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Reminiscences of Vindex and His Art Treasures A Poem By Statius

Foreword by HUBERT G. RIPLEY

PUBLIUS Papinus Statius, "il dolce poeta," was born in Naples about the year 45 A. D.; he died within a few months of his great patron, the Emperor Domitian, A. D. 96. A lad of ten or so when Nero assumed the imperial purple, the high esteem in which the Arts were held during the silver age, undoubtedly influenced young Papinus to follow in the footsteps of his eminent father, Statius of Epirus, the most popular schoolmaster of southern Italy. An interesting account of his life and works may be found in "Post Augustan Poets" by Harold Edgworth Butler, fellow of New College. Statius' greatest work is the "Thebais", which he finished in 92 A. D., after twelve years of unremitting toil. It has also been supposed that he wrote for the stage.* Anyway, none of his plays are extant, and his "Athenais" remains unfinished, due to his untimely death. "The Silvae", in lighter vein, are full of delicate charm, even though their very exuberance and affectedness may cause a derisive smile now and then, when one comes across some particularly fantastic or juicy metaphor. Nevertheless, Statius hung it on the eyes, so to speak, not only of the Emperor Domitian, but even of such purists as Dante, Politian, Barthius, Variorum, Niebuhr, Warrington, Alexander Pope, and Conington.

The Poet was of gentle extraction, although the family, of Graeco-Campanian origin, was somewhat sunken in circumstances. From his boyhood, Publius was victorious in poetic contests, although at the third Capitoline competition he failed, at the

age of forty-seven, to carry off the coveted sprig of laurel. This outcome rendered him unduly sensitive, and he never entered the lists again.

Martial and Statius, the two leading poets during the reign of Domitian, vied with each other in elegant verse and the appreciation of Imperial favor. Certain passages in the "Silvae" contain extravagant praise of the Emperor, for which their author has been severely criticised by M. Nisard and Dr. Tyrrell. On the other hand, Angelo Poliziano, the great Italian humanist, says of them: "I think I am entitled to describe them as being of such a character that for epic power, for variety of theme, for skill, for knowledge of places and legends, history and custom, for command of recondite learning and the arcana of letters, there is nothing superior to them in all Latin literature." The word "silva" means, in a literary sense, a rough draft, (something drawn from the wood as it were), extemporaneous, composed on the spur of the moment and only slightly corrected for grammatical defects. Some of these little classics which Statius assembled under the title of "Silvae" seem to be just the nicest kind of bread and butter letters to friends at whose villae he had been entertained, and the lightest and gayest of these—his description of the baths of Etruscus, (I, 5, "Non Helicon Gravi"), is a perfect model of vers d'occasion. The Surrentine Villa (II, 2, "Est Inter Notos Sirenum"), records the visit the poet paid to his friends, Pollius and Polla at their country seat near Sorrento. Slater says of it that from the Statian description Dean Merivale reconstructs the typical mansion of the period, so exact and meticulous is the picture.

* Juvenal, VII, 82-7

We are accustomed to regard the heroic hexameter as reserved almost exclusively for epic verse, yet Statius, who revered the glories of Argolis and the Thracian Lyre, uses this form most happily in his lighter numbers. Of the thirty poems which comprise the "Silvae" many will be found that are of special interest to architects for their descriptions of places, works of art, and the vivid pictures of the life of Flavian Rome. A volume published by the Clarendon Press of Oxford, 1908, contains a translation of the "Silvae" by D. A. Slater, M.A., Professor of Latin in the University College of South Wales and Monmouthshire. From this is taken the "Reminiscences of Vindex", which like most of Statius' poems abounds in a pulsating mythology rich in detail and alive with feeling. It carries an emotional appeal not only for its admirable literary craftsmanship, but also, on account of the reverence of the author for *le cygne de Sicyone*, to those of us who worship at the Shrine of the Muses as well.

