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THE SOUTH AFRICAN ARCHITECTURAL RECORD

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

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Hon. Editors Professor G. E. Pearse
Rex Martienssen

Secretary A. S. Pearse

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OUTBUILDINGS AT SPIER • STELLENBOSCH

We left Johannesburg early on a cool summer morning for Cape Town, and were thrilled by the glorious colourings as we drove over the newly tarred road from Baragwanath to Jackson's Drift. From here to Vereeniging one passes through fascinating country, small farms, apple orchards, and open veld, crossed at intervals by the mighty power lines of the Victoria Falls Power Co., which give one the impression of a huge driving force behind South Africa's greatest industry, upon which the prosperity of the Union depends.

The approach to Vereeniging, in spite of the bad roads, is impressive. The great grain elevator backed by the dumps of the collieries and factory chimneys and the miles of plantations make one realise the significance of industry and the vast developments which have taken place in the past few years.

Architecturally, Vereeniging is disappointing. There are no buildings of importance to attract the visitor, although great opportunities have occurred in the lay out of the Rand Water Board's premises.

The road for some miles beyond the town is South Africa's worst, but once off this dread spot, the joys of motoring begin. The Barrage, a great achievement from an engineering point of view, is spoilt by the embellishments which depict a civil engineer's ideas upon architecture.

Once into the Free State, one can sit back and really enjoy life. The perfect roads, quite the finest in the Union, are, we are informed, the work of an architect and, if so, one feels that a development of the imagination would be of the greatest benefit to the average road engineer in this country.

Parys, in its lovely setting, was a joy to behold in the early hours of the morning, but once inside the average Free State country town, depression sets in, and the urge to get on asserts itself. Why is it that our churches and public buildings are so truly hideous in this country ? Large sums of money seem to have been expended on the former and from a distance the church spires give one a thrill, but few possess any architectural merit whatever, in spite of their fine setting in most cases. Every town has its drab and depressing school and government buildings, a reflection of the times in which we live, costly and expressionless, and the Stadzaals are really the most appalling creations ever produced. We can agree with a recent prominent politician who stated publicly that the architecture of our public buildings was un-South African, was an exotic forced upon us by a Government department which possessed no soul, or words to that effect.

And so on to Kroonstad, with its lovely river and hideous buildings, through Brandfort and Glen to Bloemfontein.

Glen stands out as a glaring example of government architecture of the worst type, into which travesties of the gables of the earlier colonial houses have been worked.

In Bloemfontein we really found something worth looking at for it is doubtful whether any city in the Union is so clean and attractively laid out. The municipal housing schemes are worth visiting and might well provide an object lesson to all other municipalities in the Union. One can imagine clean healthy minded citizens being produced amidst such surroundings, in which monotony has been avoided at all cost.

A visit to the principal public buildings was depressing, the Appeal Court, built at great cost, being particularly unfortunate. However, the old republican buildings indicate that at one time Bloemfontein had men who could carry on the great traditions set for us by the early settlers at the Cape. The new Town Hall promises to be a fine architectural asset to the city and the Cathedral, by its sheer simplicity and in spite of its limitation in material, stands out as one of the finest architectural achievements.



Katberg Pass, Looking Back

Passing out of the city, one gets glimpses again of the delightful municipal houses and a distant view of the location of which the municipality might well be proud.

Bloemfontein possesses one of the finest monuments in the Union in its great simple obelisk and impressive van Vouw sculpture set up to the memory of the women and children who died during the South African war.

From Bloemfontein we passed through Reddersburg to Smithfield, delightfully situated against a background of hills, and approached through a lovely valley. Before entering this valley one skirts a lake reminiscent of one of the smaller Scottish lochs.

Here we got the first glimpse of what we were to expect in the old-world towns of the Western Province—fine shady trees and running water bordering the streets. The church is one of the best to be seen in the Free State and is well sited on the axis of the main street. What a pity that more of the old colonial tradition in building is not to be found here.

The end of our first day brought about the reflection that if ever motoring is to be what it ought to be, apart from good roads, good hotels are badly needed in this country.

We left Smithfield at dawn, crossed the Caledon River, and were soon entering upon wild and impressive country with the Drakensberg mountains as a background, with here and there a farm house and lofty poplars, which seem to flourish well in this district. We crossed the fine bridge over the Orange River at Aliwal North and regretfully left the wonderful Free State roads behind.

Through hot and dry, yet impressive, country with here and there a flat topped hill, we passed through Burghersdorp and Molteno getting the first taste of the Karoo country and then to Queenstown with its interesting hexagonal central lay-out.

Slowly the country changed and late in the afternoon we were ascending the Katberg to receive at the top our first real breath-taking experience. It is difficult to describe the view from the top of the Katberg Pass nearly six thousand feet high. Looking back one sees a dry and arid country whilst on the other side vegetation abounds, glens filled with glorious indigenous bush, waving grass on the hillsides, which are dotted with sheep, wild flowers in profusion, and a fragrant breeze bringing up banks of lovely clouds. It is certainly one of the finest sights in South Africa, especially when seen under the conditions which we experienced.

We lingered long at the top and then slowly wended our way down a road winding in and out of dense vegetation, with ever changing views, and waterfalls or running water flanking the road at intervals. We descended into the rich Katberg valley, glowing in the late afternoon, the road lined with

Katberg Pass, The Summit



hedges and blue plumbago, with vistas in all directions of flourishing citrus farms. What an ideal spot for a Van Gogh and what inspiration for an architect. We reached Fort Beaufort at about 8.30 p.m. and were overwhelmed by the hospitality and cheerfulness at the Hotel which we were reluctant to leave at 9 p.m. the next morning. There is an old world charm about Fort Beaufort, but one would have liked to see some fine shady trees dotted about the somewhat bare open square. From Fort Beaufort to Grahamstown we passed through more open, but very beautiful and wilder country.

Grahamstown was the first town after Bloemfontein to give us a thrill. Its setting is perfect and its Cathedral is probably the finest church in the Union. The fine proportions of the interior are marred by the wooden gallery filling up one aisle, but the tower is superb and reminiscent of the best mediaeval traditions of Europe. The main street is dignified with its old Drostdy gate at one end and its Cathedral at the other. The buildings flanking it leave much to be desired and the hard Government structures are depressing. The University College buildings are rather scattered and give no sense of unity or harmony in their design.

The road out of Grahamstown through the valley with its fine sheet of water left a pleasant impression, but the surface certainly did not. For some miles the journey is monotonous until one gets distant glimpses of the sea and finally reaches the magnificent stretch of some twenty-eight miles of tarred road leading into Port Elizabeth. Here we had our first mishap, a broken axle, but in an hour we had been efficiently served by Williams Hunt and Co., and were away again. We were forced to spend a night in the city and were not impressed, mainly we think, due to our mishap and to the fact that we spent a night in a hotel in which the towels certainly and the sheets possibly had been used by the previous occupants of our bedrooms.

We were away early the next morning and had a wonderful experience wending our way through Assegai Bosch, Karreedouw and the Tsitsikamma forests with their superb trees, to Plettenberg Bay, which was very beautiful



The Cathedral
Grahamstown

The Road to Humansdorp





The Drostdy • Worcester

in the late afternoon, and finally to Knysna in its lovely setting. We visited the Heads at night and were overawed at the magnificence of the spot and of the narrowness of the opening into the sea.

The Royal Hotel was well worth while but we left at dawn the next morning and after skirting the beautiful lagoon, climbed steadily, leaving glorious views behind us, until we reached the top of the coastal range and looked down upon the famous Wilderness, one of the great sights of the Garden route.

George was reached about 10 a.m., and impressed us by the beauty of its trees, its fine wide streets, its lovely flower gardens and charming houses covered with virginia creeper, with a flavour of the early nineteenth century Georgian England.

We draw a veil over the long monotonous stretch through Mossel Bay, drab and dreary, and shocking road to Riversdale, which has some delightful little whitewashed, gabled, thatch-roofed cottages, a first taste of what we expected to see in the Western Province and so on through Heidelberg with smiling valleys flanked by glorious mountains to Swellendam, a town steadily being ruined by the encroachments of the modern speculative builder and bijou residences.

Early the next morning we left for Robertson, the first part of the journey being through lovely orchards, and then along another shocking road until the main tarred road, some ninety-six miles to Capetown, was reached at Worcester. Here we admired the fine early nineteenth century Drostdy, now preserved as a historic monument, with its large bow fronted sash windows. Fragments of the early charming homes are to be found here and there but these are slowly disappearing to be replaced by modern excrescences.

