.

The Honorable The Minister of Agriculture,
Afforestation Department, Union Buildings,
Pretoria.

Re Forest Culture.

Sir,—We respectfully beg to address you on this important subject.

The Association of Transvaal Architects are keenly interested in this matter, particularly on account of the future requirements of the Building Trades in South Africa.

Europe is being denuded of its stock in the disastrous war now raging, and there seems to be no solution, if South Africa is to have cheap building materials in the near future, but we must grow our own supply.

We are aware that much discussion of this important subject has taken place in both official and unofficial circles, but there seems to be no prospect at present of a constructive programme laid down by the Government.

We feel that the Union Government is the only authority that can possibly deal with the matter on a scale commensurate with its importance.

We do not wish to be put in an attitude of asking impossible things at a time when the chief energies of the Government are taken up with pressing problems of war, yet we commend to your attention the steps that are being taken by the Australian Government in the matter of afforestation, and in view of the future progress of South Africa, we still think some action, in order to secure the eventual requirements, should be taken forthwith.

Signed (Registrar, A.T.A.)
P.O. Box 2266, Johannesburg,
7th December, 1917.

Sir,—We have the honour to request, on behalf of the Association of Transvaal Architects and National Federation of Building Trade Employers in South Africa, that you will kindly receive a deputation representing these two bodies, for the purpose of drawing the Government's attention to the urgent necessity of some forward movement on the question of afforestation.

We shall be pleased to learn if you can grant such a deputation and interview, and if so at what time and place.

The Secretary for the Agricultural Union has also been asked to join the deputation.

We have the honour to be, Sir,
Your obedient servants,
D. A. McCUBBIN, President,
Association of Transvaal
Architects,
JAMES THOMPSON, President,
National Federation of Building
Trade Employers.
19th December, 1917.

Sir,—With reference to your letter, dated the 7th instant, addressed to the Honourable he Minister of Agriculture, and signed jointly by yourself and the President of the National Federation of Building Trade Employers, I am desired by Mr. van Heerden to express his regret that, owing to its receipt just prior to his departure from Pretoria, he was unable to arrange to meet the deputation mentioned.

I am, at the same time, to state that the Government is fully alive to the necessity of growing in this country the timber to take the place of much of that which is at present imported. The total area of Government plantations is about 70,000 acres, and before the outbreak of hostilities planting was proceeding at the rate of approximately 10 square miles per annum. Since the War operations have necessarily been more restricted, but during the past twelve months two schemes have been inaugurated, involving in the aggregate the afforestation by means of white labour of more than 20,000 acres, and at other centres planting, amounting to between 4,000 and 5,000 acres is likely to be completed during the current financial year.

In conclusion, I am to say that Government has now under consideration the question of accelerating the present rate of afforestation.

I have the honour to be, Sir,
Your obedient servant,
C. E. LEGAT,
Chief Conservator of Forests.

The President,
Association of Transvaal Architects,
P.O. Box 2266, Johannesburg.

19th December, 1917.

Sir,—With reference to your letter dated the 23rd ultimo, addressed to the Honourable the Minister of Agriculture, I am desired by Mr. van Heerden to say that the Government is fully alive to the necessity of growing in this country timber to take the place of much of that which is at present imported. The total area of Government plantation is over 70,000 acres, and before the outbreak of hostilities planting was proceeding at the rate of approximately 10 square miles per annum. Since the War, operations have necessarily been more restricted, but during the past twelve months two schemes have been inaugurated, involving in the aggregate the afforestation by means of white labour of more than 20,000 acres, and at other centres planting amounting to between 4,000 and 5,000 acres is likely to be completed during the current financial year.

In conclusion, I am to say that the Government has under consideration the question of accelerating the present rate of afforestation.

I have the honour to be, Sir,
Your obedient servant,
C. E. LEGAT,
Chief Conservator of Forests.

The Acting Registrar,
Association of Transvaal Architects,
P.O. Box 2266, Johannesburg.

THE PRESIDENT.

The choice of the Association has this year fallen on Mr. M. J. Harris, who has been resident in Johannesburg for about a quarter of a century, and whose energy is a fine testimonial to the qualities of the Rand climate. Our new President has won a fine record for work in the Councils of the Association for many years, especially distinguishing himself by the very sound and clever drafting of a new Union Bill for dealing with the profession of architecture. This labour, which meant many months of work, represents a monument of orderly and complete progression for which the author has not so far received anything like the full recognition he deserves.

Mr. Harris is also marked out by his skill in speech and peculiar readableness of his literary efforts. He has had a wide experience as a Chairman, and will bring to his new sphere a good knowledge of procedure —not always a strong point among architects.