* * * * *

"FORTE REMITTENTEM CURAS

Statius, *Silvae*, IV, 6. (trans. Slater).

"One day as I was idly loitering at sundown in the broad Enclosure, a truant from my task, for the fit was not upon me, I was borne off to feast with generous Vindex; and still in my inmost heart lives unforgotten the memory of that night. It was not the idle cheer that regaled us, dainties fetched from divers climes and vintages old as the Public Charter Chest. Wretched indeed are they whose delight is to tell the flavour of the pheasant from the crane of Thrace; what goose has the richest vitals; why the Umbrian boar has less breed about him than the boar of Tuscany; and on what shore the succulent oyster finds his softest bed. The feast of reason was ours and talk from the heart of Helicon, with merry jests, that lured us to sit out the mid-winter night and banish gentle sleep from our eyes, until Castor's brother-twin peeped out from his Elysian home and Dawn mocked the feast of yesternight. Ah, honest night; and would that then as once in Tiryns two moons had been joined in one! A night to be marked with sea-pearls from Erythraean deeps; a night to treasure long and the spirit of it to live for evermore! There it was and then that I learnt so well those thousand shapes of classic ivory and bronze, and waxen forms so shrewdly counterfeited they seemed upon the brink of speech. For where will you find the peer of Vindex to discern in classic work a master's hand, or to name the artist of an unsigned piece? Vindex alone can say which bronzes were fashioned with sleepless care by cunning Myro; which marble was conjured into life by the chisel of industrious Praxiteles; what ivory carving took

the last touches from the man of Pisa's finger;* what breathing bronze was cast by Polycletus; what line reveals even at a distance the hand of bygone Apelles? Whenever he lays down the lute, it is thus that Vindex makes holiday; this is the passion that lures him from the grottoes of the Muses.

"Amid his treasures, guardian and god of his temperate board, was a Hercules that with deep delight took my heart captive, and with long gazing I could not satisfy my sight, such a majesty was in the work, such a power was framed within those narrow confines: the god, the god was there! Aye, he vouchsafed himself, Lysippus, to thine eyes, a dwarf to the eye, a giant to the mind. And though that wondrous stature be confined within a foot's space, yet look the figure up and down and you will be fain to cry: '*That is the breast that crushed the ravager of Nemea; those the arms that swung the fatal club and snapped the Argo's oars!*' It is not bulk: tiny is the form that has this wizard power! What subtlety, what skill was in the cunning master's hand, that had the power as well to conceive in his mind a colossal statue as to fashion an ornament for the table. Never could the Telchines in the caves of Ida have devised in tiny bronze so dainty a counterfeit,—no nor brawny Brontes, nor he of Lemnos, who makes radiant the gleaming armour of the gods. Nor is his presentment repulsive and unsuited to the easy moods of feasting. That is the Hercules at whom the house of frugal Molorchus marvelled; that the Tegean priestess beheld in Alea's groves; that rose from the cinders on Oeta to the sky, and sipped his nectar with joy while Juno still frowned. The very air of heart-felt jollity invites to the feast. One hand holds his brother's languorous cup, the other still grips the club. And see, a rugged seat upbeats him, a rock with the Nemean lion's skin for covering.

"Inspired is the work, and worthy has been its lot. Once the lord of Pella† possessed it to be the worshipful deity of his joyous board, and bore it, his companion, East and West. In the hand that but now had crowned and uncrowned kings and overthrown great cities, blithely would he clasp it. From this Hercules he would seek courage for the morrow's fray: to Hercules he would tell, a conqueror ever, his gorgeous victories, whether he had won from Bromius the credit of putting the Indians in chains, or with strong spear burst the gates of Babylon, or overwhelmed in battle Pelasgian liberty and the land of Pelops. Of all the long array of his triumphs men say he sought excuse only for one—the overthrow of Thebes. And when Fate snapped the thread of achievement and the king drank the deadly wine, heavy as he was with the

* Phidias

† Pella, in Macedon, on the Lindus, birthplace of Alexander, whence his moniker, *Pellæus Juvenis*.

dark shades of death, he was afraid at the changed countenance of the god he loved and the bronze that at that last feast broke into sweat.