The road through Bain's Kloof, with its wild and rugged scenery, is a fine achievement and the view from the top looking down into the valley with Wellington clustered round its church spire and surrounded by its vineyards and orchards is great.

The town of Wellington does not improve on a closer acquaintance and it was here that we first experienced the great heat wave, one hundred and two degrees in the shade, which we experienced during the great part of the next four weeks.

We reached Paarl soon after twelve and were not impressed by the dreadful approach from the north. The old main street still has fragments of its early charm, but this is fast disappearing and judging by the changes in the past seven years or so, Paarl must only remain a pleasant memory of its bygone charm. How strange that the soul of a people brought up in an atmosphere of beauty and handing down to us such a wonderful tradition should be allowed to die out, but commercialism has won the day.

From here we rushed along, anxiously looking ahead for our first glimpse of Table Mountain and what a thrill one gets as it slowly emerges through the haze. At last the Mother City, the gateway to South Africa which some of us have never seen, appears and our spirits droop. Through factories, drab streets, and slums, we approach South Africa's earliest historic monument, the Castle, slowly being strangled by its network of railways and tram lines. One feels that perhaps the writer of a letter in one of the Capetown papers was right—pull it down—it is in the way of progress and let a mere pleasant memory remain.

And so we enter the City and see the Parade, famous in history for its colourful reviews of troops, shady walks and running water, but now a thickly packed mass of motor cars and tawdry shanties, dominated by a hideous City Hall and a still more hideous Government edifice, the Post Office extension.



The Parade • Capetown

Like Paarl, the charm of old Capetown is fast disappearing writhing in the toils of harbour works and railways hideous to behold and characteristic of the engineer, whose great delight seems to be to utterly destroy anything that is beautiful in this world of ours.

However, we had reached the Mecca of our journey and were prepared to make the best of it by spending four joyful weeks studying historic buildings and furniture or the few fragments that are left.

Capetown seems more disappointing with each visit, but it is absurd in these materialistic days to be romantic. "Let the dead past bury its dead." Few modern buildings if any are worth looking at and the hand of the Government is to be seen everywhere in its ruthless destruction and replacement by hard metallic buildings.

Interesting contrasts are still to be seen. The old Caledon Square police court in Buitenkant Street still preserves a certain dignity but the cumbersome red brick Magistrates Courts opposite are a terror to behold. Perhaps they serve their purpose of reminding passers by of the rigours of the law.

The charming old early nineteenth century houses in Parliament Street have disappeared to be replaced by a monotonous repetition of one of Sir Herbert Baker's best commercial buildings. One wonders why initiative is so lacking that, after having come to the end of its tether in applying details from the Union Buildings to all and sundry official buildings, a Government department must seize upon another of Baker's works for inspiration. Even the old Parliament House, so reminiscent of mid-nineteenth century Victorian architecture, is a masterpiece by comparison. Even here, if one looks closely, it is obvious that the recent additions to our Parliament buildings have failed dismally and completely lost the feeling for classic architecture which dominates, in spite of its red brick, the original building.

We explored the Castle and were horrified to see Anrijt's fine work coated with shining white paint which destroys the harmony which used to exist between it and the woodwork below.

We visited the famous gardens of the East India Company, of which we had read so much, to receive another shock. Nothing remains, except the small fragment which surrounds Rhodes' statute, to bring back memories of the garden made world famous by passing travellers at the end of the eighteenth century. Slowly encroachments have taken place, and after working upwards from Adderley Street they are beginning at the top with hotels and working down.

The charm of the ancient Government Avenue with its fine gateways, long removed, is almost gone and the centre of this great open area, beloved by the Dutch Governors, is laid out in a patchwork medley of meaningless piers gleaned from some old farmyard, lamp standards, sculpture represented by military memorials, and a modern travesty of the beautiful old bath at Groot Constantia. Why must we go on insulting our architectural heritage by meaningless representations of the past. Overlooking it all is the South African National Gallery, a sad and sorry monument, again a travesty in plan of Lutyens' masterpiece in Johannesburg.

Perhaps one has already said too much and must not incur the anger of the powers that be. We have been told more than once that a Government department must know more than an architect, who is only a dreamer and idealist, and cannot possibly appreciate the intricacies of any building utilised for Government purposes.

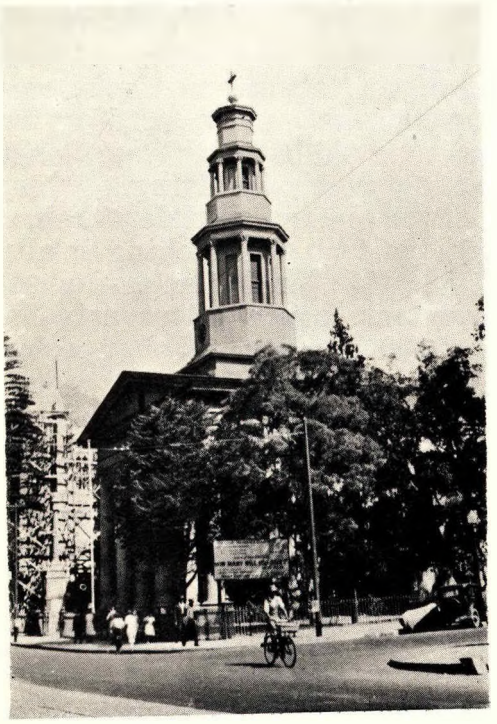
However, one can still delight in the crude but joyful old Town House of Ryk Tulbagh's time and the charming old Koopmans de Wet house, with its French veneer, of a later date,

preserved for the country by the City Council, through the influence of one or two great minded citizens.

Of nineteenth century Capetown one splendid monument remains, only a fragment alas, and soon to be removed, the stately portico and tower of St. George's Cathedral. This delightful structure, obviously designed by a man of considerable ability and taste, if judged by the original drawings which we were privileged to see in Major Jardine's collection, has been described in a leading article in one of Capetown's newspapers as follows :— "St. George's Cathedral was first opened for Divine Service on December 21, 1834. It was not then, and is not now, an architectural ornament to the city ; indeed, the architect is said to have been a sea captain who took St. Pancras Church as his model." In reply one can only piously say, "would to God there were more ships' captains of this calibre settled throughout this land of ours."

Nowhere in South Africa is to be found such a graceful portico and such a fine scholarly handling of simple wall surface and entrance doorway as here, and the building up of the tower with its graceful proportions is almost unequalled even by the tower of St. Pancras Church to which it bears little resemblance.

St. George's Cathedral, Cape Town



Of the twentieth century buildings, pride of place goes to the Reserve Bank in St. George's Street, a fitting foil to the old Cathedral. A great tribute must be paid to the author of this building, a man of scholastic attainments and ability, who is largely responsible for the preservation and restoration of the Kat balcony and that of the historic house of Rust en Vreugde. Unfortunately, owing to his modesty, we have not yet been able to obtain from him photographs and an account of this bank for publication in our journal.

One wonders what the architectural future of Capetown will be. No setting could be grander and everywhere the city is dominated by its famous mountain, a mighty work of the great Architect of the Universe, but what a muddle lies below. We were shown plans of proposed improvements, but nothing we have seen comes up to the proposals made some years ago by an enthusiastic amateur town planner, Mr. A. Allen.

From the city we made many excursions into the country, visiting and working at Groot Schuur, in an atmosphere inspired by Cecil Rhodes, the dreamer and idealist, at Groot Constantia and Vergelegen, which conjure up memories of the van der Stels, who were inspired by the same ideals as Rhodes. We visited the Rhodes fruit farms, Goede Hoep, Rhone, and Bien Donne, and went to Nederburg, Paarl, all lovely houses in which the present owners are striving to perpetuate the memory of their predecessors.

We made a pilgrimage to the Rhodes memorial which, on the whole, is one of the finest monuments to be found in the world. One could not help being inspired by the stirring lines of Kipling :—

"The immense and brooding spirit still
Shall quicken and control,
Living he was the land, and dead,
His soul shall be her soul !"

And yet one wonders. When one looks around at the buildings erected or being erected on the estates he purchased for this country, the question arises, could he have



Groot Schuur Estate

meant all this? The vast and ungainly hospital now taking shape and to be crowned, we are told, with a colossal reproduction of the Zimbabwe bird, that charming yet unfortunate little work of art which has been reproduced times without number in Government buildings. This hospital, built at such great cost, is to be so lavishly ornamented, we understand, that instead of an atmosphere of repose, usually associated with such buildings, a disturbing restlessness is likely to be produced.

The new University is frankly disappointing, especially in its climax, the Jameson Hall, the portico of which might be compared to its disadvantage with the much maligned portico of St. George's Cathedral.

