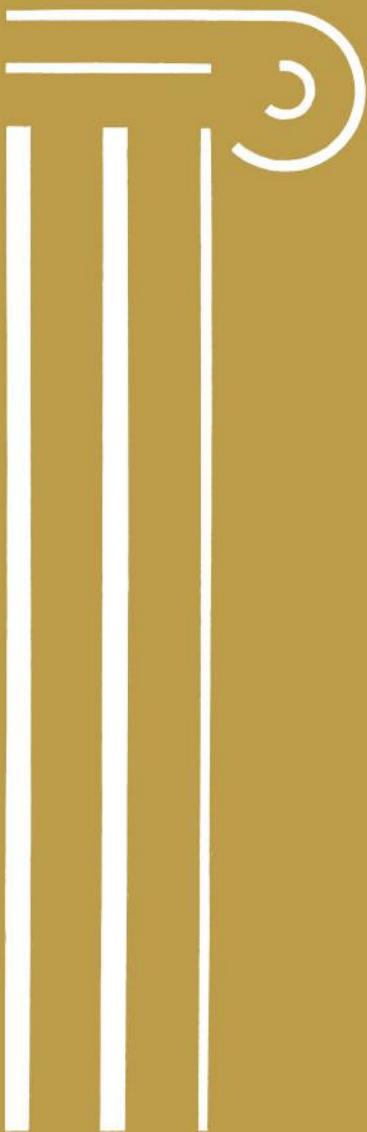


JOURNAL

ROYAL ARCHITECTURAL
INSTITUTE OF CANADA



VOL. 17

TORONTO, OCTOBER, 1940

NO. 10

Nature's Lighting now moves Indoors!



Ainsworth Magna Luminaires provide natural, mellow, eye-saving light in the modern offices of the Bell Telephone Company at Toronto (unretouched colour photograph shown above) . . . and in leading business offices, classrooms, retail showrooms and institutions throughout this continent.

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JOURNAL

ROYAL ARCHITECTURAL INSTITUTE OF CANADA

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It might be a good idea if the Ministry of Public Information in England were to give the public some idea of the architectural as well as the financial loss in the destruction of commercial and public buildings. The morale of the people seems to be excellent, but it might even be improved by some architectural commentaries on raids as soon as the extent of the damage was no longer a secret. For instance there is obviously no sense in remorse for the loss of Regent Street between Piccadilly and Oxford Circus either in whole or in part, either on the right hand or the left, and it would be both galling to the Germans, as well as puzzling, if celebrations were held in London to mark the end of the departmental store monstrosities that had their birth shortly after the last war. We would gladly join with thousands and light a cracker and wave a flag over the ruins of the pseudo-Elizabethan section of Liberty's. We see no point in weeping over the ruins of the Albert Hall or the Albert Memorial (as yet unhappily spared). Rather would we see the people of London come out of their burrows and their A.R.P. shelters and give a whoop of joy that such blots on a great city had been removed.

Slums are being destroyed by the acre and while their wretched occupants are for the time being outcasts, they will return before the war is over to new, brighter and happier homes. The Prime Minister has said so.

The real tragedy is in the destruction of irreplaceable things and in that an enlightened ministry could arouse the public to real and justifiable rage. Damage to St. Paul's calls for rage of a kind, but anything Sir Christopher Wren did, can be reproduced to such a degree of perfection that even his greatest admirers, of whom we are one, would not distinguish the new from the old. Let the people rise in their just wrath over the loss or partial damage to Henry VII's Chapel. There is something unique in the world, unique in its history as in its architecture which is of a kind that no workman today could copy. The tomb of Henry is the very cradle of the Renaissance in England, and the fan vaulting of the chapel is of a fairy beauty that the hand of man will never again capture. Let us not waste our grief on the tons of departmental stores now in ruins which will provide a building boom for the post war years—let us not worry about the shattered rows of stuffy Victorian houses with the ghosts of generations of landladies and an odour of prunes and rice puddings. "Nothing is here for tears, nothing to wail or beat the breast," but Henry VII is a national loss comparable only to the loss of a city, and for that there should be an awful reckoning.

It is a well known fact that when Napoleon laid out Paris he had some idea of architectural beauty, but he saw his whole stupendous scheme from the point of view of a soldier. He could bring up his artillery and from strategic positions shell the streets and break up mobs. It was that same plan that made Paris so easy a victim to the oncoming Germans with tanks and guns; and it is that lack of plan that makes London almost impregnable to attack. Little did Napoleon think when he planned the Place de la Concorde as the largest square in the world that some day the emissary of the arch enemy of France would land in it from an aeroplane between rows of waiting troops. We can think of no London Square on which an aeroplane could be landed even in a vertical direction without hitting a fence, a tree or a public lavatory. Those of us who have regretted the stubborn shop keepers of Charles II who frustrated Wren's plan for an imperial city on vast Renaissance lines have to revise our opinions. The present tangled medieval warren of streets and factories may yet be a factor in the saving of the city.

On Wednesday, October 16th, the Toronto Chapter welcomed home Brigadier Eric Haldenby. The return of the commanding officer of the 48th Highlanders, now in command of a Brigade, is not any local affair. When he happens to be an architect and a distinguished one, it is an event of which this Journal may well take notice. We know that he will bring to his new job all the enthusiasm and all the thoroughness that he brought into his buildings and we wish him every success in the doing of it.

We wish to record our pleasure in hearing that Col. Mackenzie Waters has been given command of the 3rd Anti-tank Regiment, C.A.S.F. but at the same time our real feeling of loss at his retirement from the Chairmanship of the Editorial Board which he has held since the change in the publication of the Journal. However, we welcome the new Chairman, Mr. Forsey Page, who comes with a new viewpoint and as great a regard for the Journal and its aims as his predecessor.

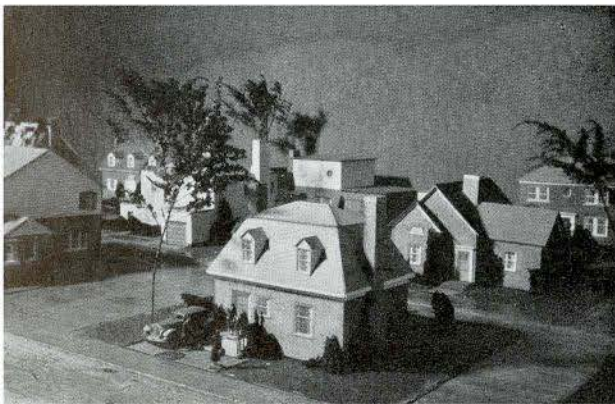
ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN IN THE TECHNICAL SCHOOLS

By D. G. W. McRAE

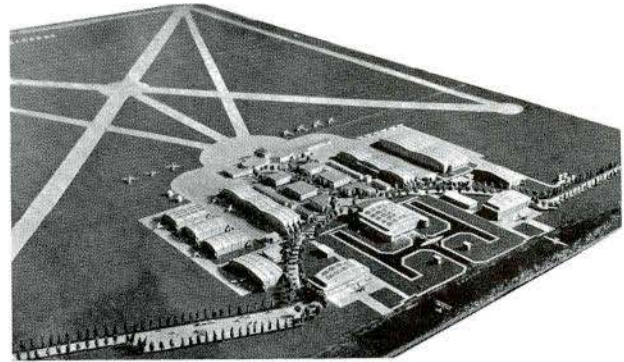
ONE of the most difficult problems the Building Departments of the various Toronto Technical Schools have attempted to solve is that of providing a properly balanced course in design. In view of the multifarious demands made on the graduates of these schools, it has not been easy to determine what phase of design should be included in the general course and to what extent it should be taught. Even if it were possible to consider by itself the matter of training boys to become architectural draftsmen (the Technical Schools have never pretended to train architects), there still remains the task of establishing a proper set of values in relation to the university course and the Registration Board. With these factors in mind at least two members of the Toronto staff have carried on a number of experiments that have not been entirely fruitless.

As a result of these experiments some conclusions have been reached that help to clarify somewhat the planning of future courses in design. However, they have been accepted only as tentative bases for further trials from which it is hoped that some final and acceptable plan may develop. Whatever work is carried on in the interim will in no way either overlap or compete with the university course. As outlined at the present time the course is intended to train draftsmen who will have the necessary knowledge and skill to interpret the architect's sketches with accuracy and feeling, and to carry them to the working drawing and detail stage. This plan obviates the necessity of attempting to teach creative design to immature students, but does not permit complete freedom to concentrate on the development of a critical attitude toward, and a sound appreciation of good design.

It was realized that although working drawings and details should form an integral part of the course, by themselves they fell far short of providing sufficient material for a proper understanding of the basic principles of design. Largely because of the limited amount of time available for design, it was decided to introduce model making as a means of teaching a few of the fundamentals that otherwise would have been ignored. Now that a model is required from the working drawings there has been a noticeable improvement in the students' conception of design as a three dimensional, rather than a two dimensional problem. This has been especially evident in the precision and finish of the detail drawings made after the quarter inch scale model was completed.



HOUSE



AIRPORT

In general, the results of this experiment have been quite heartening, especially in motivating students of secondary school age to develop a lively and critical interest in the appreciation of good architectural design and all that it implies.

The photographs are of two types of models made by the third and fourth year students at the Western Technical Commercial School, Toronto. Although no claim to even near perfection is made for them, the houses do suggest what can be done by a fourth year class having a little imagination and considerable ingenuity. In addition to their value as a means of studying three dimensional proportions, the fenestration of adjacent walls, roof slopes, and details, the house models also provide scope for experiments with colour combinations and surface textures. Only the principal forms and projecting details were modelled in pulpboard; the doors, windows, and details were indicated in tempera. In order to make a convincing job of the door and window details their shades and shadows were carefully studied which, of course, required a sound knowledge of the forms involved. This method of making a model permits speed of execution with a resultant saving of time, and also serves to co-ordinate in a final problem many related subjects from the solution of true lengths to rendering.