"Thereafter the priceless treasure fell to the Nasamonian king; aye, and Hannibal of the dread right hand, in the pride of his faithless sword poured libations to the God of Valour, who, for all that, hated a master drenched with Italian blood and menacing with fell fires the towers of Romulus; yes hated him even when he vowed Him banquets and the bounty of Lenaeus, and sighed to follow in his accursed camp; but most when with sacrilegious flames he destroyed His own fanes, defiling hearth and shrine of innocent Saguntus and kindling in her people a noble frenzy.

"Then after the passing of the Phoenician leader the princely bronze fell into no common hands. Now the trophy adorned the feasts of Sulla, accustomed as it was to enter into the homes of the great, and happy in the pedigree of its masters.

"Today,—if gods deign to read the hearts and souls of men,—though neither court nor kingly purple surround thee, yet white and stainless, lord

of Tiryns, is thy master's soul. An old-world loyalty is his, a heart true for all time to friendship once vowed. Vestinus is my witness, who even in the heyday of youth yet vied with his great forefathers. It is his spirit that Vindex breathes night and day, and lives ever in the arms of that noble shade. Here then, Alcides, bravest of all gods, is welcome repose for thee. Not on war and proud battle thou gazest but upon lyre and fillet and song-loving bays. Vindex in ceremonial lays shall tell in what strength thou didst strike terror into the halls of Ilium and of Thrace, into snowy Stymphalos and the rainy hills of Erymanthus: what manner of foeman thou wast to the owner of the Spanish herds and to the Egyptian potentate of the altar merciless; he shall tell how thou didst pierce and plunder the halls of Death, and leave the daughters of Libya and of Scythia in tears. Neither the Emperor of Macedon nor savage Hannibal nor the rude voice of savage Sulla could ever have hymned thee in such strains. Thou, assuredly, Lysippus, who didst devise the masterpiece, wouldst not have chosen to find favor in other eyes than his."

"The Road to Plenty"

A Statement and a Review

By WILLIAM STANLEY PARKER

IT IS highly desirable for the members of the Institute to give thoughtful consideration to the question of stabilization of business by long range planning of public works. This idea was embodied in the Jones bill, before the last Congress, which had substantial support. It provided certain appropriations for various kinds of public works to be held in reserve for use in periods of depression.

Many who favored the underlying principle felt that no practical results would be secured under this bill as the use of these appropriations depended upon action by Congress upon advice of the President after he had been advised that employment for a three months' period had lagged 20 per cent below previous stated periods. They felt that the degree of lag was excessive and indicated that a serious depression would have existed for these months before any action could be taken and thereafter final results would await congressional action, and it might even be that Congress would not be in session when the need for action arose.

There seems good ground for feeling that the subject is so important and the value of Governmental leadership so great that a more thorough-

going program should be laid down. Such a program was presented to the Conference of Governors recently held in New Orleans, by Governor Brewster of Maine, who presented the plan on behalf of President-elect Hoover. He was assisted in the presentation by Professor William Trufant Foster, co-author with Mr. Waddill Catchings of the book "The Road to Plenty", which is a colloquial presentation of the underlying theory through a smoking compartment conversation en route from Boston to Chicago.

"The Road to Plenty" lays down a broad program for a Government fact finding bureau with power to release or hold up certain appropriation reserves according to indicated tendencies in private business. It is difficult in this brief space to present adequately a review of this decidedly interesting book but certain high lights may indicate the trend of its theory.

Mr. Foster exposes the fallacy of the old economic theory that the money paid out in production furnishes the wherewithal to purchase the product, thus creating a perpetual economic motion. There is always a margin of reserve for future capital

improvements and other purposes that makes it essential that the producer receive more than he pays out if he intends to stay in business.