The glory of the world famous de Waal drive and for that matter the stately Newlands and many other Avenues is slowly being destroyed by the ill considered and uncontrolled ribbon development which appears to be taking place.

Even the serene beauty of the old gates to Boshof has been destroyed by the speculative buildings in their vicinity.

It is encouraging to hear that a great deal of the charm of the Cape Peninsula further out and around Constantia and Tokai is being preserved by a newcomer, a man obviously with vision who, like Rhodes, has endeavoured to stem the advance of commercialism.

We met people who knew Rhodes and told us of his enthusiasm when he purchased old doorways and furniture which were being discarded, and embodied them in his building schemes.

Is there no statesmen to-day or section of the press to stem the tide and stir up the lethargy and apathy which appears to exist at the Cape ? Why must we continue to be overridden by men whose work shows a complete lack of sympathy with our traditions and the surroundings.

Give the young South African architect a chance to prove himself, as he surely can and will, although, at present, greater opportunities exist for his talents overseas.

The success of French architecture in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries is due to the fact that the Government whether Royalist, Republican or Imperial gave every encouragement to the young architects of their day. It is to these Frenchmen that we owe so much in this country, in the United States, in Egypt and wherever French influences are to be found.

What is badly needed in a young developing country is a Ministry of Fine Arts as in France, or an advisory committee, if ever we are to achieve success with our Government architecture. And yet there is a danger here as things are. What we really need is a van der Stel, a Ryk Tulbagh or a Cecil Rhodes, if ever we are going to produce an architecture worthy of our country.



Camphor Trees
Vergelegen

Some of us climbed Devil's Peak and we all experienced the thrills of the cable way and the views from the mountain top in all directions and it is then that one realises, more and more, how incredibly beautiful is the Cape Peninsula.

We left at dawn one Sunday morning and skimmed along the road we had come as far as Robertson, thoroughly enjoying the keen cold air of the early morning.

From here we journeyed to Montagu and then up a beautiful valley through Barrydale to Ladismith, the countryside rapidly changing all the way, especially after crossing the first mountain barrier.

From Ladismith we went via Seven Weeks Poort, through the second barrier, and entered a land of desolation, wild, rugged, parched, and uninhabitable. What contrasts after all we had seen, and yet it is in these contrasts that our land becomes so lovable. The road from the Poort to Prince Albert is bad, but in many places awe inspiring owing to the sheer desolation.

At Prince Albert, where we spent a night, we were surprised to see running water everywhere and came across several delightful old houses.

Next morning we were to experience another great thrill in our tour—the Zwartberg Pass, an amazing engineering feat—which we had to climb most of the way in first gear, but it was worth it. The view from the top looking down into the valley with its rich patterning of farms away to Calitzdorp, is magnificent.

The road to the Cango Caves is lined with glorious proteas and we slowly descended the steep gradients into the valley. Much has been written about these caves which have been described as one of the seven wonders of Southern Africa. They were discovered, we were told, in 1780, by a hunter, who, having wounded a buck, followed it into these dim recesses on the hillside.



Cape Town University

They are truly wonderful and it takes nearly two hours to complete the tour. The lighting effects are skilfully carried out and the curiously formed columns and interesting stalactites conjure up curious likenesses to the vivid imagination.

From here to Oudtshoorn we ran through a deep valley before reaching the open country which is dotted with ostrich farms. Once more we passed through the great mountain barrier, via Meiring's Poort, another famous beauty spot, which like the Poort of the day before presented us with some startling geological formations.

We reached Willowmore that evening and at dawn the following morning left for Bloemfontein, a distance of over four hundred miles, the greater part of the journey being through the Karoo, which, though deadly monotonous, has a charm of its own. By contrast, the Orange Free State looked like a land flowing with milk and honey and we were glad to cross the Orange River once again and get on to perfect roads where we could spin along at fifty miles an hour.

We were hospitably entertained in Bloemfontein and left next morning on the last lap of our tour. The stretches of green maize brought back memories of the vineyards of the Cape and after the good rains, the country looked extremely fertile and beautiful.

As we neared Vereeniging we again realised what a mighty industry means to South Africa and we were overjoyed as we caught our first glimpses of the mine dumps and the ever changing Golden City which in the late afternoon sunshine certainly deserves its name.

The approach from Baragwanath gets more beautiful each year and the fine trees lining the road are an indication of how much more might be done in afforestation around the City.

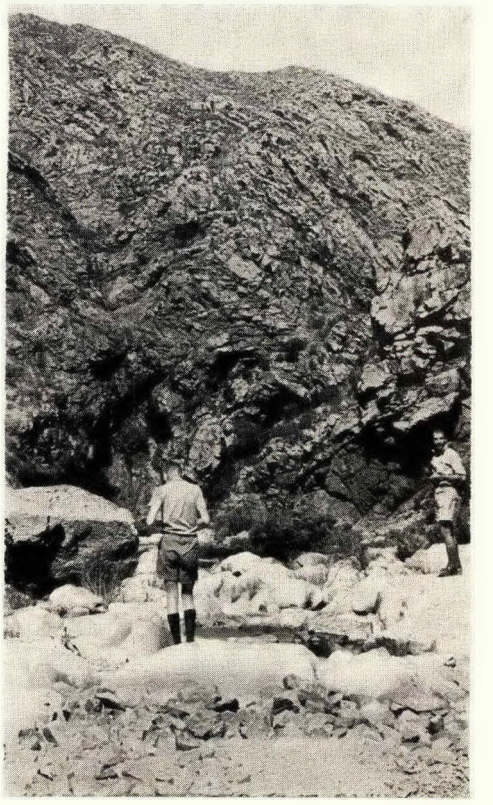
And so home once more carrying with us pleasant memories of mountains, forest and sea, but tinged with slightly unpleasant recollections of the thoughtless destruction of our natural and architectural heritages.

G.E.P.



The De Waal Drive

Seven Weeks Poort



On November 8th, 1934, a long chapter in the history of the R.I.B.A. was closed, and a fresh one embarked upon when the new building in Portland Place was opened by H.M. the King. The function had a dual significance, for not only was the Institute moving into new and splendid premises after the vicissitudes of various homes in the past, but the occasion marked the celebration of its centenary.

The R.I.B.A. has a more than local significance, and we feel that to those of its members who by virtue of residence in the dominions were not able to attend the Opening Ceremonies, extracts from the speeches made on these occasions will be of considerable interest. That the R.I.B.A. is not without international recognition is testified by the great number of congratulatory messages received from all over the world.

Apart from the professional and technical body of thought which the Institute represents, there is behind the facade of large membership a sense of stability and dignity and a tradition of high ideals directed towards practical ends. The profession in South Africa identifies itself with these ideals, and looks to the parent body for inspiration in meeting the countless problems which beset a young institute.

THE OPENING CEREMONY

THE KING'S ADDRESS

The Queen and I are glad to be with you on this occasion when the Royal Institute of British Architects enters its new home. In thanking you for your loyal address, I heartily congratulate the Institute on this year celebrating its centenary.

To-day, as the importance of co-ordination in the whole field of building becomes ever more clearly recognised, it is the great task of the Royal Institute to make the profession of architecture increasingly useful to the community. In an age when millions of men and women spend their lives in a world of streets, the shaping of these calls for thought, skill and imagination. Every building, whether it be a cathedral, or a factory, a shop or a city hall, forms part of a prospect on which many eyes will rest ; and the designer of the humblest dwelling has a duty, not only to those who live in it, but to those who pass by.

The provision of better homes for very many of my people is an urgent social need, in which the Institute has taken a deep interest. The subject is one for experts with wide knowledge and a broad outlook.

Your Members have also given consideration to the problems raised by the rapid spread of building along new roads and in country places of special beauty. To focus the collective thought of the Profession on questions such as these is one of the many services rendered by the Institute.

The Royal Institute has now completed a centenary of useful work, and the enterprise of its members in providing this new centre for its activities, show that they are preparing for the still greater responsibilities and greater successes in the future.

I warmly congratulate the Architect who designed this beautiful building, which I now have much pleasure in declaring open.