The aerodrome also pictured was a co-operative project by the third and fourth years. It was an attempt to develop that spirit of team work so essential to the successful operation of the modern drafting room, and also to develop a few of the broader aspects of town planning; the grouping of buildings according to function, adequate circulation, orientation, and the general amenities springing from good design. Each fourth year student was made responsible for a number of buildings which he designed from plan with the help of some third year students, and in co-operation with the other group leaders. In this way each student was given ample opportunity to work on several different buildings, and benefit from having had a hand in the design of the project as a whole.

Since the inception of co-operative projects of this type two years ago, there has been a marked improvement in the quality of the fourth year's design and craftsmanship over previous groups that had not had modelling experience in their third year. As the proof of the value of any experiment of this sort lies in the results of its application in practice, it will be interesting to note the degree of success achieved by those graduates who have been exposed to the method of teaching design outlined in this article.

“. . . we are interested in the planning and organising of shelter . . . that satisfies the needs of today . . .”

WE ARE informed by the Editor that the first article by the Architectural Research Group published in the R.A.I.C. Journal brought a number of letters inquiring what this group is and what it does. Because ARG is not the product of preconceived ideas, but an organisation that grew from a feeling of uneasiness to its present state of a stripling co-operative effort, the simplest way to tell what ARG is, is to tell the story of ARG.

The story of ARG goes back only two and a half years. Prior to that its pre-natal state was this feeling of uneasiness concerning the trend of events in architecture, a feeling that was shared by a number of Montreal's younger architects, who after some eight or ten years' practical experience, had each arrived at the conclusion that Montrealers were not being supplied with the best shelter that their money could buy. Although each architect had guessed at the causes of the troubles, each had come to realise that he possessed insufficient facts with which to test his hypotheses and insufficient power with which to correct existing ills. At the same time, each had heard rumours of the Modern Architectural Research Society in England and had gathered some impressions of the work done by that society over there. The formation of a somewhat similar group in Montreal had from time to time been discussed, but the first step was taken when, at lunch one day, two members of the group that was to be simply wrote down the names of those they thought might be interested, set a date, and did a little telephoning. At ARG's first meeting the sole topic on the agenda was "Have we a common interest that would be served by regular discussions?" For the first few meetings things looked rather black; it seemed in the early stages that we had no common interest. One man had visualised one sort of a group and one another. The artistic were all for educating the public to art, the socially conscious were concerned with housing and town planning, the individualists were for ironing out details of professional practice and technicians envisaged a sort of super "Consumers' Research" of the building industry.

Luckily a certain attitude of mind, common to all members, developed early in the history of the group; actually it was apparent at the first meeting. It is probably best described as an attitude of Research. Its adoption has caused most common architectural hypotheses to be re-examined. This is still our common attitude today. It has entirely conditioned the name we eventually adopted. (In this connection we may safely say that any resemblance the name and the group may have towards any previously existing group is almost entirely incidental; our ignorance concerning the English MARS, in spite of our strenuous efforts to learn, can only be described as too deep for tears.) While this attitude of mind has undoubtedly slowed up the work of the group, we consider that it is still too early to judge its efficacy. Because it has caused each man to re-examine his personal notions and segregate fact from opinion, we can attribute our present ability to work in co-operation to this spirit of research.

While today we are reaping the benefit of co-operation, it has made us chary of adding members until we were fairly certain that the newcomers would find their way to the middle path of co-operation rather than to domination or, its equally ugly pole, vegetation.

With this ambition of co-operative research in mind, we first set ourselves to study how to work, and at what to work.

Committees were formed to report on Field of Activity, Ways and Means, Finance and Membership. The findings of the last three were simple and obvious, and as a result the organisation of ARG has always been very ordinary, very simple and, since the group is small, very informal. The report of the Field of Activity Committee, however, is more important. Its main statement was the excerpt quoted at the head of this article: ". . . we are interested in the planning and organising of shelter that satisfies the needs of today—social, economic, cultural, hygienic—and that makes intelligent use of the contemporary resources of scientific analysis and industrial development". For our present purpose we can condense this into the well known architectural trinity—planning, structure and appearance—and using each word in its widest possible sense.

Before setting forth what may seem a very ambitious field of activity, it may be wise to make two points quite clear. First, that it was never intended that ARG would have to deal with all the matters mentioned below, and secondly, that it must not be supposed that ARG thinks that it is going to supply any of the answers on a purely theoretical basis. ARG exists for research; research work involves experiment in laboratory and field. Architectural experiments in the laboratory are costly enough and in the field usually prohibitively so. Fully conscious of these limitations, we know that many of the answers may lie well beyond our grasp. While this conditions our choice of subjects, it does not seem to us a reason to abandon our whole project.

Taking our first heading — PLANNING — we embrace under this subject everything from a bathroom to a town—and indeed, look beyond towns to the inter-relation of towns and country, which is regional planning. If we look beyond regions to whole nations, it is with a far away look in our eyes. Closer to hand lie problems in which we have had some training and in which we are vaguely able to find our way about. In the field of town-planning, Montreal is our laboratory, and it offers a multitude of experiments, a few of which we have tackled. Unfortunately, the necessary working equipment is hard to come by: one salient point in our experience is that it is extremely difficult for a small group, between 5 p.m. and 9 a.m., to eat and sleep and still get in enough spare time work to learn its subject well and to be able to develop to a presentable stage any scheme it attempts. This is one very practical reason why we have occasionally resorted to propaganda, with the object of eventually creating a demand for town-planning, and of developing a concerted effort among architects and other experts to bring it about.

In the matter of planning smaller units, most of us wrestle with these daily, and the earning of daily bread being what it is, we are not always able to devote to them all the time we would like. Nevertheless, we frequently bring these daily office problems out for discussion among the group, and each member is encouraged to produce his individual work for the constructive criticism of the group.

Under the heading of STRUCTURE, we have envisaged research into the technical details of building, and again, propaganda to prove to the public that most of what it pays rent for is simply not good enough, nor even as good as it could be for the rent paid. We discuss these matters, and attempt to improve paper details, but for the full development of this research, obviously an actual laboratory is essen-

tial. Once more we find ourselves forced to appeal to the profession, to organise, with the help of the rest of the building industry and of the National Research Bureau, a National Building Centre.

Several pages could be filled merely by making suggestions under either of these headings of planning and structure. Our problem is never one of finding material for research. It is one of experimenting in order to pick those which will prove most possible and practical. It is not surprising, then, if we have left our third heading—APPEARANCE—fairly well alone, not so much from a lack of desire as from a realisation that more urgent matters are to hand. We are convinced that it is just on account of too great a concern for appearance, and too little for the other two departments, that the architect's public reputation is what it is today, and that he is on the verge of being starved out of existence. Yet appearance interests us considerably, and if, as two of us recently did, you take a trip through any large department store, studying the design of things in everyday use, you too may come to wonder how much longer we designers can afford to leave public taste unchallenged.

Partly by chance and partly because the training of future architects seemed a very logical field in which to plant some of the seeds we hope to see sprout, it happens that our most active efforts to date have been directed at architectural education. And if in this field we have achieved a measure of success, as now appears possible, it is not immodest to say that all the credit is not Fortune's.

Such then, in its briefest form, is the history of ARG. Any success it may have achieved is still problematical. It has, however, since its earliest days, produced an important by-product. Because it has brought together a group of men with common aims and interests, it has done much to clarify the thinking of those men and has automatically placed their aims somewhat nearer achievement. Although this is a completely immeasurable matter, it has some value.

The latest phase in our story took shape in our previous article in this *Journal*. We firmly believe that these matters of town and regional planning, housing, improvement of structural methods and technical details, sound fundamental

planning of all units of building, and the education of the public (and of young architects) to realise the problems, make urgent demand for immediate attention. Their proper solution is essential to the welfare of any community, and because they all lie within the field of architecture, they constitute at the same time the potential salvation of the architectural profession. Potential—actual only when the profession overcomes its torpor and sets about the job with determination. A group such as ARG can only very slowly, and one by one, study the local problems that are apparent around it. Now, more than ever, it is evident that such progress is too slow to achieve timely results even in one community, and so we made an appeal for co-operation and help from architects all across Canada. If there are, and there may well be, other groups similar to ARG, we ask them and all the individuals who feel as we do to communicate with us, care of the editor of this *Journal*; either to ask for further details of our objects or to offer suggestions and advice.

Frankly, we would like to see each Provincial Association and the R.A.I.C. take an active interest in building research so that they would become centres for the dissemination of technical knowledge and for the establishment of construction standards. At present the energy of these associations is expended largely in the regulation of the practice of architecture as defined by law, and in internal organisation, with a certain amount of entertainment thrown in to sweeten the day's work. To make any change in the effectiveness of the associations two things are necessary—first, some way must be found to lighten the burden of administrative work, and second, a substantial minority of the practising architects must demand that research work be undertaken.

We believe that existing conditions may lead to the disappearance of architecture unless the profession exerts itself, not in advertisements in luxury magazines, but by proving to our greatest industry, construction, that the architects have the directive force required to achieve results, and that they intend to use it. We think the work should be started now. If our efforts help to awaken the profession so that its achievements swamp the puny efforts of ARG as a tidal wave swamps an isolated pool on the sandy beach, we shall be more than satisfied.

From Report of Field of Activity Committee of the Architectural Research Group

FURTHER LIST OF MEMBERS OF THE R.A.I.C. ON ACTIVE SERVICE

Alberta

Gordon K. Wynn,
Instructor in Navigation,
R.C.A.F.

Ontario

Major James H. Craig,
No. 23 Military Training Centre.

Lieut. R. A. Fisher,
Royal Canadian Engineers,
Headquarters Staff,
Toronto.

Brigadier E. W. Haldenby,
Ninth Infantry Brigade,
Third Division,
C.A.S.F.

Pte. A. G. Keith,

Student

R.C.E., C.A.S.F.

Major R. A. V. Nicholson, E.D.,
Royal Canadian Engineers,
Asst. to G.S.O. Surveys,
Dept. of National Defense,
Ottawa.

Lieut. Dyce Saunders,
No. 21 Military Training Centre,
Long Branch.

Colonel Mackenzie Waters,
M.C., V.D.,
Commanding 3rd Anti-Tank Regt.,
C.A.S.F.

Quebec

Major J. Paul Bastien,
Paymaster R.,
Montreal Depot,
C.A.S.F.