Outside his professional work he has taken for a long time an active part in public matters, having been for many years President of the Jewish Guild and a member of the Committee of the Public Library, both being regions where his intellectual leanings have made him both happy and useful.

The ever-increasing burden of work in the Association Council makes the President's position more onerous than of yore, and men willing to hold this place should receive the hearty support of all our members.



Our President.

An American lady was vexed with the slow work of the plumber mending her drains, and scorched him with her language till at last he retorted: "Look here, ma'am, if you go on like this I'll sue you for damages." She replied: "Then I'll damn you for sewage."—From "In Slums and Society."

Hun Submarinist (looking out of his man-hole over the waste of waters): "I wish I could find a cathedral to sink."

10 p.m.

African Town Clerk (leaning on bar counter as a Building Inspector comes in): "Shay, old fellah, I know you, s'don't I?"

"Yes, I work for the Municipality."

"Sho do I, ole fellah, sho do I. Come and 'ave a drink."

A clerk of works is a person employed to swear for the architect and get kicked down the ladder by the builder.—From an exam. paper.

OBITUARY.

MAJOR G. A. H. DICKSON.

Again a name must be added to the list of members of our profession who have gone West. In this case perhaps there is not the stinging regret that one seemed to feel for younger members. Here we have the autumn of life abruptly terminated, and the earthly ending of one who had practically retired from the profession. In thinking over matters, one is inclined to the conclusion that Dickson found his natural vocation as a soldier; a life of glamour was the breath of his existence. As an architect he was a clever draughtsman, but he let the gift lie too much dormant. He held a peculiar position in the profession. Sound in his knowledge of it—but loathe to exercise this knowledge. To appreciate him one needed to know him well, as the best that was in him was hidden behind an impassive exterior. He was careful to observe the best traditions of the profession, and he practised it cleanly as men should. He was capable of much generosity and did much good the world will never know of. Those who were with him through the Boer War learnt something of the man and found him well worthy of their respect. He was capable undoubtedly of admirable work, but his life flowed in pleasant streams, and so the incentive for effort did not come his way.

F. E.

I cannot let the name of George A. H. Dickson pass from the pages of our annual register without a few words. I saw a good deal of him in years gone by, sitting with him in the old Transvaal Institute Councils. He represented the aristocratic element in our profession, coming himself of a good stock and out of the office of the famous Street, and he showed his abilities by being one of the first to pass the earlier A.R.I.B.A. exams. in 1888, soon after which he came to Johannesburg. He was for a long time Surveyor to the Diocese of Pretoria, and amongst his other works were the Country Club and the Church of England in Belgravia.

When the Duke of Connaught visited Johannesburg in 1910 he invested him with the M.V.O. in recognition of his work in the Volunteers, to which he was ardently attached; at that time he was Lieut.-Colonel of the Cyclist Corps. Probably he was the only architect in South Africa who held a Royal Order.

He was best known in the profession as "Lord George," in fact in conversation amongst us he rarely received any other title, the origin of which is buried in early obscurity. It suited the man, not in a belittling sense, but because of his carriage and bearing, and he was recognised as a sound and brave soldier, and he met his death from sickness while engaged in the great war, for although he was about 55, he was in useful trim for active service, and was at Gallipoli and other spheres. He became F.R.I.B.A. in 1905, and with him goes another of the fast disappearing links with our early days in the Reef City.

E. H. WAUGH.

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542, POINT ROAD, DURBAN.
PHONE 136.

SONG OF THE SLUM WOMAN.

The baby and the rubbish-tin are huddled side by side,
I'm gettin' through the washin', and the yard is not too wide;
'N' when you come to think of it, it doesn't seem quite square
For the baby 'n' the rubbish-tin to sit together there.

Of course there's room enough for 'im to play upon the street
(Next-door-but-one a kid got crushed beneath an 'orse's feet).
'E sits quite good 'n' quiet, 'n' 'e never starts to whine,
Till 'is eyes get sort of achy with the flappin' on the line.

There is 'Ospitals for Women, 'n' there's Infants' 'Omes as well,
'N' the Walker Convalescent you can rest in for a spell.
It'd be a deal sight cheaper than the nurse, 'n' bed, 'n' ward,
If the Council 'd provide us with a decent-sized back yard.

For there's Billy down with fever, 'n' there's Janie got sore eyes;
'N' Hector, though 'e's turned fifteen, 'e isn't any size.
Yet they fill us up with charity in 'ospitals 'n' all!
Won't anybody tell 'em they're against a bloomin' wall?