The President
(Sir G. G. Scott)

It gives me very great pleasure, on behalf of the Royal Institute of British Architects, to extend to all of you a very hearty welcome to this Centenary Conference. Speaking on behalf of the London members I welcome those from the provinces who have come to London to celebrate this great occasion, and on behalf of both London and provincial members I extend the heartiest welcome to those who have travelled from overseas to be with us to-day. To the foreign delegates I should like to say how greatly we appreciate their presence at this Conference ; we feel greatly honoured in having them with us. To those who come from various parts of the Empire I say : "Welcome Home !" Their presence here is evidence of the strong ties that bind the Mother Country to the far lands of the Empire, and our old Institute, with its system of Allied Societies throughout the Empire, nobly does its part in strengthening those ties ; our very organisation has points of resemblance to that of the Empire—certainly both rely for strength and greatness upon the free and voluntary willingness of their members to stand together in a spirit of cordial co-operation. You will be glad to hear that in the course of the last few weeks we have been receiving by letter, by telegram and by cable from all over the world very kind messages of congratulation and good will, both from our own Allied Societies and from the representative Architectural Societies in foreign countries. These messages are very gratifying evidence of the good feeling that exists throughout the whole of the architectural profession in every part of the world, and it is very pleasant to note that our Institute appears to stand high in the estimation of our colleagues not only in this country but overseas.

The honour of addressing you on this occasion—great in the annals of our Institute—is tempered by a sense of the great responsibility that you have put upon me. But though this occasion is indeed one of responsibility, it is also an opportunity, and I seize the opportunity to express, on behalf of the R.I.B.A., our loyal appreciation of the signal honour that has been conferred upon the Institute and the whole architectural profession by Their Majesties the King and Queen. Their Majesties have, by so graciously consenting to visit and open our new home, opened under most auspicious circumstances a new chapter, or rather, volume in the history of our Institute. To Their Majesties I tender our grateful thanks and keen appreciation of this great honour and kindly act. We are also greatly honoured by H.R.H. the Prince of Wales having consented to attend the Centenary Celebration Banquet at the Guildhall this evening and by his having paid us an informal visit to view the new building. These royal favours are not only a great encouragement to us, but will act as a spur to our endeavours to fulfil the great task that we, as architects, have always before us, namely, our endeavour to help the community towards a finer ideal of living, and by means of imagination and skill to increase the amenities and happiness of life.

It is one aspect of this contribution of ours to the welfare of the community and the rightful place of the architect in the social fabric towards which I would propose to direct your attention to-day. But, before doing so, there are one or two matters upon which I should like to say a few words.

First, this Inaugural Meeting of the Centenary Celebration Conference is the first important meeting to be held in our fine new home ; we are proud of having at last a home that is in keeping with the dignity of the Institute. Mr. Grey Wornum has had a task that might well have struck terror into his heart. It was a task that he could only face by being true to himself, expressing himself with conviction and sincerity, and aiming at a high quality of artistic achievement. Mr. Wornum has built his heart into our building, and it cannot fail to express by its quality such devotion. Some may think the building too modern ; others may think it not modern enough. Personally, I do not attach much importance to this aspect of architectural criticism. The style in which modern architects should work may be a matter of architectural politics, it is certainly a matter of great interest, but it definitely does not affect the value of buildings as works of art.

We are apt to be prejudiced by this factor that has no fundamental artistic value. Style has no fundamental artistic quality ; it is come to-day and gone to-morrow—in this country the Norman gave way to the Gothic, the Gothic to the Renaissance, the Renaissance to Modernism—and the extreme modernism of to-day will be the old-fashioned stuff of to-morrow. The style of the period passes and has no stability, yet we expend a great deal of energy in arguing about styles ; it is an interesting subject, but from an aesthetic point of view it has little or no significance. What is important is the quality of a building apart from its style. Quality does not change, and it is common to all styles ; it is this to which we should direct our attention. It is not always easy to dissociate ourselves from personal preferences and to judge a building only by its quality as a work of art. It is so easy to be lenient with a building that is designed in a style with which we are in sympathy, and easy to be severe if the style is unacceptable. I value style as a means to an end—that is to say, if all architects would work in the same style, instead of in many, they would be able to build up a tradition and concentrate all their energies on producing quality in that tradition.

This is, however, rather straying from my text, but judged by this basis of criticism, which I think is the only sound one to adopt, our new building is undoubtedly a success. It is modern in feeling, but with a sense of quality that is rare in a great deal of modern work. It has a fine plan, with a feeling of space and dignity that is surprising in a building that is really of no great size. I should like to convey to Mr. Grey Wornum our thanks and congratulations on having given us a building of which the Institute may well be proud.

Then, there is another subject for congratulation. Many may not have realised that for more than a quarter of the Institute's life —that is for over a quarter of a century—we have had the same Secretary—Ian MacAlister. During this period the Institute has made a remarkable advance in prestige and importance, until it now stands as the central representative of the profession throughout the Empire. We rejoice that twenty-six years of devoted service to the profession by our well loved Secretary has received in this our Centenary year recognition in the Honours List ; it is an honour that we feel is reflected upon the Institute—I congratulate Sir Ian and Lady MacAlister, and I congratulate ourselves.

This Centenary Celebration might well be expected to inspire your President to flights of eloquence and exuberant oratory that would do justice to the occasion. I propose, however, to make no attempt at anything so difficult or so dull. Nor will I discourse upon some abstruse philosophic theme of academic interest, though I confess I should like to be able to follow the example of Sydney Smirke, who, as you will read in the admirable History of the R.I.B.A. issued for this Centenary Celebration, read a paper before the Institute, entitled " The Architecture of the Honey Bee "—this sounds to me like a discourse on functionalism.

We might be tempted on this occasion to cast our minds back over the past—the last one hundred years of the Institute's life—a period of triumphs, failures, laughter and tears ; but I think our glances should rather be directed forward, to the future, to the next one hundred years of architectural endeavour.

I am no pessimist as regards the future, certainly the outlook for architects is exciting. I feel convinced that architects stand on the threshold of a great adventure ; circumstances are playing into our hands. Modern life has been allowed to develop as it will and, as a consequence, has got itself into a pretty mess ; only a drastic change in the mental outlook of those who direct the activities of the community can bring about an improvement ; there are, undoubtedly, indications that such a change is gradually taking place. Life has become so untidy, and so terribly untidy has been the industrial period, which we might say embraces the last one hundred years, that there are few people to-day who do not realise that something has gone wrong. "Life is so untidy" was an expression used in a farewell note of a young girl who, for no apparent reason, committed suicide a short time ago ; it seems to me an expressive and apt description of modern life. I would put untidiness as the most character-

istic feature of our times ; and architects are in a position to tidy up at least the outward material aspects of modern life.

I will not to-day stress the artistic qualifications of our profession ; indeed, it almost seems that, if architects are to win the confidence of the industrialist and the practical men who direct the activities of the community, art is the last thing we ought to talk about. As it happens, the great need of the moment is for planning and tidiness. If we, as a nation, could get some kind of planning into our efforts, then I feel that art will be found to have arrived naturally and without conscious effort. There is beauty in tidiness, and if cleanliness is next to godliness, tidiness is next to comeliness.

What does tidiness mean ? It undoubtedly means planning and simplifying. It is a quality that the industrial age of the last one hundred years did not produce, one of the reasons for this being that the men who directed operations did not employ those who had been trained to plan ; they employed all who had any connection with building except the planners. The architect is the only man in the community who not only has been trained to plan but who spends much of his time planning, and so learns by practice as well as by precept how to reconcile conflicting and difficult requirements and how to merge them into one harmonious and workable unit, finding, in fact, the simple solution of a complex problem. Yet the old idea still largely prevails in the public mind that the architect is one who enriches buildings with ornament. That the provision of ornament should be considered one of our main functions seems strange to us in these days of stark architectural nudism Some may fear that modern architecture is becoming so functional and constructional, and is so near to becoming engineering, that constructors will take over still more work that ought to be done by architects. I do not think this will be so, for very modern buildings are designed, even though they may appear to be only functional and constructional. Their walls, floors and partitions crack in the same old exasperating manner that characterises non-functional efforts—indeed, their brittleness and experimental nature lead to even more defects than the more traditional methods of construction. But they owe what quality they have to design and not to modern materials and construction, for these do not necessarily make a fine building, and the touch of an artist is even more essential in a very plain building than in one of a rather more ornate character.

But it is not so much in matters of pure design that I think the architect is likely in the future to take a greater share in the activities of the community. I think that his increased opportunities will be due to his planning abilities being more generally recognised and appreciated by public bodies, industrialists and others. The first step in any building or improvement scheme should be to employ a good planner, yet how often do we find surveyors and engineers with the aid of valuers trying to evolve a solution without the aid of a planner. It is in the vital preliminary stages that it is so important to get the best advice, yet the architect, if he is called in at all, arrives on the scene in the later stages, being merely invited to make the scheme look pretty and to add the "twiddly bits."

It is all wrong that the planning should be left to those who have had no training as planners ; they do the best they can, but it is not their fault if the result lacks the hallmark of a good plan, namely, simplicity, directness and tidiness. It is here that the architect, if he is permitted, can make a great and valuable contribution to public service.