Sub-Lieut. R. S. Ferguson,
R.C.N.V.R.
(with Royal Navy).

Lieut. W. J. Hart,
Student
R.C.A., C.A.S.F.

Lieut. H. S. Maxwell,
R.C.N.V.R.,
Halifax, N.S.

This list is an addition to that of August, 1940, page 137.

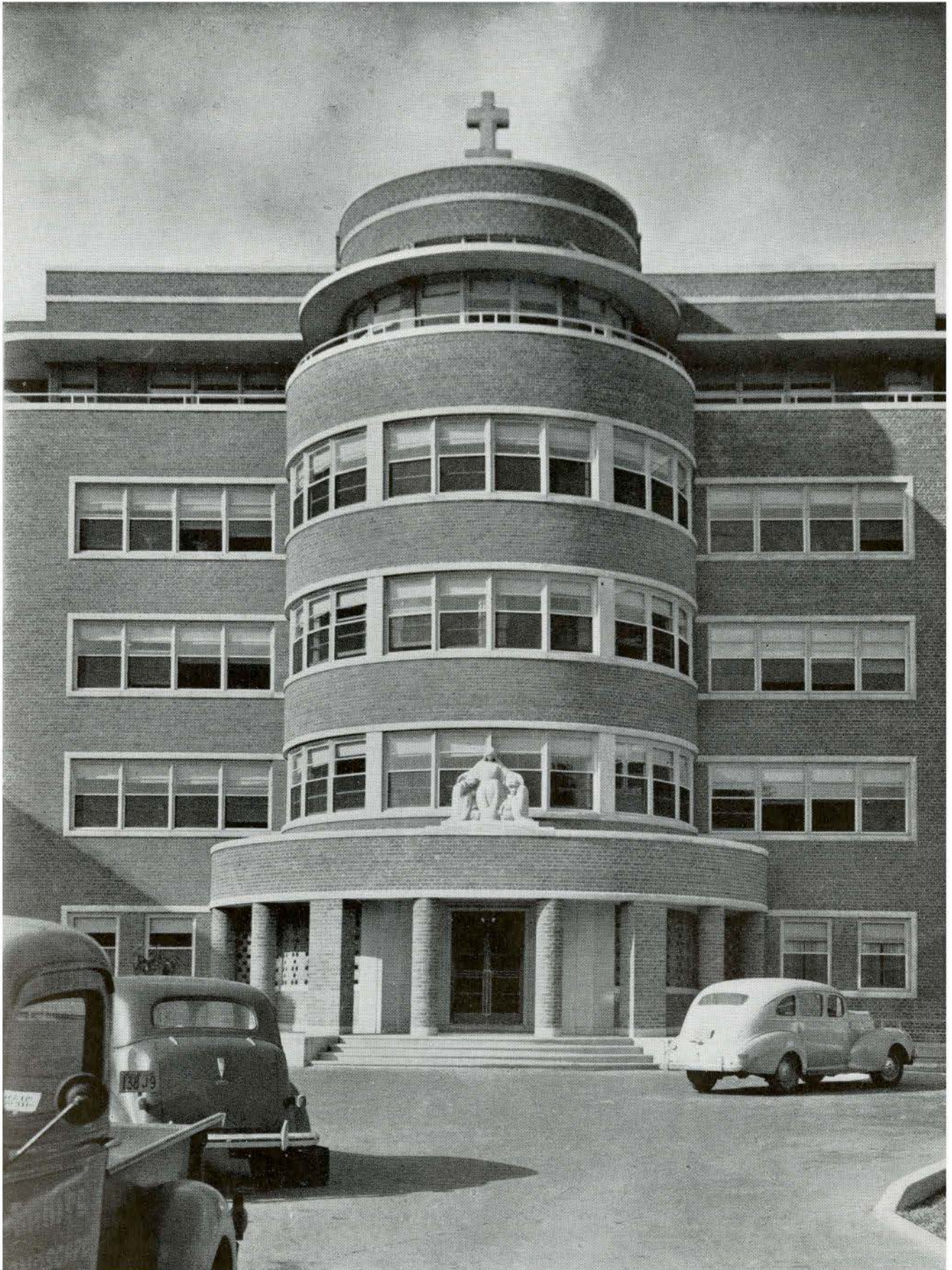
OUR Lady of Mercy Hospital is a home for incurable patients. The average stay is counted in years and a large proportion of them are dependent. The patients are of all ages, but most of them are old people. As a rule, they require care but not treatment. Most of them are ward patients, although a few private and semi-private rooms are available. About forty per cent. are wheel chair patients, a few are able to walk and the others are unable to leave their beds. Provision is made for the temporary care of infectious cases which may develop.

There are twenty-two six-bed wards and six twelve-bed wards, there being 275 beds in all. There is a sun-room connected with each twelve-bed ward and another for every group of six six-bed wards, there being three sun-rooms on each floor. An auditorium is provided for concerts and for motion pictures which is also used for physio-therapy. Utility rooms comparable to those of a General Hospital are provided, but there are no operating rooms or special treatment facilities, with the exception of a dental operating room. Food is distributed direct from the serving pantry in the basement by means of one of the two elevators.

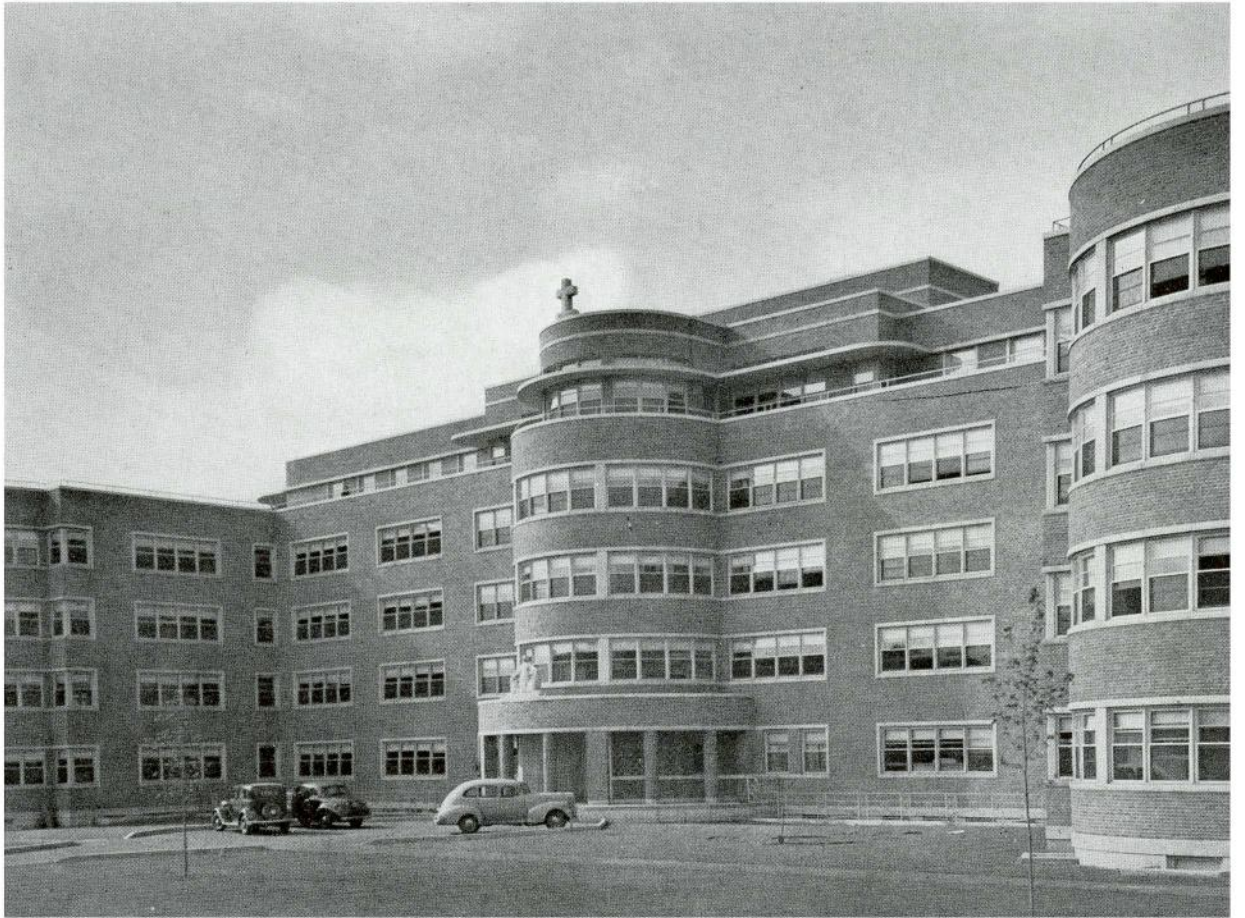
The structure of the building, designed by Mr. E. H. Darling, is of reinforced concrete and the general contractors were the Pigott Construction Company. Mr. H. H. Angus was the mechanical engineer. The exterior walls are red brick with stone trim. Over the entrance portico is a sculptured group by Miss Jacobine Jones, Sculptor. The double-hung windows are wood with interlocking aluminum weather-stripping and spiral sash balances. Floors are, generally speaking, linoleum. Extended bases and other means of protection are used so that furniture or wheel chairs cannot scratch or mar the walls or doors. Corridors are treated with acoustic ceilings. All lighting fixtures were especially designed for their purpose and are chromium plated.

The Chapel ceiling has exposed concrete beams decorated in full colour. The woodwork is oak with walnut trim and walnut inlay. All the woodwork, including pews and altar, was designed by the Architects, together with the bronze candlesticks and sanctuary lamps. The stained glass windows are from the studio of Yvonne Williams and Esther Johnson. While the building is for the benefit of those who are able to contribute little for their own maintenance, in order to minimize upkeep and depreciation, the best materials and equipment were used throughout.