This means other consumer income must be provided if he is to buy all the products currently produced. This added income comes from new capital investments in private enterprise and public construction of all kinds. It is desirable that this income be provided at the proper time. If done at a business peak it but accentuates the peak by competing with private enterprise. If thrown into the market as private enterprise begins to feel a lag, it will tend to stabilize business and encourage private enterprise to control its own activities so as to prevent an extreme depression.

At present, as soon as a downward trend becomes manifest business instinct tends to slacken production and so to accentuate the downward trend. As soon as the bottom has been clearly reached everyone climbs aboard the escalator until literally dumped off at another peak. Thus the present scheme of business tends towards extremes of depression and peak.

The Government should lead by a constructive effort to refrain from competing for labor in times of business activity and to throw its public work into the balance as a downward tendency becomes apparent. With such a leadership it is felt that private enterprise would be encouraged to cooperate and thus add further weight to the counter-balancing movement that would prevent the downward tendency developing into a serious depression, or the upward tendency into a hectic peak.

Surely it is a common sense program. Full of difficulties, obviously. Impossible of 100 per cent efficiency. But everything accomplished, no matter how little, would be in the right direction.

The construction industry is one of the most important factors in the problem and the Architectural profession should interest itself in the program and be ready to support the incoming President in what appears to be his intention to make an earnest effort to develop this theory into a practical procedure.

Board Actions at the December Meeting

THE December meeting of the Board of Directors was briefly reported in the January number of *THE OCTAGON*. The Minutes are now in approved form. A tabloid report of various resolutions and decisions of the Board follows:

Finances: A three-year Budget for 1929, 1930 and 1931 was adopted. This is the first time a Budget for a period longer than one year has been tried. The object is to put into effect the principles of a continuing program of Institute finances and policies. The action was taken on the recommendation of the Finance Committee, Charles H. Higgins, Chairman, and of the Treasurer, Edwin Bergstrom.

The Budget contemplates a substantial increase in Institute membership, with a resulting increase in revenue. On the expenditure side it makes increased appropriations for the leading Institute activities. A report in detail on financial operations generally, and on the three-year Budget, will be made by the Treasurer to the Convention in April.

Reports of Regional Directors: All of the Regional Directors submitted reports on regional meetings, or Chapter activities in their districts. The various resolutions and recommendations coming from the Districts and Chapters were considered by the Board when relevant subjects were reached on the Agenda.

The Journal: *THE JOURNAL* was temporarily

discontinued, probably for a period of three years. A full report on the reasons for this decision appeared in the January number of *THE OCTAGON*, in a statement by President Hammond.

The Octagon Established: This new publication will take the place of *THE JOURNAL* as a means of official communications between the Institute and its members. Its full name is *THE OCTAGON, A JOURNAL OF THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS*. It will be sent free of charge to all Institute Members, Honorary Members, Honorary Corresponding Members, Associates, and Juniors. Unaffiliated architects, the general public, libraries, and contemporary societies may subscribe at \$1.00 a year, per subscription. All communications from the Institute to its members, except those of a privileged or urgent nature, will appear in *THE OCTAGON*. The mailing date will be on or about the 25th of each month.

The Proposed Quarterly Magazine: This proposal was outlined in the statement by President Hammond, which appeared in the January number of *THE OCTAGON*. The new Budget carries an appropriation, in the nature of a reserve from the income for the balances of the "Contingent Funds" of 1930 and 1931, and to be used if and when sufficient to inaugurate publication of the proposed quarterly.

The Field Secretary: The position was established on the same basis as other Institute activities. The appointment has been made, as elsewhere reported in this number.

The Florida Chapter: Nat G. Walker, of Ft. Myers, Florida, a past Director of the Institute, was appointed Chairman of a special committee to cooperate with the officers and members of the Florida Chapter in their work in the State. With the aid of Mr. Walker, the Florida men hope to organize three new Chapters in the near future.