Only recently do we read of the appointment of two "dictators" to deal with those depressing industrial districts that have become derelict and are known as "distressed areas." This work may involve demolition and building—it will certainly mean an effort to bring a little more brightness into lives that have had more than a fair share of drabness and unhappiness. Here is an opportunity of breaking with an industrial tradition that has caused such ugliness and chaos in the past —let us hope that architects will here be given an opportunity of serving the community.

Much of the national energy now being expended in urban improvements is being devoted to rectifying evils that have resulted from lack of planning in the past. The need for planning and planners is gradually being realised, and this lesson is being taught



THE NEW R.I.B.A. BUILDING

us by the chaos and muddle left by our forefathers, who, in spite of being so-called practical men, were satisfied with finding a solution that met their immediate requirements and was cheap ; whether it was going to prove cheap eventually did not concern them ; foresight and allowance for future development was to them idealistic ; matters such as that were left for future generations to deal with, and now, here we are the future generation trying to deal with a muddle that these practical men of the past have bequeathed to us.

Modern civilisation is becoming more and more dependent upon a scientific solution of its problems. The old methods of muddling through have failed ; town planning, slum clearance, control of elevations, ribbon development, regulation of traffic, are only some of the many problems that confront us to-day as the result of lack of planning and foresight in the past, and the strong British tendency to save immediate expenditure, even if it involves a huge expenditure in the future, has saddled us with such a legacy that even the unprecedented taxation and rating of the present time can hardly do more than rectify a few of the more glaring mistakes of the past. Our energy and resources are expended in trying to clear up a muddle, a large proportion of which ought never to have been allowed to develop ; of course it is impossible to foresee all future developments, and mistakes are inevitable, but the past made little or no attempt to look ahead and take the big view, and with this example in front of us, we have no excuse for making the same mistake. We must take the big view, and plan, not for immediate requirements only, but with a view to not making developments expensive, difficult or impossible for future generations.

As soon as the value of good planning is appreciated then will arise a demand for good planners, and this is why I believe that architects stand to-day on the threshold of a great adventure. No one, certainly not your President, would claim that all architects are good planners, but it is a fact that can be stated without fear of contradiction that the best planners in the community are found in the architectural profession, and by fine planners I do not mean men who produce a beautiful looking paper solution, but who can provide the best working plans. The plan that works best is the simple plan, and it is surprising how simple a solution a good planner will evolve out of a difficult and complex problem ; this building we are in is a good example ; the requirements were difficult and complex, yet the solution when done seems simple, and one might think the problem that had to be solved was an easy one, yet how few out of those 284 competitors got so simple a solution. This simplicity is most difficult to achieve, and indeed it is only found in the work of the best planners.

I do not think I need elaborate my point by further examples of cases in which the architect might render valuable service to the community, but it is primarily as a planner that I think he can, if he is permitted, make a great and valuable contribution to public service ; he is trained to plan the house, the cottage, the housing block, the shop, the office block, the church, the school, the hospital, the town hall. He is trained to plan the combination of these buildings in lay-out schemes, town plans, civic centres ; he is trained to plan the village, town, city or suburb as a whole, with its streets, open spaces and "zoning" ; he is trained to plan the countryside as a whole, with its towns and villages in proper relation to the whole area. In spite of this and the fact that he is the only professional man who has had this training, his services have not been sought as they should have been and as the community has failed to realise the need for skill in these matters, so has the community failed to get the efficient service of those best qualified to give it. But I think we may well look forward to the second century of the Institute's life full of hope and confidence ; a great work lies ready to our hands, and it is fortunate that a strong and vigorous Society like the R.I.B.A. stands at the head of the profession, not only as the guardian of the status and material welfare of its members, which would merely entitle it to rank as a trades union, but also for a far finer ideal—the advancement of architecture. The Institute, with its great educational organisation, the schools, which it guides, its meetings and lectures, and its Library, directs its efforts towards enabling the profession to render better service in matters that affect not only the efficiency but the happiness and contentment of the community ; may complete success crown its efforts.

THE BANQUET

The Prince of Wales (who proposed the toast of the R. I. B. A.)

The celebration of the centenary of any institution is an event which primarily concerns and is primarily interesting to those immediately associated with it. But when a great national institution such as yours celebrates its hundred years of existence it is an occasion which evokes a far wider—I might say a national—interest, and that is why I and others not of your profession are delighted and grateful to be your guests this evening. I personally am proud to be proposing the most important toast of the evening. We congratulate the Royal Institute of British Architects on what it has achieved since 1834, when it began in a very modest way with but a few score of members. It is true that they were the picked men of the profession at that time, but you have followed their example and you have maintained their high standards, with the result that the Royal Institute of British Architects to-day is the largest in numbers and the most ancient in history of the great architectural organisations of the world.

Venerable age and great bulk are sometimes accompanied by failing activity. However true that may be of human beings, I see no evidence of it to-night. It need never be true of great societies of men and women, even if there are eight thousand people who can put R.I.B.A. after their names or if the members of your associated bodies throughout the British Empire number more than eighteen thousand persons who come within the field of your influence.

I am quite sure that those of you connected with this great institute consider to-night one of the most important events of your centenary celebration, but it has been preceded a fortnight ago by another very important event, the inauguration of your new building in Portland Place by his Majesty the King. That was a great event. It is indeed fitting that after one hundred years you should have a real permanent home of your own designed by an architect for the use of architects.

I have had the pleasure of being shown over your new building by your president and I can describe it as being modern without being modernistic, not over elaborate, well adapted to its purpose, and I would think the brightest and the lightest of any building of its kind in this great city. I have already congratulated Mr. Wornum privately on this achievement because I am very interested in modern architecture. I do so now publicly. I congratulate him on his fine conception of modern design. I derived the greatest pleasure from his new building. I may add that Mr. Wornum was one of the very first men to enlist in the bad days of 1914. Despite his severe wounds he has by sheer ability forced himself into the front rank of his profession.

A celebration of this nature allows us to indulge in the pleasures of retrospection. It takes us back to the time of Christopher Wren and other famous architects whose masterpieces of early churches and old country houses are scattered around this country and are a credit to your profession. But by to-morrow morning you will have awakened from your dreams of the past. You will be back again, it may be all too quickly, with your normal thoughts and your work, and you will be wrestling with the problems of the present day. How obvious it is to all of us how times have changed—how the form of our living has changed—not merely a normal and gradual process over a period of years, because the greatest change that has come about has happened in the lives of the youngest of us.

To-day we are not the individualists we were in Victorian and Edwardian days. We are now living, mostly because of the results of the world war, a life which is far more collective in principle than individualistic. Wealth is more evenly distributed throughout the country than it has ever been, and the interest of professional men in common with the interest of commercial men is being directed to a closer consideration of the mass of the people and their requirements than it is to the individual plan.

I think you who are connected with this great institution know how concerned I am over the living conditions of the great mass of our people and how anxious I am to see these conditions improved as quickly as they

possibly can be. My visits to the distressed areas and my knowledge of the slums of our great cities have impressed on me the urgent necessity for the rebuilding of those areas and for the rehousing of those in the slums.

I have taken every opportunity that has presented itself to proclaim my opinion on this important matter. You, Mr. President, and your institute have given me another opportunity to-night, and I want to request your great profession, which is so intimately connected with the building of the homes of the people, to make a special study of this great housing problem and to see what can be done not only to lessen the cost of those living conditions but to raise their quality and their amenities.

The housing of our people has not been taken too good care of in the past, and in your study of this problem I would ask you to include at the same time along the same lines the schools and buildings in which they are reared as children and the hospitals in which they are treated when they are sick.

The first aspect of this problem is the planning and arrangement of our towns and cities. The narrow, twisting streets which we know only too well are the major cause of two great evils—the congestion of transportation on the one hand and the lack of civic pride on the other. I feel that you could develop the idea of widening these streets and raising the height of buildings, making areas where no vehicles except fire engines or the trucks that collect refuse could ever enter, so that you would get an area with houses farther apart, spaced at greater distances from each other, which would tend to greater openness and less congestion.

In other words, I think that all of us interested in town planning should take a bigger and more generous outlook on the planning of our cities following the trend of our times, which is to think less of the limited group of individualists and more of the national point of view.

The second aspect of the problem is the building of the dwellings themselves, whether they be in the form of houses or flats. Modern science and invention have produced and improved all those various articles and devices which go to make for greater health and comfort in the home. Our great industrial and commercial concerns such as motor-car manufacturers and the great multiple stores have shown what can be done by mass production to produce attractively at low costs those amenities of life which formerly only existed for the well-to-do. They have done amazing things, and it must, indeed, be a slim pocket which cannot purchase their products.