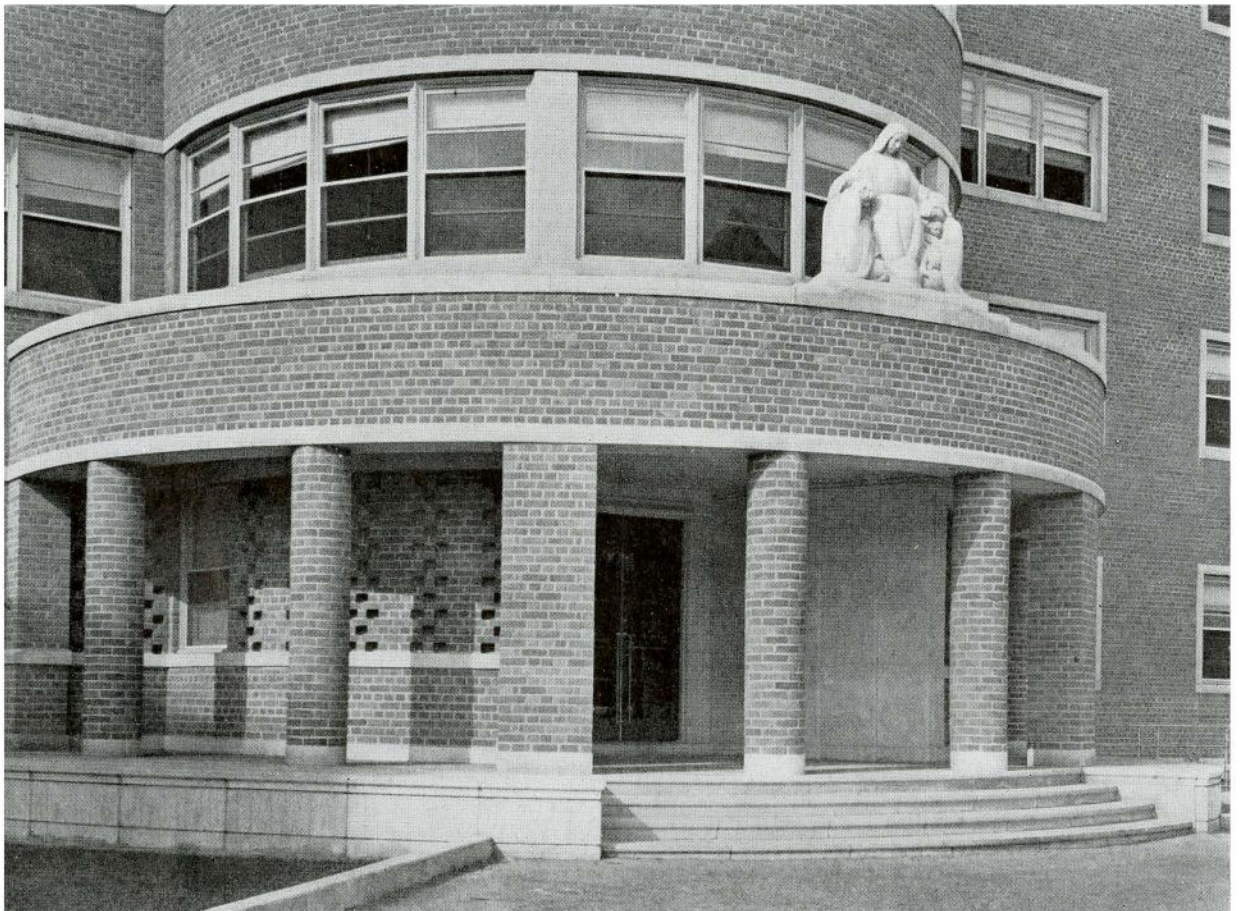
R. SCHOFIELD MORRIS.



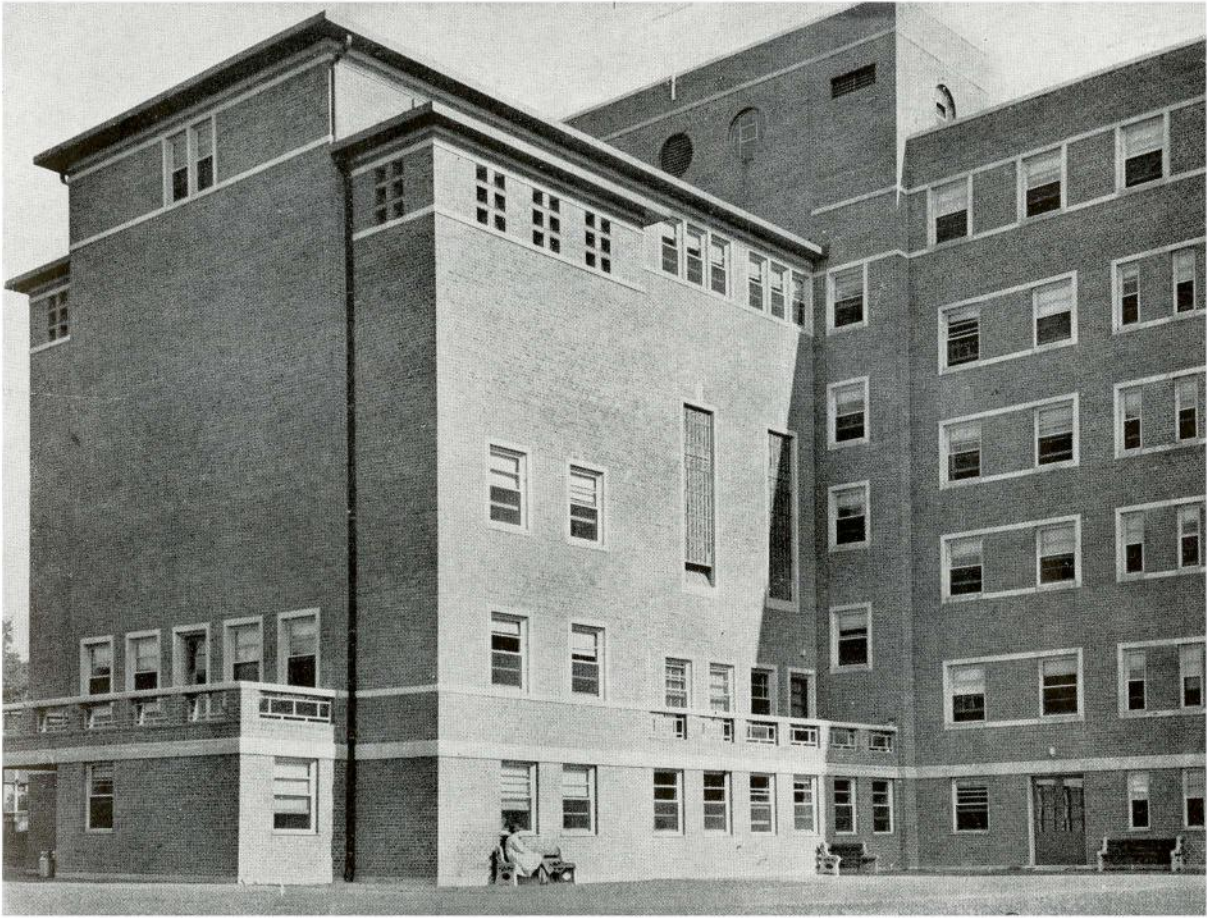
OUR LADY OF MERCY HOSPITAL, TORONTO, ONTARIO
MARANI, LAWSON AND MORRIS, ARCHITECTS