Public Information: Board action, and the program of this Committee, were reported in the January number of THE OCTAGON—see page 9. Appropriations were substantially increased. Chapters should give special attention to the pre-Convention report of the Committee, which they will receive in due course.

Octagon Property Development: The Chairman of the Building Committee, Past-President D. Everett Waid, was authorized to go ahead in raising the money for the construction of the new administration and library building, under conditions and limitations which were acceptable to his Committee and to the Board. Mr. Waid will make a complete report to the Convention concerning financing and construction.

Education—Proposed Investigation: A proposal that a thorough investigation be made of architectural education in the United States was considered. Funds were offered by an independent agency. The Committee on Education advised against such an investigation under Institute auspices. It was decided not to endorse or undertake the investigation at the present time, but to hold in mind the desirability of an open discussion of architectural education, at an Institute Convention in the near future.

Travelling Fellowship: A letter was submitted from William Adams Delano and Chester Holmes Aldrich, Institute members of the New York Chapter, offering to the Institute the administration of a fund of \$30,000, with an annual income of approximately \$1,500. The income is to be used to bring a French student of one of the arts of architecture, painting, or sculpture to the United States each year for a short period of travel and observation.

The Board accepted this generous offer, and the Fellowship will become effective at an early date.

Structural Service Work: LeRoy E. Kern, the Technical Secretary of this Department, was present at the meetings. He presented a complete report from the Structural Service Department, on behalf of N. Max Dunning, its Director. The report was a progress one, which will be amplified in the Convention report of the Department.

The Department was instructed to reprint the "Filing System for Architects' Offices", with desired amendments; and to prepare an alphabetical index to the standard filing system. This index is to become an official document of the Institute after approval by the Board. Its formulation, approval and distribution should be completed by the end of the current year.

Document on Cubing Buildings: This document has encountered some vicissitudes. There have been three trial editions circulated for comment. Each printing has brought suggestions of amendments or corrections. After making one change at the December meeting, the Board entertains the hope that the document is now in sound and workable form. Copies will be issued to the membership from The Octagon during the month of March, along with other communications.

Restoration Work at Williamsburg: President Hammond reported on the complete restoration now under way at Williamsburg, Va. An advisory committee, on which there are several Institute members, is assisting the architects. Findlay F. Ferguson of Norfolk, President of the Virginia Chapter, is the official representative of the Institute on the Committee.

The National Capital: Acting on reports received from the Chairman of the Committee on the National Capital, Horace W. Peaslee, the Board endorsed in principle the bill pending before Congress which is intended to properly regulate the design of private buildings erected in the City of Washington in proximity to Federal public buildings.

The Board confirmed its previous resolutions in opposition to the development of Great Falls for water power purposes, and urged acquisition of the Valley of the Potomac, between Washington and Great Falls, for park purposes.

International Hospital Congress: This Congress will meet in Atlantic City in the Summer of 1929. The Institute has been requested to cooperate in arranging for an architectural exhibition of hospital building work. Mr. Charles Butler was appointed Chairman of a special Committee to cooperate with the International Congress, and to arrange for the participation of the architectural profession in the exhibition.

Convention of 1929: A Committee of fifteen was appointed, with Frank Upman of Washington, D. C., as Chairman. General instructions were issued to the Committee. It will meet with the Executive Committee in Washington on March 8th to perfect the program. Notices concerning the Convention have heretofore appeared in the December number of THE JOURNAL, page 474, and in the January number of THE OCTAGON, page 5.

The customary circulars about the program, and the arrangements for those attending, will be issued in due course to members and Chapter officers.

The Committee on Allied Arts: J. Monroe Hewlett, Chairman of this Committee, made a progress report to the Board. The Committee has under way the development of a program for putting into practical operation collaboration between the architect and his brother artists in the field of the allied arts. The Committee will make recommendations to the Board, prior to the Convention, for recipients of the Fine Arts and Craftsmanship Medals.