I ask you again, as members of this institute assembled in the Guildhall, to carry this principle of mass production over to architecture and the building trade because I am convinced that in no other way will it be possible to raise the living conditions of the great majority of our people and to produce the better conditions which they should and could have by these means. I am sure that the principles of mass production can be applied to housing, and I am equally sure that you can do it and that you will be able to overcome any barriers or prejudices that may stand in the way.

You may at first find it difficult in designing a building to keep it good to look at from the outside and yet give the housewife the comfort that she is entitled to inside. But I think that this difficulty lies in the fact that in the past you as artists have been devoting your time to the consideration of the abstract ideal, which is good in itself when you are considering only the individual client. You must give consideration to another—a greater and far more important ideal—designing and working for the great majority instead of studying the needs of the minority, because it is they who are becoming more and more your clients.

May I remind you that as an institute you are charged with the great and honourable duty of educating the people of your country to better living more than you are charged with idealising units of architecture.

I have to couple with this toast the name of your President, Sir Giles Gilbert Scott. He is the bearer of a famous name and needs no introduction to this gathering. I think, my Lord Mayor, that you are fortunate in having him as your adviser in the replanning of this famous hall, and I think, Gentlemen, that your Institute is fortunate in having in this great year of your history such a man as your President.

THE PRESIDENT

(In reply)

Buildings are the instruments and material background of our civilisation, the scenery, as it were, of the stage of life. What would be your great City, my Lord Mayor, without its architectural background ? What would it be without the work of even one architect—Sir Christopher Wren ? But, as planners, we are more than mere scene painters. Great as has been Wren's influence upon the City of London, as the designer of St. Paul's and the numerous City churches, etc., how much greater would it have been if, in addition, his work as a town planner had been allowed to materialise ; the great street plan that he prepared after the Fire of London, which he, an architect, alone had the prophetic vision to conceive, would have had an enormous influence upon the difficult traffic problems of to-day.

Buildings must necessarily dominate and envelope the lives of all of us : the houses in which we live and die, the schools, colleges and university buildings in which we are educated ; the libraries, museums and art galleries which exist for the continuance of our education ; the churches and cathedrals in which we worship ; the offices, shops and factories in which we work ; the hospitals and nursing homes in which we recover our health; the guildhalls, town halls, and municipal offices in which we are locally governed, and in some of which we even sometimes dine ; the Government buildings and Parliament Houses, in which our rulers endeavour, with varying success, to give us peace and prosperity.

Unfortunately, the percentage of buildings designed by architects in this country is small ; this may sound surprising to some, but so large a proportion of our buildings consists either of small houses erected by speculating builders, or industrial buildings, such as factories, etc., practically all of which have been built without any assistance from architects ; vast blighted areas have arisen throughout the manufacturing districts of the North and Midlands, and these have been accepted as the inevitable accompaniment of industry. We architects know that ugliness, untidiness and lack of planning, so evident in these examples, are not the inevitable accompaniment of industry ; we deny that industrial districts and buildings need necessarily be hideous and we claim that beauty can be achieved with utter simplicity combined with good planning and imagination. The pity is that the good psychological effect of cheerful, bright and tidy surroundings upon those engaged in industry has only been appreciated by so few industrialists. In so far as the community has ignored in these matters the contribution that architects are alone trained to supply, I say that the community is, and has been shown to be, definitely and dangerously wrong.

As long as the spoliation of the country by these efforts was localised and confined to industrial districts, it has been accepted as regrettable but unavoidable. Now that road transport is enabling this fungoid growth to spread itself throughout the fair English landscape, the public conscience is being aroused. But the evil can never be checked until those men who, alone, have been trained to plan and design with vision and imagination are called in to give their services to the community. We have a right to make claims on the attention of the community, for whatever may be our personal merits and shortcomings, we have no need to be modest about the importance of the greatest of the arts, or to be shy of claiming for it a far higher degree of public recognition than it generally receives. We have perfected an educational system that is turning out year by year a succession of well-trained and enthusiastic young architects, who have the ability and the desire to do the work of the country, if only it is entrusted to them, and we are confident that if only they are given their chance, the country will find itself rediscovering the art of living, and be rewarded by such a renaissance of architecture as we have not witnessed for many generations past.

THE TRANSVAAL PROVINCIAL INSTITUTE

COMMITTEE'S ANNUAL REPORT.

For the year ended 31st December, 1934.

To the Members of the Transvaal Provincial Institute :—

Your Committee has pleasure in submitting this, the Eighth Annual Report, for the year ended 31st December, 1934, together with the Annual Accounts and Balance Sheet.

COMMITTEES AND MEETINGS.

Eleven ordinary meetings of the Committee were held during the year. Following is the record of attendances at Committee meetings :—

G. E. Gordon Leith (President) ..	8
V. S. Rees-Poole (Sen. Vice-President)	7
G. Moerdijk (Jun. Vice-President) ..	7
C. C. Deuchar	1
S. C. Dowsett	6
A. S. Furner	7
G. M. Harrison	9
R. Howden	9
W. G. McIntosh	7
D. L. Nurcombe	8
F. Williamson	5
Allen Wilson	10

Messrs. Leith, Moerdijk, Deuchar, Dowsett and Williamson were absent on leave for various periods during the year.

Your Committee records its appreciation of the valuable services rendered by members of sub-committees on Finance, Practice, Building By-Laws, Art and Education and the Journal. Many matters of importance were dealt with by these Committees and recommendations made to the Provincial Committee which have been duly dealt with. The thanks of the Institute are due to the members of these sub-committees.

An informal dinner was held on the 30th May, 1934, and the suggestion was made to members that those attending might afterwards proceed to the dance arranged by the Students of the Witwatersrand University. Your Committee was disappointed at the small attendance of members at this function as it was felt that such gatherings should afford an excellent opportunity of bringing members together socially.

MEMBERSHIP.

At the close of the year the membership consisted of one hundred and thirty-one practising, one hundred and twelve salaried and thirty retired members, or a total of two hundred and seventy-three as compared with two hundred and sixty-five at the end of 1933.

During the year ten new members were enrolled, viz. :—B. S. Cooke, Dip. Arch. (Rand) ; J. Corrigall ; T. N. Duncan, A.R.I.B.A. ; G. M. J. Geers, Dip. Arch. (Rand) ; T. A. Hoogterp, F.R.I.B.A. ; C. S. Lodge, Dip. Arch. (Rand) ; H. J. Tanton, A.R.I.B.A. ; C. E. Todd, Dip. Arch. (Rand) ; E. G. Tucker, B. Arch. (Rand) ; W. G. Whyte, A.R.I.B.A.

Two were transferred from other Provincial Institutes whilst four members died.

OBITUARY.

Your Committee deeply regrets to have to record the deaths during the year of four members, Messrs. J. N. Davie, John Waterson, H. A. Reid, and B. R. Avery.

Mr. Davie, who died on the 7th May, 1934, was employed by the Union Telephone Department since April, 1909, and was registered as a retired member of the Institute.

Mr. John Waterson, F.R.I.B.A., whose death occurred on the 11th May, 1934, was one of Johannesburg's oldest architects. He came to South Africa in 1887, at the age of twenty-four, and first practised in Durban. In 1892 he came to Johannesburg and subsequently practised in partnership with the late Mr. H. G. Veale for many years. Many of the large buildings in the City are monuments to his memory and he also designed a large number of residences in the suburbs. He was a member of the Building By-Laws Sub-Committee of this Institute at the time of his death.

Mr. H. A. Reid, who died on the 24th July, 1934, came to South Africa in the early seventies. He and his partner designed the present Capetown City Hall. He came to the Rand in 1889 and for twenty years practised in Johannnesburg. He was a retired member of the Institute at the time of his death.

Mr. B. R. Avery, whose death occurred on

the 5th September, 1934, came to South Africa from New Zealand with the New Zealand Mounted Rifles in the South African War and was afterwards a lieutenant in the Engineers Corps of the South African Railways. Before leaving New Zealand he had practised as an architect in Auckland, New Zealand, and after the S.A. War he started in practice in Johannesburg where he designed many well known houses. At the time of his death Mr. Avery was a member of the Finance and Building By-Laws Committees of this Institute and also the Institute's representative on the British Standardisation Committee.

CENTRAL COUNCIL.

The 1934/5 Central Council met in Johannesburg on June, 4th, 5th, 6th and 7th, 1934.