EAST FRONT



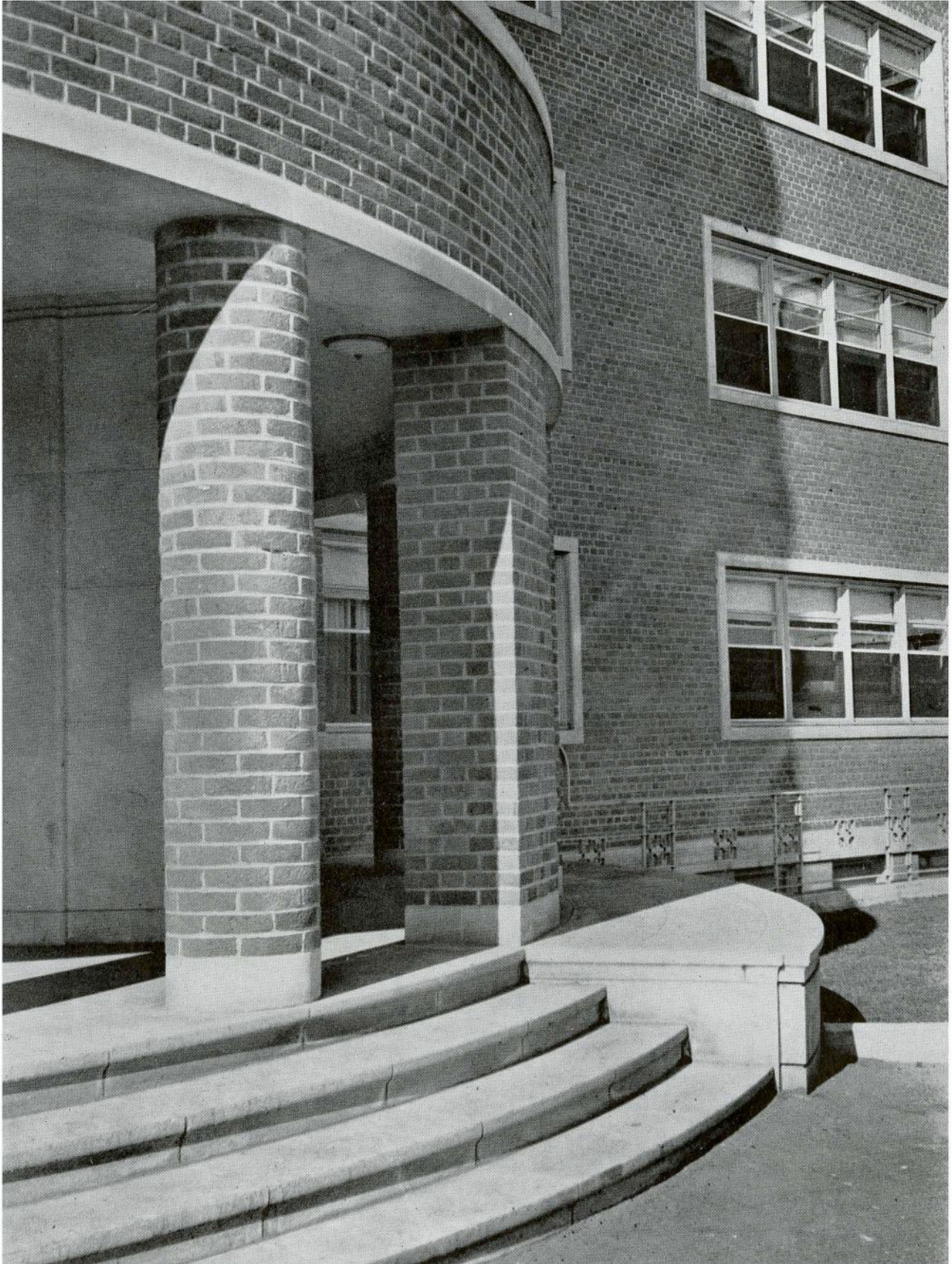
ENTRANCE PORCH



CHAPEL WING

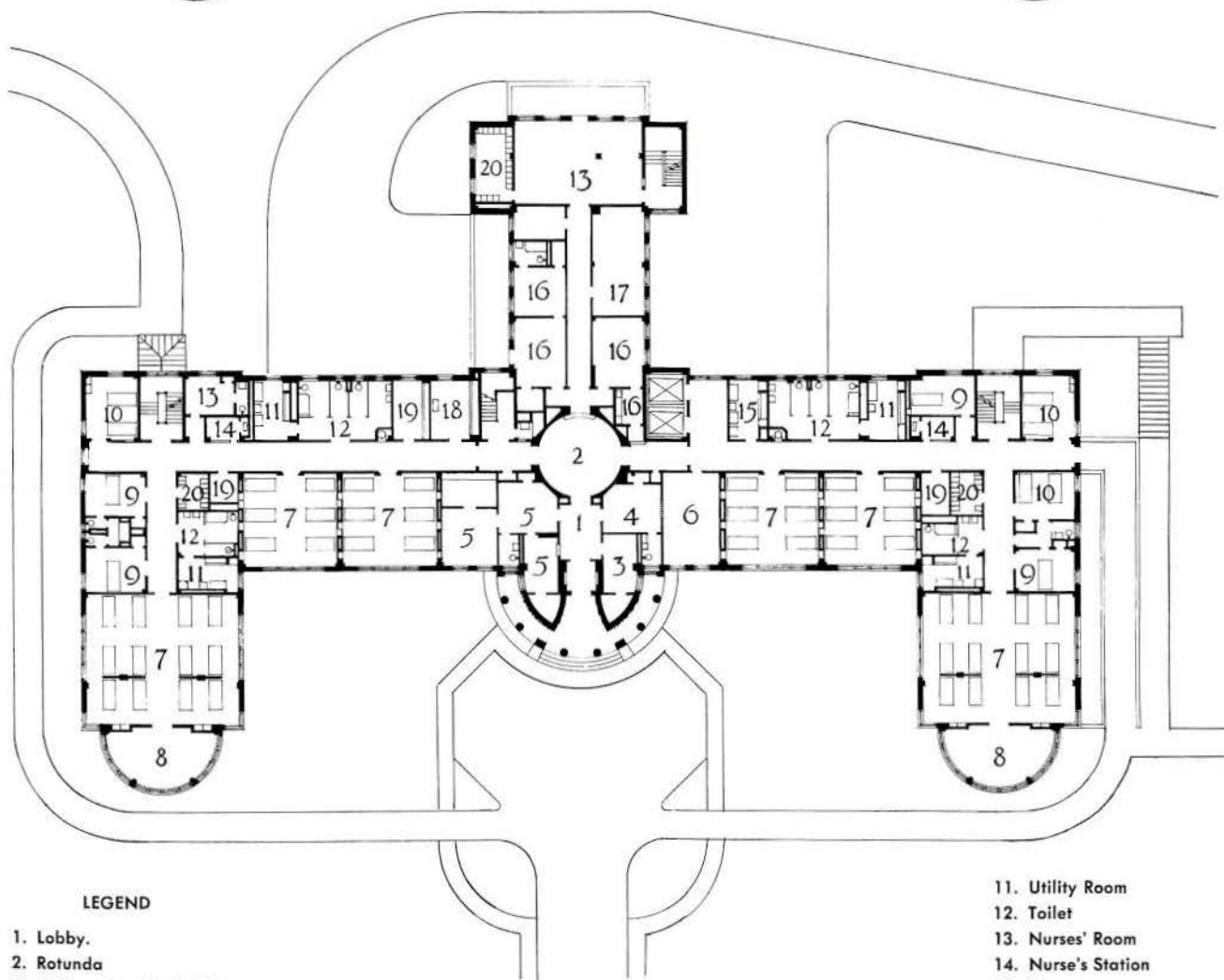
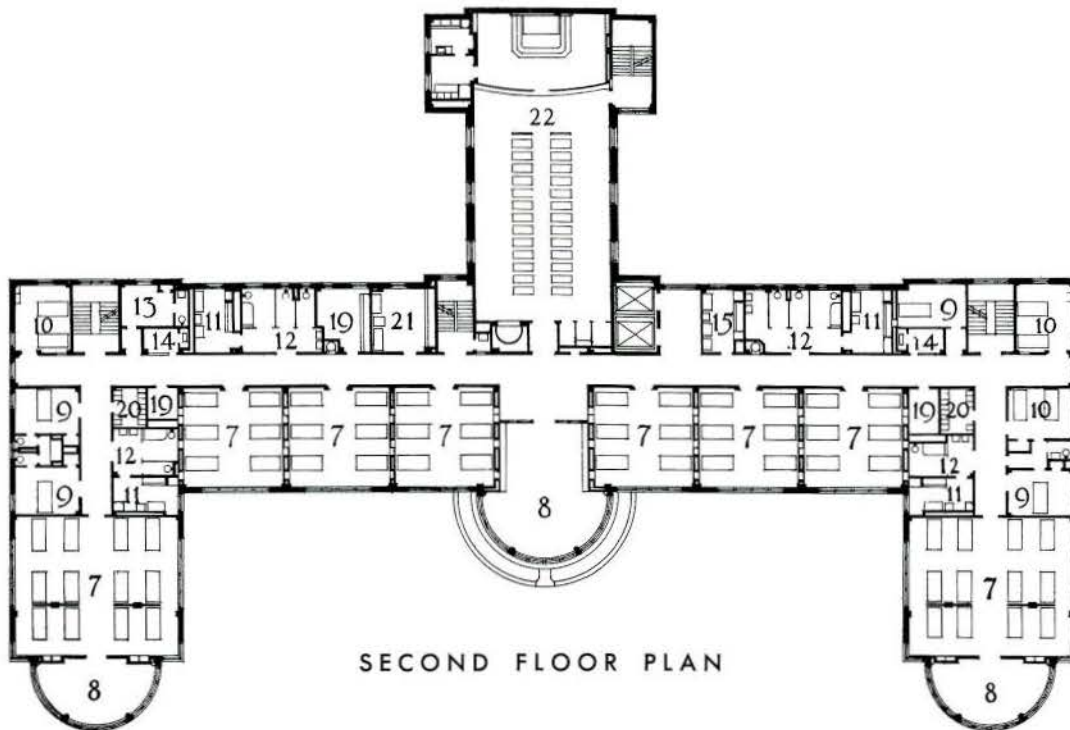


CHAPEL INTERIOR



ENTRANCE PORCH DETAIL

Photos, T. G. Jay.



LEGEND

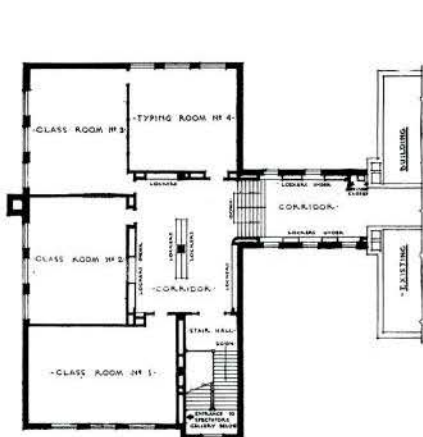
- 1. Lobby.
- 2. Rotunda
- 3. Mother Superior's Office
- 4. Doctors' Room
- 5. Offices
- 6. Reception Room
- 7. Ward
- 8. Solarium
- 9. Private Room
- 10. Semi-Private Room

- 11. Utility Room
- 12. Toilet
- 13. Nurses' Room
- 14. Nurse's Station
- 15. Servery
- 16. Priest's Living Quarters
- 17. Maids' Room
- 18. Pharmacy
- 19. Linen
- 20. Lockers
- 21. Central Supply Room
- 22. Chapel

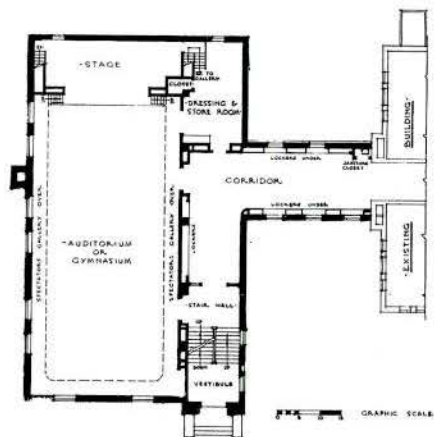
OUR LADY OF MERCY HOSPITAL
TORONTO, ONTARIO



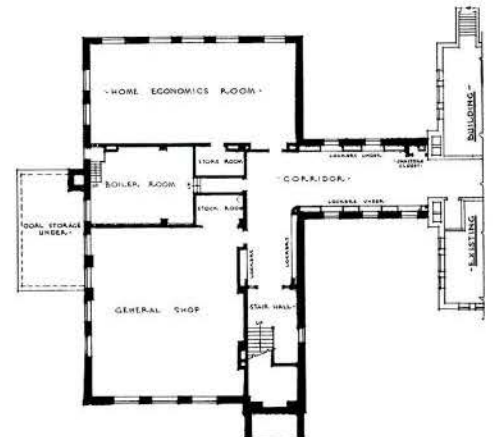
ADDITION TO THE COLLEGIATE INSTITUTE, COBOURG, ONTARIO
S. B. COON AND SON, ARCHITECTS



THIRD FLOOR PLAN



SECOND FLOOR PLAN



FIRST FLOOR PLAN

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

The Editor,
Journal of the Royal Architectural Institute
of Canada.