Gift to Building Fund: The Secretary reported an anonymous gift of \$500 to the Building Fund. The gift was accepted with appreciation. It will be expended under the direction of the Building Committee.

Disciplinary Cases: The Board received from the Judiciary Committee, A. H. Albertson, Chairman, final reports on five cases involving charges of unprofessional conduct. These cases came up from the Committee on Practice, Abram Garfield, Chairman. The entire procedure established by the Institute to serve the purposes of fair trial and of justice had been complied with. Those charged with unprofessional conduct were given every op-

portunity to defend themselves at all stages, including appearance before the Board of Directors. The decisions reached by the Board, and the findings of the Judiciary Committee, will be sent to every member in a confidential letter to be issued by the Secretary early in March.

Special Instructions to Committees: The Board empowered the President to issue special instructions, in its behalf, to the Standing and Special Committees for the purpose of supplementing the general instructions under which each of the Committees operates. Such special instructions have been issued by President Hammond, and will be reflected in the Convention reports of the Committees.

General Work: In addition to the subjects listed in the foregoing, the Board devoted much time to consideration of and action on major Institute policies, many of which were involved in the Budget. The Board also disposed of the usual number of individual cases involving elections, reinstatements, retirements, and resignations.

The Next Meeting: The dates of the pre-Convention meetings of the Board were fixed as April 19, 20, and 21, at The Octagon.

Field Secretary Appointed

FOR some time the Board has had under consideration the appointment of a Field Secretary. A reference to the position, and the reasons for creating it, were contained in the Board's report to the last Convention. At the December meeting, the position was established as an Institute activity, to be supported by current appropriations, and not to be dependent upon revenue produced by the Field Secretary through the addition of new members.

The office of Field Secretary for The American Institute of Architects was a difficult one to fill. Many applicants were considered. It was decided that the type of man needed was not obviously of the spellbinder or "go-getter" type, but more conservative.

On this basis an appointment has been made. The Field Secretary is Mr. William M. McIntosh. He entered upon duty at The Octagon on January 28th. He will serve an apprenticeship of at least three months before attempting visits to the Chapters.

In due course the Field Secretary will begin his visits to Chapters. He will serve as a personal contact between the Chapters and the membership on the one side, and the Institute as a national entity

on the other. His apprenticeship at The Octagon is to give him a background of Institute history and policies, with sufficient knowledge to answer questions and to express the ideals of the Institute.

Mr. McIntosh is thirty-one years of age and was born in Tampa, Florida. He was educated in Florida and Georgia, and graduated in Architecture from the Georgia School of Technology, Atlanta, Georgia, in the class of 1924.

He served for more than two years in the army during the late war, before going to Georgia Tech. After graduation he then entered the U. S. Army Air Service, where he obtained a Pilot's rating. Subsequently he was connected with architects' offices in Florida and in Washington. His employment prior to appointment as Field Secretary was in the office of the Supervising Architect of the Treasury Department, at Washington.

There are fifty-eight Chapters of the Institute. It will not be feasible for the Field Secretary to visit all of them in one year. His time will be spent in the territories of those Chapters who feel that his presence will be of special assistance to them in the work which they are doing. He will, of course, attend Regional Meetings, Institute Conventions, and Chapter meetings, all in due course.

With the Chapters

Education: The Philadelphia Chapter gave a dinner meeting to the delegates of the First Regional Conference of the Middle Atlantic District. Milton B. Medary, Past-President of the Institute, presided. The theme was "Some Tendencies in Architectural Education." The speakers were William Emerson, Chairman of the Institute Committee on Education; J. Monroe Hewlett, First Vice-President, and Chairman of the Committee on Allied Arts; and Leicester B. Holland, of Philadelphia. It appears from the reports of this dinner that the evening was a most profitable one.