Mr. J. S. Cleland, M.B.E., F.R.I.B.A., M.C.Q.S., was elected President-in-Chief, and Mr. C. P. Walgate, A.R.I.B.A., A.R.C.A., Vice-President-in-Chief while Mr. Robert Howden, F.R.I.B.A., was appointed Chairman of the Executive Committee.

The Transvaal Institute members of the Council for the year were Messrs. Gordon Leith, A. S. Furner, R. Howden and F. Williamson.

Amongst the several matters dealt with, the following may be mentioned :—

Architectural Copyright.

In regard to which the Central Council tendered evidence to the Union Government Commission appointed to enquire into the existing South African law relating to copyright, etc.

Architects Progress Certificate.

A standard form of certificate has been drawn up and books containing fifty forms may be obtained from the Secretary at two shillings and sixpence per book.

Co-Ordination of Building and Drainage By-Laws in South Africa.

Standard Specification for Building Timber in South Africa.

Amendments to Regulations.

These have been circulated to members.

Levies.

The levy due by the Constitutent Bodies to the Central Council has been reduced to a flat rate of thirty-three and one-third per cent. of the amount of subscriptions actually paid by members each year.

Amongst other matters dealt with by your Committee and referred to the Central Council may be mentioned :—Revision of New Conditions of Contract ; Scale of Fees ; Duties of Assessors ; Standardisation of Building By-Laws throughout the Union.

FINANCE.

The Accounts attached to this report disclose a satisfactory position for the year under review :—

Institute Account.

It will be noted that the amount of subscriptions paid by members totalled £1,039 6s. 0d., an increase of £257 9s. 6d. over the previous year.

Sales of Contract Forms amounted to £22 14s. 6d. which, after deducting £8 15s. 6d. paid for printing additional supplies, left a net return of £13 19s. 0d.

Interest on the sum of £400 invested in the Journal Account and £250 on Fixed Deposit amounted to £20 2s. 8d. and R.I.B.A. Moieties provided £51 16s. 0d., making the total revenue £1,125 3s. 8d.

On the Expenditure side, the Levy due to the Central Council amounted to £346 8s. 8d. and Secretarial Fees and General Expenses amounted to £517 2s. 10d. or a total Expenditure of £863 11s. 6d., leaving a surplus of £261 12s. 2d. to be credited to Accumulated Funds.

During the year the Central Council repaid the balance of £192 8s. 9d. of the amount provided by this Institute for the Architects Act Fund.

The Accumulated Funds now stand at £984 19s. 4d. and an amount of £350 has been placed on fixed deposit at four per cent. per annum with the Alliance Building Society.

The outstanding subscriptions due by members at the close of the year amounted to £711 10s. 0d. but no credit for this amount is taken into Revenue Account.

Approximately £200 of these arrears must be considered as irrecoverable being subscriptions debited to some ten members for the past four or five years such members not having had any work or employment during recent years and it being quite impossible for them to meet these dues. It is anticipated that the balance of £500 will be paid in due course.

Journal Account.

The Revenue from Advertisements and Sales for the year totalled £1,458 17s. 6d., and the Expenditure on production of the Journal amounted to £1,313 18s. 8d., leaving a surplus of £144 18s. 10d. Of this an amount of £52 10s. 0d. was voted to the Honorary Editors ; £24 12s. 0d. was paid to contributors of articles and £20 was added to Reserve for doubtful debts, leaving £47 16s. 10d. to be carried forward.

COMPETITIONS.

During the year competitions were held and awards were made as under.

Pietermaritzburg Law Courts : to cost £60,000.

Messrs. Moffat and Hurst, Durban ; Mr. V. S. Rees-Poole, Pretoria ; Mr. Allen Wilson, Johannesburg. Fifty-six designs were submitted.

New Provincial Home, Rietfontein : to cost £90,000.

Mr. J. S. Bowie, Benoni ; Mr. G. Moerdijk, Pretoria ; Mr. J. Lockwood Hall, Pretoria. Thirty-two desgins were submitted.

New Town Hall, Benoni : to cost £25,000.

Mr. J. Lockwood Hall, Pretoria ; Mr. V. S. Rees-Poole, Pretoria ; Mr. K. E. F. Gardiner, Johannesburg. Thirty-two designs were submitted.

New Magistrates Court, Johannesburg : to cost £250,000.

Mr. John Perry, Capetown ; Mr. G. E. Le Sueur, Durban ; Messrs. Jones and McWilliams and Mr. H. H. McWilliams, Port Elizabeth ; Mr. J. R. Burg, Pretoria. Forty-six designs were submitted.

The Ideal Home Competition.

This Competition was promoted by the "Rand Daily Mail." The awards were : Mr. D. N. Cowin, Johannesburg ; Mr. Gordon McIntosh, Pretoria ; Mr. Kenneth Mackenzie, Johannesburg.

A further Competition has been promoted for the Residence of the Prime Minister in Pretoria, estimated to cost £22,500 and designs must be submitted by the 11th March, 1935.

R.I.B.A.

Mr. Maurice E. Webb, D.S.O., M.C., F.R.I.B.A., has again represented this Institute on the R.I.B.A., Allied Societies Conference and the thanks of the Institute are due to him in this connection.

The Royal Institute celebrated its centenary during the year and in November was honoured by Their Majesties the King and Queen opening their new premises in Portland Place, London.

A Knighthood was conferred on Ian McAlister, the worthy Secretary of the Royal Institute for the past twenty-six years.

For the R.I.B.A. Exhibition of Modern Architecture 1934, the Exhibition Committee selected photographs sent by the following members of this Institute :—Messrs. J. S. Cleland, Gordon Leith, F. Williamson, Kallenbach, Kennedy and Furner, and Stucke and Harrison.

THE JOURNAL.

"The South African Architectural Record" has been produced monthly by its Honorary Editors, Professor Pearse and Mr. Rex Martienssen and your Committee desires again to express its thanks and appreciation of their valuable services in this connection.

It is regretted that members of the Profession do not appear to realise the enormous amount of work entailed in producing a monthly journal and whilst ever ready to criticise they do not assist. The Editors regularly ask for and will be glad to receive any manuscripts, photographs or sketches for publication and the Committee now repeats this appeal to members to send in any matter which they consider suitable for publication.

From the large number of new buildings which have been erected during the past year it should be possible to illustrate and record at least one monthly, and the Editors will be only too pleased to arrange to have such buildings reproduced and recorded in the Journal.

The attention of members is drawn to the "classified index to advertisers," which appears in each issue, and the Committee, in expressing its appreciation of the valuable support received from the various firms which advertise in the Journal, urges members when calling for tenders to extend their support to these firms wherever possible.

THE SOUTH AFRICAN ACADEMY.

The Fifteenth Annual Exhibition was held in the Selborne Hall from 9th to 21st April, 1934. On the whole the exhibits were about

equal to the standard of the previous two or three years but it must be admitted that it does not appear to improve. This is disappointing and it seems that a number of South African Artists do not send their best works to the Johannesburg Academy Exhibition, or is it that the standard of Art, particularly painting, in South Africa has reached a stage of stagnation. Good pictures and works of art are readily saleable but the public cannot be expected to appreciate a mediocre lot of exhibits of the usual sameness each year.

The excellent standard of work in the Crafts Section was well maintained.

It is hoped that members of the Institute will support the Architectural Section to a greater extent at the forthcoming exhibition.

The Committee again records its appreciation of the generous grant of the City Council of Johannesburg which permits the holding of the exhibition in the Selborne Hall.

Appreciation and thanks are also extended to the Academy Sub-Committee, to the Judges, the Hanging Committee and all who assisted in the arrangement of the Exhibition also to Messrs. D. F. Corlett and D. Aitchison for work and material supplied and to Mr. W. S. Coombes for his able assistance.

The Sixteenth Annual Exhibition is to be held from the 29th April to the 11th May, 1935.

TOWN PLANNING.

The Town Planning Association (Transvaal) has continued its valuable work during the year. Messrs. F. L. H. Fleming and G. M. J. Geers represent this Institute on the Council of the Association.

The Annual report of the Association for the year 1933/34 appeared in the November issue of the Journal and a report of the Annual Meeting appeared in the December issue.

A most instructive paper on Town Planning was read by Dr. E. J. Hamlin, D.Sc., City Engineer of Johannesburg, at a meeting of the Institution of Municipal and County Engineers (S.A. Branch), Pretoria, on July 3rd, 1934, and this was reproduced in the August issue of the Journal.

Members of this Institute who are interested in Town Planning may become members of the Association at a subscription of ten shillings and sixpence per annum.

BENEVOLENT FUND.