Sir:

The writer of the Manitoba section of the Provincial Page, Mr. Dobush, in the September issue of the *Journal* draws timely attention to the unsatisfactory state of the profession in that province, and expresses the hope that such conditions are not typical of other parts of Canada.

As to the latter, I think it can be assumed that what applies to Manitoba applies equally throughout the Dominion. There are exceptions, no doubt; but judging from reports and correspondence published in the *Journal* from time to time it is quite apparent that the lot of the Architect in private practice is becoming more difficult each year as his field of endeavour is encroached on more and more by outside competitors.

Exactly how this state of things has been brought about it would be difficult to say. Doubtless, there are many contributory factors: amongst them the oft-quoted great depression; the enormous increase in magazines dealing with "homes beautiful", including offers of free plans (or at nominal cost) and articles disclosing to the lay mind the mysteries of exterior and interior construction, leading many a possible client into imagining he "knows it all" and can save the expense of the architect's services; and other factors which I propose to touch upon briefly hereafter.

I am not disposed to agree with those (and there are plenty) who are ready to put the blame on the profession itself, for having, through lack of enterprise or initiative, failed to keep pace with the times and to make itself indispensable to the building public. This seems to me but a red herring drawn across the track by interested parties to prevent the real cause of the present deplorable state from being traced to its true source.

Architects, by the ethics of the profession, are debarred from advertising, except by the discreet display of a professional card in the local paper, less likely to attract notice than a burial announcement; neither are they supposed to solicit work. On the other hand there are those who advocate that we should get out and "sell" our services to all and sundry. The latter course would seem to be a complete breakaway from professionalism, and if followed, why keep up the pretense of a profession at all? Why not permit real advertising and all the advantages of publicity enjoyed by our competitors, the "house designers", speculative builders, real estate firms, loan corporations, and what have you?

The field from which the average practitioner can hope to obtain work has become narrow indeed compared with twenty or thirty years ago. Take public buildings, for instance; almost without exception these are designed and carried out by the departmental architectural staff of the Government or public body concerned. Even on the rare occasions when a building is given out to a private architect it would appear that the rate of remuneration for the work involved is often too low to make it worth while (example: Mr. Murray Brown and His Majesty the King in the Exchequer Court of Canada, as reported in last December's issue of the *Journal*).

As to schools and hospitals, these are rapidly becoming further beyond the reach of the private practitioner; at all events as far as British Columbia is concerned. I cannot, of

course, say if this applies equally to other Provinces. Some School Boards have their own architectural staffs; and for others, including unorganized districts, it is customary for the Provincial Architect to design and supervise the school buildings.

With regard to hospitals the same applies, things having reached such a pass that this includes not merely those coming directly under Government control, but hospitals owned and operated by cities and other independent bodies which hitherto would have gone to private architects. As a recent instance I may cite a new Catholic hospital in this city, and a large extension to another; both designed and carried out by the Provincial Architect.

By way of contrast with this present practice the writer can recall the time, some twenty-five years ago, when the Provincial Architect's department in this Province consisted of a staff of one, engaged solely on the maintenance of Government buildings. At this time it was customary to employ outside architects to design new buildings, or to hold a competition. By the way, how rarely does one hear of an architectural competition in these days—the means whereby many a young architect in the past was given his opportunity.

Coming to the domestic field, what prospect does this offer the average architect today, by which I mean the architect who looks to his profession as a means of livelihood and not as a sideline or form of benevolent service to the community?

Judging from the spate of bargain plans put out by the National Housing Act's own architectural department at Ottawa, not to mention other plan-supplying agencies already referred to, the intending small housebuilder should have little difficulty in finding something near akin to his requirements, from one of these sources; if not, I am told the former department is ready to accommodate him to the extent of revising the standard plans to suit his particular desires. As he can get this service, with complete specifications, for a few dollars, is it to be wondered at that the prospective homebuilder regards the employment of an architect as an unnecessary luxury? And this is a Government department that we, as taxpayers (presumably), help to maintain!

Well, as things are, if the rising generation of architects is content to regard its chosen profession as a pleasant pastime (taking the stand that the mere fact of doing something "creative" should be its own reward, as I have heard it expressed) well and good; otherwise, it would seem that to insure a livelihood (and subsequent super-annuation) it would be wise to join the staff of a departmental architect at as early a stage as possible, as so many of our younger architects seem to be doing.

But to return to the writer from Manitoba, Mr. Dobush; he rightly draws the conclusion that we architects *have* a place in the community; that it remains for us to re-establish ourselves; and that this can only be accomplished through our own efforts. Every individual architect can help, no doubt, to some extent (for instance, by sparing no effort to insure that each job he is fortunate enough to secure will contribute to the credit of the profession generally; also by not be-littling the work of brother architects, a practice which

(Continued on page 182)

HOUSING

By CECIL S. BURGESS

Member of the Town Planning Commission of the City of Edmonton

JUDGING from a couple of articles in the R.A.I.C. Journal of July the question of housing seems to lack clearness of definition as to objectives and methods of procedure. In the hope of making some contribution towards supplying this lack I wish to express some ideas on the subject.

As regards objectives; broadly what are we as a nation and as a society to aim at in the matter of housing? Surely the great mass of people to be housed are those who have approximately a family income of around \$60.00 a month. These form the working basis of our society. How are they housed at present and how ought they to be housed? Let us consider this on the analogy of the farm. The farm may be so handled that the wealth of the soil is merely sapped out of it from year to year to final exhaustion; or it may be cultivated and fertilized so that year by year it is built up to richer yields. So must we treat the class of people with whom we are most concerned. The typical household consists of the two parents and not less than three children. If there are eight or ten children all the more consideration will be required. What are the conditions for properly cultivating this society? We know that actually such families are, in all too many cases, crowded into flats. It cannot be claimed that this is the way to build up this essential part of society. The necessary accommodation for the building up process is the cottage home on its own plot of ground. Shelter, sleeping and eating places are not enough. Let any who for a moment doubt this consider the outlook upon life of the cottager and his family compared with that of the flat-dweller. It is not merely the house that is necessary but also the environment. Sir Raymond Unwin gives the opinion as the result of many years practical experience that one twelfth of an acre is the most suitable area for the small cottage home. In addition to this there should be adjacent play places for small children and, of course, such facilities as schools, libraries, churches, meeting halls and local shopping centres. All these are needed for the healthy physical and mental development of a community. It is, indeed, the fact that innumerable cities are busily providing apartment accommodation for their teeming millions. But this can only be a temporary, if unfortunately necessary, makeshift; it is no true cultivation of society. Apartment houses have their good uses for grown-ups. No child under 15 years of age should have to be brought up in an apartment.

A true solution of this question is so crucial to the society of the future that it fully justifies the creation in every city of a standing committee of the council to deal specially with "housing". It would, of course, be well that such a committee should be advised by an expert on town planning; but

there are probably not sufficient such experts to go round. A committee of architects could give helpful advice. For small cities one expert could serve a considerable number. Failing any of these aids a bit of common sense will go a long way if guided by sound principle.

The work of such a committee would be to obtain sufficient areas of ground for the purpose. These should be laid out economically and with a view to general amenity. Houses should face on secondary streets of such width and surfacing as to reduce costs. Access to the city by bus or otherwise should be secured. In fact all the resources of the town planner's skill should be employed.

As to the houses themselves; it will be observed that in the outskirts of all our cities thousands of humble people build for themselves houses of a kind, maybe inadequate, yet courageous attempts at home-making. This strong home-making instinct should be aided and energized by being given a helping hand. Much can be done towards this,—by the provision of such plans as have been prepared by the National Housing Act authorities,—by the provision at moderate cost of cut-to-fit lumber, standard sashes, doors, etc. In one of the types of housing employed at Stockholm this principle is used to such advantage that 30% of the cash outlay is said to be saved. The fact of numbers of houses being built in the same block at the same time reduces the cost and the operation becomes a building "bee" with much mutual assistance and interest and development of community good-will. Houses built in this way become really homes as distinguished from mere houses. This builds up social sentiment, whereas the ordinary renter-tenant housing belongs to the character of the sapping and exhaustion of society.

Many questions must be encountered as to initiating and financing of constructive work, cost of land, amount of taxation, etc. There is work enough in this for a city committee and it their proper work. There seems to be a game in progress of passing the buck from municipality to province and from province to dominion. At one end the federal authorities have played a fair share in the game by their National Housing Act. At the other end the home-builder, if given any fair chance will be found ready to play the game. His only recourse is to the administrators of his own city and it is up to them to give him this chance.

There is much work to be done but it may fairly be contended that a class "cultivated" on the above lines will flourish and bring health and strength into society which will before long fully justify possible meagre first returns. If the parents do not fill your pockets with money the children, at least, will rise up and call you blessed.

(Continued from page 181)

seems rather common, unfortunately, in these days) in bringing about a better state of affairs in the profession. However, the voice of the individual can do little in dealing with Governments and public bodies who are so largely responsible for the side-tracking of architects. We must look to the parent Institute and our Provincial Associations to be constantly

hammering away at these bodies in the endeavour to bring about much needed changes, to prevent the private practitioner from becoming as extinct as the Orders.

I am,

Yours very truly,

P. L. JAMES.

BOOK REVIEWS

"THE MODERN HOUSE IN AMERICA"

By JAMES FORD and KATHERINE MORROW FORD

Published by Architectural Book Publishing Company, Inc., New York. Price, \$5.00.

AT a time when most of our spare minutes are spent reading of the destruction of London and Berlin, wondering when and how we shall be able to begin the long, slow process of reconstruction, it is reassuring to find that America has assumed its responsibility for the future of architecture. James Ford and Katherine Morrow Ford, in their book "The Modern House in America", have made a selection of contemporary American houses to illustrate their thesis on modern architecture, and to show what has already been achieved. The book opens with a short text explaining the aims of modern architecture, and concludes with a chapter evaluating America's contribution, with comments by a number of architects whose works are illustrated. The main section of the book consists of photographs, floor plans and concise descriptions of sixty-four houses scattered over the United States from Maine to California. Each house is given a separate page, or sometimes more. The photographs are good, the plans are well drawn and legible, while the description and commentary, though extremely short, enable the reader to understand the problem to be solved in each case.