Cooperation with the Draftsman: In his annual report to the Wisconsin Chapter, Alexander C. Guth, Secretary, took occasion to compliment the work done by the Chapter's Committee on Relations with the Draftsman. That Committee, under the chairmanship of Harry Bogner, has done much constructive work. With the cooperation of the Layton School of Art, classes in drawing, modelling and water coloring were instituted and carried on consistently, and with most satisfactory results.

Industrial Relations: The West Texas Chapter has appointed a Committee to report to the Chapter on firms and individuals in the building industry who build buildings for themselves, or for their connections, without the aid of an architect.

The Oregon Chapter is taking steps to renew closer cooperation with the Oregon Building Congress. This Congress has been in active operation for eight years, and was started largely through the initiative of the Chapter. It is now a powerful influence in the State.

Architectural Service: The Washington State Chapter has convinced the Seattle Real Estate Board of the value of architectural service. In a booklet entitled "Laws and Customs Governing Seattle Real Estate", issued by the Real Estate Board of Seattle, there appears the following:

No more labor and materials are required to produce a beautifully proportioned structure skillfully fitted to its intended use than would go into an unattractive build-

ing of the same size. The very best spent money going into any building is that paid to a good architect to design it and superintend its construction. Seattle is peculiarly fortunate in the number of good architects who practice here.

Appreciation of the Fine Arts: The Indiana Chapter, through the efforts of Guy Mahurin, Chairman of a special Committee, has prevailed upon the Fort Wayne Chamber of Commerce to establish a Fine Arts Department as one of the major activities of the work of the Chamber of Commerce. Prominent speakers are secured for business meetings. General information is given through the newspapers, and the radio, on the broad subjects of architecture and the fine arts.

Membership Increase: Recently, in distributing the minutes of a meeting, the Oregon Chapter enclosed a complete list of all its members, and asked if there were not other well qualified architects in the State who should be members of the Institute and the Chapter.

Sometimes there are architects of fine character and ability who are not affiliated with any Chapter. They hesitate to take the initiative in seeking membership. They wait to be invited, and often no one invites them.

Lighting in the Drafting Room: The Washington, D. C., Chapter, at a recent meeting, had a discussion on the subject of lighting in the drafting room. The meeting was addressed by Dr. William Thornwall Davis, who spoke about the care of the eyes, particularly as they are affected by close work. After his remarks there was a general discussion. It was the consensus of opinion, which was in accord with Dr. Davis' theories, that the best available type of lighting is one main fixture supplying diffused light, and in addition a lamp concealed in a large shade hung above the drafting table at a height sufficient to prevent the light striking directly into the eyes. It was conceded that this perhaps is not the ideal arrangement, but it appears to be the best that has been devised, considering the requirement that the light must come from the upper side of the "T" square.

Registration—What They are Doing in Texas

By ARTHUR PEABODY, *Chairman, Committee on Registration Laws*

THE registration of architects in the United States has become quite general. It does not obtain as yet in all states nor in fact in the majority of states, but those states having registration laws contain the majority of architects in the country.

The movement toward registration in most of the remaining states is strong so that one may say that completion of registration may be expected within a reasonable time. Were it not for the dual form of government under which we live registration might be a Federal matter so that architects would be in position to practice anywhere at will.

Federal laws, however, do not arouse enthusiasm everywhere. One might say, anywhere. For this reason registration will remain a state matter although architectural practice cannot be so confined.

Registration draws an invisible barrier about a state which no outsider is able to pass except at certain points and upon certain conditions.

Immediately upon the passage of the first registration law it became necessary for other states to adopt registration, partly in self-defense and partly to establish a modus by which architects could obtain entrance to the first state for practice. There are those who wish the whole matter could be spurlos versaenkt, and the days of free entrance and exit to states were restored. To those one may say that whatever registration actually is it has come to stay and they might as well learn to love it.