The total income of this fund for the year amounted to £31 17s. 9d. of which £7 17s. 2d. was contributed and £24 0s. 7d. accrued from interest on Investments.

Grants-in-Aid amounted to £60 10s. 7d. so that accumulated funds were drawn on to the extent of £28 12s. 10d.

At the end of the year Accumulated Funds totalled £681 16s. 3d.

GENERAL.

A number of disputes and allegations of unprofessional conduct were investigated by the Committee during the year and a fine was inflicted on one member under Regulation 89m. A building contractor was prosecuted for contravening the act by holding himself out as an architect and was found guilty by a Magistrate in Johannesburg and fined £5.

By Order of the Committee,

A. S. PEARSE,
Secretary.

The following letter from the Secretary, R.I.B.A. is published for the information of members :—

The Annual Conference of British Architects will take place this year at Glasgow from June 19th to June 22nd inclusive, and the Royal Incorporation of Architects in Scotland and the Glasgow Institute of Architects will be the hosts of the Conference.

The Conference will be largely of a social character and it is expected that many ladies will be present as the guests of members.

If any of your Members happen to be in England at the time mentioned we should heartily welcome their presence at the various functions which will form part of the programme.

Copies of the Programme with full particulars and all the necessary information will be sent to any of your Members who care to write to me on the subject.

●

The following have been registered as members of the Transvaal Provincial Institute : C. F. Drake, B.Arch (Rand) ; J. T. Jenkins, B.Arch. (Rand) ; W. Wagner.

●

The following letter from the Inspector of Factories, Johannesburg, is published for the information of Members :—

Section 29(1) of the above Act provides :—

"Suitable accommodation approved of by the Inspector shall be provided and maintained for the keeping of clothing put off by persons employed in the factory, during their employment therein.

In response to requests from architects and factory occupiers, etc., for particulars of the dimensions required in respect of change rooms provided in terms of the above-quoted Section, it has been decided to lay down the following minima for the guidance of those concerned :—

European change rooms : six square feet per employee for first twenty employees, thereafter four square feet per additional employee.

Non-European change rooms : four square feet per employee for first twenty employees and thereafter three square feet per employee.

These areas allow sufficient space for the provision of washing facilities in the change room. The dimensions prescribed in Municipal by-laws as the minima for any single room, must, of course, be borne in mind when designing change rooms for a small number of employees.

I shall be glad if you will be good enough to bring the foregoing to the notice of architects and others who may submit plans for factory premises.

●

The Central Council desires that the following letter from the Chief Inspector of Factories, Pretoria, be published in the "Architectural Record" for the information and attention of Practising Architects :—

"Complaints have been made that Architects when designing elevator motor rooms, frequently allow insufficient space around the machinery to permit of safe and easy access.

"Inspectors are therefore instructed to insist on a minimum clearance of two feet around the contour of all elevator driving units, auxiliary motors, and control panels, with respect to all new installations in future."

●

The Central Council desires that the following letter from the Postmaster-General, Pretoria, be published in the "Architectural Record" for the information and attention of Members :—

"Union of South Africa,
Post Office,
Pretoria,
January 24th, 1935.

"Dear Sir,

Provision of Wireways for Telephone Cables in New Buildings.

"With a view to co-ordinating the methods which have been followed by various Architects in providing wireways for telephone cables in new buildings and having as its underlying object the ideal of securing the full

co-operation of all members of the Architectural profession in avoiding the creation of conditions unsatisfactory to both the owners and tenants of buildings the memorandum attached has been drawn up and, if your Institute feels that it is likely to prove generally acceptable, it is proposed to have it printed and distributed to all members of your Institute either direct or through the medium of the Institute whichever course may be deemed by the Council to be the more desirable.

"The Department gratefully acknowledges the assistance which has so readily been afforded from time to time in its endeavours to secure some degree of uniformity in the provision of wireways but feels that in view of the present unprecedented activity in building operations Architects generally would welcome something of a more definite nature in regard to this question than has hitherto been available.

"It should be pointed out that the methods outlined in the Memorandum are suggestions only and that while it is thought that they afford alternatives which will meet the majority of cases the Department would of course be only too glad to collaborate with an architect in regard to any building the design of which does not readily lend itself to any one of the methods outlined.

"It is desired to proceed with the printing of the brochure without delay and it would be appreciated therefore if your Council could favour me with its views on the proposal at the earliest date possible.

Yours faithfully,
(Signed) C. GRIFFITHS,
for Postmaster-General.

The Registrar,

"Institute of S.A. Architects," etc.

The memorandum referred to in the letter above quoted will, in the near future, be circularised by the Postmaster-General to Members of the Institute and of the Chapter.

●

The following letter from the Secretary, Master Builders' and Allied Trades Association is published for the information of Members :—

I am directed to advise you that at a meeting of the Executive Committee of the National Federation of Building Trade Employers in South Africa held in Johannesburg yesterday, it was unanimously decided to instruct members to qualify all tenders with the following provisions :—

"This tender is subject to the total amount being increased by such additional cost to the Contractor which will arise during the currency of the building operations, directly or indirectly, through any legislative enactment or provision having the force of law and purporting to govern wages, unemployment benefits or workmen's compensation other than arising from any existing laws . . ."

Future needs of Architecture

In addressing the Pretoria Rotary Club on architecture lately, Mr. V. S. Rees-Poole said he was an optimist regarding the future of architecture.

"Certainly the outlook is exciting, and architecture is on the threshold of great progress," he said. "In this country, however, I must say it is rather amusing to see the attempts adopted from an extreme type of modern European building which has more glass than wall."

There was bound to be much laughter and tears—many failures—before a perfect style of architecture for thecountry was arrived at. The great need of the moment was for planning and tidiness, which meant simplification.

"I would like you to realise that the touch of an artist is even more essential in a very plain building than in one of an ornate character. Yet for some reason or other the general public are inclined to overpraise that which is large and expensive and underpraise that which is small and cheap."

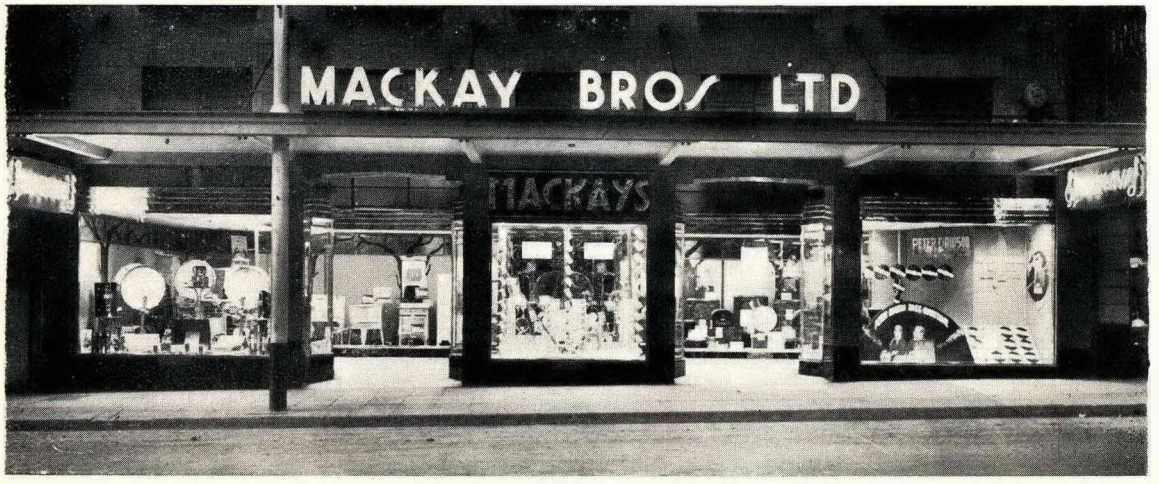
To appreciate modern or contemporary, architecture and to understand why it was so different from the accepted idea of what a building should be, they must first grasp the underlying principles. It was not, as many people thought, simply an attempt to evolve something novel or original, but a serious effort to arrive at a type of building suited to the rapidly changing outlook on life and mode of living. The underlying principles of architecture were beauty and comfort.

With these basic principles before them eminent designers, in Europe especially, had achieved great success and had created most attractive and interesting buildings. The flat roofs which were very largely employed, allowed of great freedom in planning, a freedom which was absent when the size and position of rooms was largely determined by the pitched roof above them.

"The best achievements of modern design are too complicated and personal to be easily imitated, and to my mind there is nothing in art more feeble than some of the attempts at modernism. It takes considerable time to understand a difficult science, so in the meantime the best thing to do is to encourage the experiments to suit various tasks out of which an ornamental style must evolve."

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