To the Canadian architect these pages have a peculiar interest. Here, at last, are good examples of really modern houses, built for people who live as we do. Some of the houses illustrated have been designed for educated living reduced to the simplest terms; others, quite obviously are large establishments. But large or small, they are designed for people who live simply, entertain at home informally, employ the minimum number of servants, drive one or more motor cars of the inexpensive variety, and live the normal lives of thousands of Americans and Canadians. In construction, too, these houses are not strange to the Canadian architect. Familiar materials and methods have been used with both precision and imagination, while full advantage has been taken of the American genius for standardization. Even the most troublesome construction problems have been solved with competence and enthusiasm.

Perhaps the consistently high artistic quality is the most interesting part of the work illustrated. There are no uncouth examples, such as one would expect to find in a book of European houses, and there are no architectural epigrams. Though extremely modern, most of the buildings are both conservative and sober in design, like the American people. They have a spirit unconsciously and subtly different from that of their European counterparts, just as Colonial houses are different from Georgian ones. The work of Walter Gropius and Marcel Breuer is an exception in this respect, for here one can detect a classic preoccupation with formal design. Their simple little buildings have an air of easy confidence, expressing themselves in the most precise formal geometry. They have a polish and a sophistication which has not been seen in American domestic architecture for over a century.

A weaker part of the book is the text. The arguments and pleas for a contemporary architecture are presented in their usual sequence of history, sociology, economics and technology. There are loose statements and a few rather odious comparisons scattered through the text, which give one a depressed, enervated feeling. Why, for instance, quibble about the limitations of a standard plan, when statistics show

that most Americans are quite standard in a great many things—the number of children they have, the way they divide their land, their mania for motor cars, and so on. Most people have neither imagination nor individuality; they would fit into one of a small number of good house plans just as they fit into one of the standard plans for life insurance. Nowhere in the book is there recognition of the fact that the average family cannot afford a custom-built house. The most serious criticism of the text is that of psychology. Those who are already converted to the modern viewpoint need no text. Those who are staunch "eclectics" are not touched by any argument, while those who are on the fence will find more confusion than guidance in such verbal monstrosities as "a cultural derivation of multiple origin . . ." and ". . . a reasonable sociological presumption that from these urban coastal centres of radiation . . ." Of rather higher quality is the writing of the closing pages of the book, including the comments on America's contribution to modern architecture by some of its most prominent exponents. These men tell their story in a simple, direct way, but to understand what they really mean, one has to look at the photographs of their buildings.

James Ford and Katherine Morrow Ford carry on the work started by F. R. S. Yorke, A.R.I.B.A., author of "The Modern House", "The Modern House in England" and "The Modern Flat". Without being imitative, "The Modern House in America" is a companion volume written more for the layman and less for the architect, but with a distinct appeal to both. We commend it to the laymen who feel that present-day suburbia has not quite achieved the ultimate in physical and aesthetic satisfaction, and to architects who are beginning to wonder if, perhaps, the Brothers Adam are no longer saying the last significant word about architecture.

—Richard E. Bolton.

An Introduction to MODERN ARCHITECTURE

By J. M. RICHARDS

Published by Penguin Books Limited, London. 126 pages, 32 pages of illustrations. Price, 6d. (20 cents).

TOWN PLANNING

By THOMAS SHARP

Published by Penguin Books Limited, London. 152 pages, 16 pages of illustrations. Price, 6d. (20 cents).

FOR 40 cents one may now possess two of the best books on modern Architecture (illustrated). At a time when many architects' libraries are confined to what can be carried in a kit-bag these two Penguin books are of special importance. (In fact, I can think of no nicer gesture for the Institute to make to its members serving with the forces than to send copies of these excellent little books to each one. It would, I am sure, be a refreshing encouragement for them to be able to recall occasionally the kind of civilisation which architects in particular are fighting for the right to create.)

Mr. Richards' book is the more important of the two for while Mr. Thomas Sharp follows the general theme of his now classic "Town and Countryside", Mr. Richards has covered the whole subject of modern Architecture more neatly and comprehensively than has been done before. It is no easy task to put into simple words that subtle compound of technical knowledge and aesthetic sensibility of which Architecture is made. Few exponents of modern Architecture have been able to explain themselves in simple terms and too many have delighted in intellectual snobbery and dialectic obscurity. (In

fact, I recall one architect-author, not as easily satisfied as W. Shakespeare, who even had to invent a new version of the English language in order to be able to explain himself). Both Mr. Richards and Mr. Thomas Sharp express themselves with refreshing simplicity; sentences seem to fall into place with a crisp "plop" like pebbles dropped into a can. What they have to say makes sense.

Mr. Richards stakes out a new landmark in architectural appreciation by dismissing "functionalism" for what it is worth; he declares that Le Corbusier really never did think of houses as being nothing but machines, in spite of his famous pronouncement. "His buildings are full of a poetic quality that is pure art and very far from being the product of mechanical thinking". "Functionalism" was a convenient slogan with which to introduce Modern Architecture to the world but if our great Architecture is to be of the intellect and the spirit it cannot be confined by purely material limitations.

By being published at this particular time these two books may serve, as it were, as stepping stones through the morass, to land our architectural ideals safely on the far shore. In the themes of both authors one can perhaps discern a common

message to those who will build a new world after the War. It is this: that it is not those few brilliant masterpieces that make a great Architecture, nor is it the individual celebrity-architect who is of importance to society. Architects must be happy to embrace a personal anonymity in order to establish a new tradition of civic design in which individualism must not be allowed to defeat a consistent, democratic urbanity.

Mr. Thomas Sharp's philosophy of Planning, based upon the distinction between Town and Country, is so fundamentally right that it seems cavalier to criticise his conclusions. However, I must admit that I cannot agree, for instance, with his insistence upon the Street as the unit of civic design. Before the last century the Street was indeed a quiet open space on to which the facades of buildings opened. But a street to-day is a traffic-track and our quiet open-spaces must be planned separately; by more open and flexible planning we seek nowadays to escape from the rigidity of the street facade as the principle element of civic composition.

For all who are interested in the Design of our future civilisation here are two great little books.

—Humphrey Carver.

IN THE COUNTY COURT OF VICTORIA:
HOLDEN AT VICTORIA

HUBERT SAVAGE
vs.
WILLIAM ELLIS and
EDITH EMMA ELLIS

JUDGMENT of
HIS HONOUR
SHANDLEY,
Co. J.

Unless it is agreed with the Architect at the time the arrangement is entered into that preliminary sketches be made that there will be no fee charged for the sketches, the owner is liable for the professional work done.

The defendants admitted the sketches were made, therefore the burden of proof that it was agreed at the time the arrangement was made no fees were to be charged for preliminary sketches is upon them, a fact which was not proved.

The defendants could not assume that no charge would be made for preliminary sketches if the work was abandoned.

In any event I see no escape from Mr. Whittaker's contention that the detailed rendered bill and the receipt for \$100.00 on account of that bill proves conclusively that there was no agreement not to charge for the services set out in the bill. I think the plaintiff is entitled to judgment. However, I think the charge of \$360.00 in connection with the proposed hotel is excessive. I think \$150.00 for the services rendered a fair amount. I also think that the charge of \$300.00 for services rendered in connection with the conversion job a little high. I think \$222.00 a fair allowance.

As regards the proposed dwelling at Midland Road I think \$122.00 a fair fee for these services.

The aggregate amount allowed is \$494.00 and from this amount will be deducted the \$100.00 paid on account. The plaintiff is entitled to the costs of the action.

(Signed) H. H. SHANDLEY,
Co. J.

VICTORIA, B.C.
14th March, 1940.

THE END OF MORRIS AND COMPANY

The Architects' Journal, England.

Last week, among all the headlines and special articles of the third day of the Somme battle, there was in one paper half a column, and in another a paragraph announcing that the firm founded by William Morris had come to an end.

It was a queer moment for a postscript to be written on Morris and Company: it was queer to find how, for a moment or two, the wording of the paragraph "Famous firm . . . Morris . . ." suggested only that something had happened to Lord Nuffield. Then one began to remember.

It was in 1861 that the firm which was later known as Morris and Company started at 8 Red Lion Square, Holborn. Its original members were William Morris, Madox Brown, Rossetti, Burne-Jones, Philip Webb and the two "business" men—Faulkner and Marshall. From there they set out to reform their age.

Besides the stained glass, wallpaper, tapestries and furniture for which it was most famous, the firm tackled almost every kind of decorative design—painted panels, painted tiles, gesso work, and embroidery, table glass and china—and always with the same aim: to avoid the lifeless vulgarity of machine reproduction, to reintroduce *personality*—individual craftsmanship—into all designs.

It was an aim that only expressed half the truth as we see it—for Morris and Company did not admit that good design could be obtained through the machine as well as without it. No doubt their good influence was all the greater for this limitation. Victorians liked things cut and dried: black *or* white, machine *or* man.

The battle they all fought seems very ancient history now: charming history of times when "Red Lion Square seems to be the natural resort of people on the venture"; when "Faulkner kept the books, and helped to fire the glass in the basement. His two sisters helped in tile painting and gesso work"; and one day a roll-parcel came (addressed to Morris, who was apt to be impatient with parcels) "of which the wrapping—and it was all wrapping—was gummed right through to the core." Burne-Jones was suspected.

—Astragal.

PROVINCIAL PAGE

ALBERTA

In Edmonton during 1940 building permits up to the end of September amounted to nearly two million dollars as compared with about one million and a half for the corresponding period of the previous year. A noticeable feature of the last two years of building is the large proportion that has been expended in 101st Street, which at present appears to be more solidly built up than Jasper Avenue, hitherto accounted the best shopping street. Yet the new building in 101st Street has been principally of stores—several of them departmental stores. Including fixtures and finishings, several millions of dollars have probably been expended in 101st Street in these last two years.