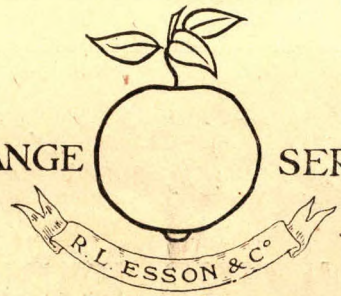
If they'd start from the beginnin'-like, with rentals on the square,
'N' pull these rotten houses down, 'n' 'elp us get fresh air;
If they'd see we got conveniences—not much, just what we need,
Why they'd 'ave both feet on sickness 'fore it 'ad the chance to breed.

But the baby 'n' the rubbish-tin are huddled side by side,
I'm gettin' through the washin', and the yard is not too wide;
There's the Parliament 'n' Premier, 'n' the grand Lord Mayor too—
It kind o' sets you wonderin' what they all intend to do!

Vance Palmer—"The Forerunners."

Distributed at Town Planning Conference, Adelaide, October, 1917.

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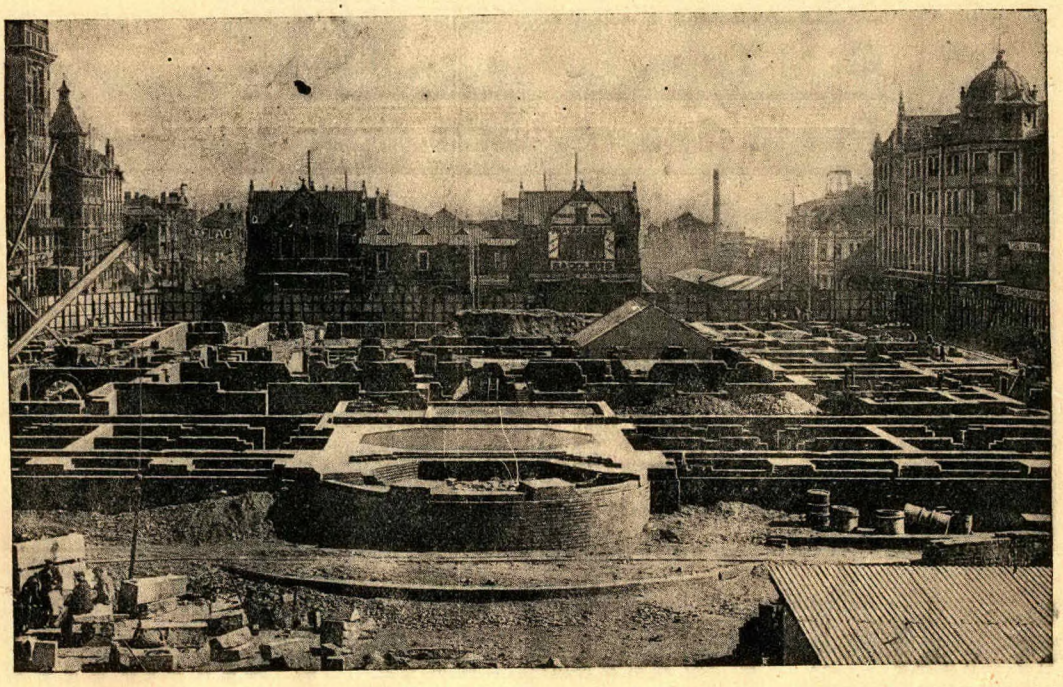
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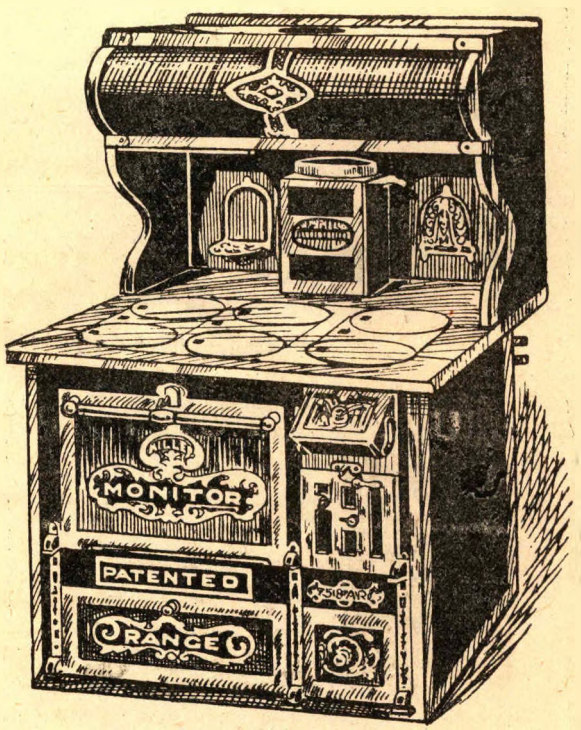
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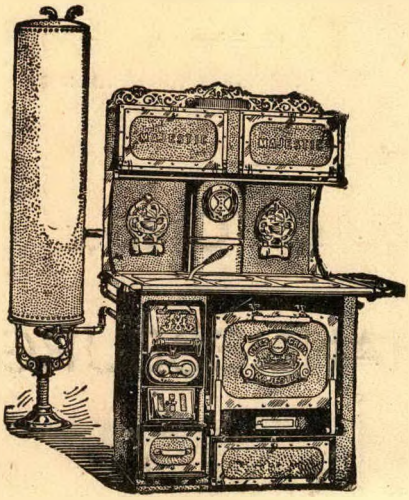
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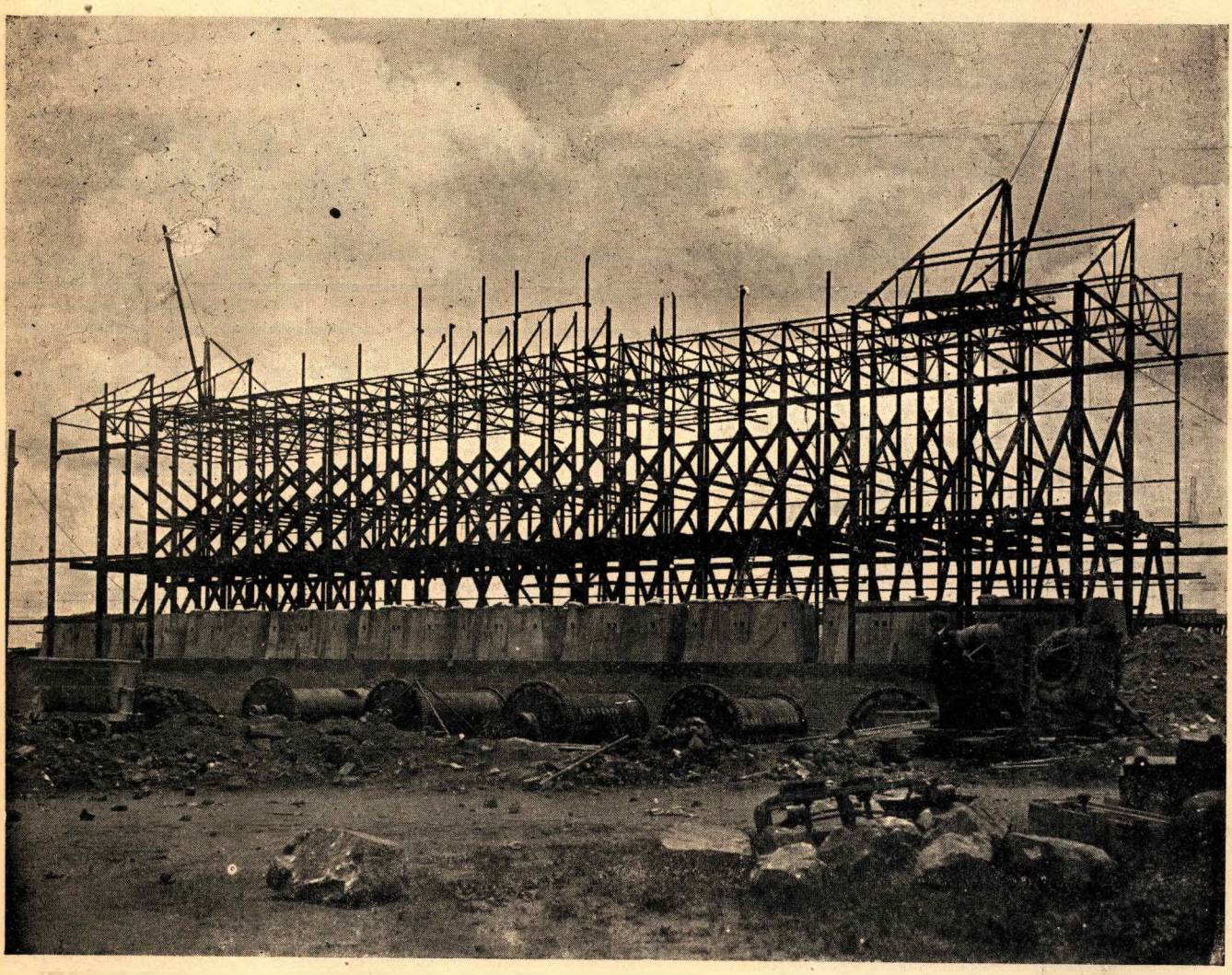
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