The amount expended in dwellings for the first nine months of 1940 was \$703,045 as compared with \$441,700 in 1939. This looks like a very considerable increase, but there can be little doubt that the city is still quite inadequately supplied with dwelling houses. The fact that permits were issued for 83 dwellings at a total cost of \$43,650, that is to say, of an average cost of \$526, may cause one to wonder what sort of dwellings this represents. Even of the 283 dwellings built at an average cost of \$2,346, the same question may well be asked. No doubt for several reasons the cost of these small houses is understated and they may include many that are being gradually built by a bit at a time. Even so there appears to be something not altogether satisfactory about the figures.

—*Cecil S. Burgess.*

BRITISH COLUMBIA

Construction in British Columbia is increasingly active aside from the huge volume of business from war contracts. It is still very apparent here that the poor private Architect has little favour with the Department of Defence.

The Y.M.C.A. building in Vancouver, referred to some months ago in this column, is now under construction, costing in the neighbourhood of \$275,000. McCarter & Nairne are the Architects.

A large bottling plant is proposed on the site below Burrard Bridge in Vancouver, costing approximately \$400,000. It is announced Vancouver Architects are already busy on plans.

Safeway Stores have a large expansion programme under way. Townley and Matheson are the Architects for the project. Three modern stores have already been completed and a \$70,000 coffee plant is under construction. One of the important features of this development is the interesting use of concrete and glass.

In Victoria, C. E. Watkins is the Architect for a \$100,000 addition to the Royal Jubilee Hospital.

Percy Underwood is the Architect for a \$50,000 addition to the High School at Port Haney, B.C., and work is under way.

Although the largest proportion of small houses are still being designed and built by speculative contractors, it is noteworthy that Vancouver's younger Architects in Vancouver are receiving commissions to carry out plans and supervision on houses as low as \$3,500. The unusual building sites are partly responsible for this, but the interesting character of the designs, incorporating B.C. materials, are bringing an

increasing number of clients to the Architects. Mr. D. W. Nicholls of the Housing Administration, on his last trip, seemed especially pleased with the type of design being developed by the Vancouver Architects.

In conclusion the Architects are not too busy or too worried about the war to play golf. At the Construction Industries Golf Tournament they turned in a combined low net average of 74.75. John Porter of McCarter & Nairne and Jack Mercer of Mercer & Mercer were particularly responsible, tying for low gross.

—*Robert A. D. Berwick.*

ONTARIO

An industrial building recently completed in Leaside is one of the few welded jobs in the Toronto district, where riveting is still the general practice. The architects are quite pleased with the clean-cut effect created by the absence of rivet-heads and other excrescences characteristic of conventional steel framing, and when the structure has demonstrated its ability to withstand the blasts which howl across the surrounding flatness we may expect further essays in this technique.

Meanwhile the land far and wide is being covered with temporary buildings, until one begins to wonder whether the quantity of nails consumed will not soon offset the saving of reinforcing steel; and scarcely a day passes when the capacity of some old building to stand another storey is not hopefully investigated. The demand for scrap metal has induced the City of Toronto to prepare plans for a building to house equipment for recovering metal from the residue of garbage incineration. Tenders for the work are now being taken.

The ranks of the profession are being remorselessly thinned by the war—temporarily, we all hope, but none the less noticeably. This is only to be expected, of course; but now the reverberations of the blitzkrieg are being felt even in the administrative sanctum of the O.A.A., and the Chairman of the Registration Board has exchanged its cloistral calm for the hurly-burly of camp life at ——— (deleted by the censor), while one of his colleagues is busy making soldiers out of the students at Toronto University. Uniforms, both khaki and blue-grey, were in evidence at the dinner given by the Toronto Chapter in honour of Brigadier Haldenby, at the Military Institute, Toronto. Among the seventy-odd present were several members of the Hamilton Chapter. The guest of honour, who was introduced by the President of the R.A.I.C., received a tumultuous welcome, and responded with a racy account of his experiences overseas and a soberly-optimistic survey of the general situation which was definitely encouraging, coming as it did first-hand from a competent observer well known to all of those who heard him.

—*Gladstone Evans.*

QUEBEC

L'Association des Architectes de la Province de Québec organise la célébration de son cinquantième anniversaire qui tombe cette année. Il sera bon, à cette occasion, de mettre en lumière les services rendus au public (sans qu'il s'en doute les trois-quart du temps). Il y aurait parallèlement, à notre usage, un historique intéressant à faire et une comparaison utile entre l'état précédent et les résultats acquis au cours de ce demi-siècle, en soulignant que la formation des cadres a

coincidé avec une transformation radicale du goût et la mise en oeuvre de matériaux neufs pour des besoins nouveaux. En ce qui concerne l'architecture du temps passé, la curiosité d'un certain public s'y est déjà portée. Cependant, nul de la famille, j'entends les architectes, n'a démêlé l'écheveau des influences anciennes. Sauf M. Traquair, dont le zèle louable, nous a valu d'excellentes études fragmentaires. En somme, il fut le premier animateur connu du retour à la tradition canadienne-française, tout-à-fait déjetée avant lui. Il reste à dégager ce qui serait la leçon réelle de cette période française—française au moins d'esprit et de tradition. Si on a déjà montré sommairement le passage des méthodes proprement continentales (proportions gardées de l'importance du sujet) à une adaptation plus conforme aux conditions du pays, il me semble qu'il n'a pas été tiré de cette leçon, son plein sens.

Si nos arrières grands pères ont eu l'esprit d'adapter leur traditions aux conditions nouvelles, est-il logique que dans l'emprise qu'ils prennent à leur tour sur nous, nous croyons nécessaire ou suffisant d'en rester à la répétition artificielle des formes qu'ils employaient sans y ajouter, comme ils firent l'apport (silhouette et matériaux) de notre expérience, suivant l'économie de notre temps. Au contraire, nous destinons nos matériaux neufs à des usages extravagants: par exemple, à retrouver l'effet de matières dont on abandonne progressivement l'emploi: c'est suivre la lettre, non l'esprit.

Un travail très soigné s'exécute en ce moment à Montréal. Il met ce point de doctrine en jeu. Qu'on me permette, avec la plus grande considération pour les auteurs, d'en approcher ma loupe—de journaliste-collecteur de nouvelles et de faits divers captivants. Il s'agit de la flèche en aluminium qu'on dresse en ce moment sur le transept de "Christ Church". Elle reproduit à s'y tromper, du moins pour l'homme de la rue, le dessin de celle qui fut démolie et le matériau: la pierre. C'est un tour de force, ingénieux, dont la mise au point et l'exécution font honneur à l'expérience d'un cabinet réputé. Il met en lumière cependant une timidité extrême, proprement locale, dans l'emploi des matériaux inédits et un manque de confiance en soi, inspiré sans doute dans ce cas particulier, par un respect extrême d'une oeuvre-joyau de la ville—sur laquelle on aurait cru porter, en la modernisant, une main sacrilège. Inclignons-nous devant le scrupule, mais regrettons que l'Europe d'où nous est venu l'exemple si souvent, ne nous aie pas encore livré le secret de cette désinvolture qui permit dans une même cathédrale de passer du roman au gothique et à la renaissance; de là aux grilles et aménagements de choeur du XVIII^e siècle, etc. avec un bonheur qui enchante.

L'aisance de l'exécution mériterait, à mon avis, de la part des architectes, une communication au "Journal".

Nous voyons les médecins publier le résultat de leurs observations et des traitements appliqués, en tirer des conclusions. Nous avons une revue à notre disposition. Pourquoi ne pas y faire, quand il en vaut la peine un exposé des motifs et une description raisonnée des procédés mis en oeuvre, surtout dans un cas aussi catégorique où la technique joue le premier rôle; ce serait très recommandable, je pense, pour l'avancement général.

Urbanisme respire faiblement; grâce à M. Terrault, les règlements auxquels je faisais allusion récemment ont force de loi: c'est l'accès des bourses modestes à la construction de ville, une victoire des matériaux de série; un premier pas sur une route toujours plus large; une trouée dans le triple rang de défense des règlements et amendements empiriques, jusqu'ici inattaquables. Réjouissons-nous, mais surveillons d'un oeil pointu l'application.

Il arrive que les meilleures lois amènent, pour des raisons accidentelles à des résultats pénibles: il y a trop d'accommodements faciles avec le Coran. L'initiative privée et l'impossibilité d'un contrôle officiel, mais compétent, autre que technique, appliqué à la conformité des matériaux ne conduira-t-elle pas au mésusage? Il y a là un danger, connu de tous; hélas, il n'y a rien d'autre à faire que d'attendre aux fins de constatation.

Un jour ou l'autre on aimerait dessiner au tableau le rôle que l'architecte pourrait jouer—sans nuire à l'autorité des services municipaux, et sans servir uniquement de fiches à renseignements, en réel associé dans l'élaboration des règlements de construction.

Pour l'instant, exprimons notre plaisir de l'acquis du à l'initiative personnelle du chef de la section d'urbanisme. Qu'il élargisse encore et précise son action utile: c'est à la ville, en effet, qu'il appartient, toutes conditions normales étant remplies, de prendre l'affaire en main et de maintenir haut et ferme.

Les conditions présentes sont on ne peut plus favorables. Qu'on en profite.

—*Marcel Parizeau.*

SASKATCHEWAN

At the present date there is little architectural news from Saskatchewan as there is still little, if any, private building from the plans of Saskatchewan architects. There is, however, a considerable amount of industrial and building activity, due mainly to the construction of airports and buildings connected with war work, but as far as can be learned it appears to be similar to other provinces, as no local architects have been called in on this work. Again we hear protests on the shortage of adequate housing conditions accentuated by the influx of war workers and personnel. The annual meeting of the Saskatchewan Association of Architects will be held towards the end of October and it is hoped there will be somewhat more lengthy news.

—*Robert F. Duke.*

NOTICE

Copies of "A Standard Plumbing By-Law", No. 924, and Part 5, "Requirements Bearing on Health and Sanitation", No. 923, Codes and Specifications Section, National Research Council, Ottawa, June, 1940, are both available at a price of 50¢.