Registration has become a matter of concern to engineers as well as architects and the engineering societies of the country are likely to cover their profession by similar legislation in the immediate future. The two professions, engineering and architecture, run parallel in some directions, so that the action of the engineers cannot but be a matter of importance to architects.

For this reason the Committee on Registration Laws of the Institute has addressed the Chapters of states having no registration laws as to the desirability of such legislation.

Replies have been received from a good number of Chapters, only a few of which are adverse to the project of completing the registration of architects in all states.

*The reply of the Texas Chapters is probably the most interesting at the moment. This state has framed a registration law and will approach the state legislature presently for its passage. The

*The Texas bill is now before the legislature. It was quite recently reported out favorably by both Senate and House Committees.

Texas law will therefore be the most recent, and it is fair to regard it as most adequately drawn.

The bill is entitled "An act to safeguard life, health and property, and the public welfare, and to protect the public against the irresponsible practice of the profession of architecture." The title itself ought to insure its passage.

The bill provides that "no person shall practice architecture, as hereinafter defined, within this state, after ninety days after the appointment and qualification of the members of the Board of Architectural Examiners hereinafter created, unless he be a registered architect, as provided in this act." This statement of the intention of the law leaves nothing to be desired.

The definition of the practice of architecture in Section II following clears all question of what is meant. "Section II. Any person, firm or corporation, who, for a fee or other direct compensation therefor, shall engage in the planning, or designing, or supervising of buildings to be erected or altered, by or for other persons than himself or herself, as a profession or business, shall be considered as practicing architecture and shall be required to comply with the provisions of this act."

With regard to engineers the Texas bill provides in substance as follows:

"Nothing in this act shall prevent qualified professional engineers from planning and supervising the erection of constructions directly connected with engineering work such as railroads, hydroelectric work, industrial plants and other constructions primarily intended for engineering use, but such engineers shall not employ the title architect in any way nor represent themselves as such nor shall any engineers practice the profession of architecture as defined in Sec. II of this act unless they be registered as architects under the provisions of this law."

The bill is now in complete form. No one can be in doubt about the requirements that will surround the practice of architecture in Texas after the passage of the law.

The rest of the act covers the detail of creation of the examining board, the scope of their duties, the routine of examining and registering architects, the revocation of registration, penalty for violation of the registration law and the modus of providing for the existence and operation of the examining board.

Finally, the bill is designated as an emergency act, to take effect from and after its passage. The Texas Chapters are to be congratulated upon the manner in which the law is drafted and for what it does not say as well.

Some of the interesting details are that signs, cards, drawings designating one's self as an architect are prohibited. That not more than one member of the Board of Examiners shall be in any way connected with a school or college teaching architecture. This is at once a compliment and a desirable limitation to educational participation. It would be desirable at some time to print the law in full, as an example of an adequate and well digested treatment of the objects of registration.

The Texas Chapters collected information from many sources. How much of this was incorporated in the bill cannot be discovered, but the bill complies with the advice of Mr. Mellen C. Greeley, of the Florida Chapter, and Secretary of the Florida State Board, in that it provides for a good law at the start and can hardly require amendment at some later date.

The Texas law avoids the dilemma of being too excellent and so acting in several ways at once, which always makes trouble for the Board of Examiners of Architects.

Mr. Greeley's comments on registration laws in general are worth noticing. "A registration law gives the practicing architects a reason for closer contact and makes them realize that they are not independent, with no responsibility to their fellow practitioners and to the public. . . . Registration is of some value to architects themselves, and of great value to the community."

There are these secondary values to registration that Mr. Greeley points out. Perhaps the best influence of registration is to lead the profession to better standards and ideals. The better the law the more this obtains, but even a poor law is better than none in the elements which affect architects themselves.

It is stated in some of the replies from Chapters that their legislatures are hostile to this type of legislation. This is unfortunately true in some instances. The only remedy is patience and persistent effort. Frequently in such cases a good law will pass quite as readily as a poor one. In such cases the only thing to do is to educate our statesmen.

Applicants for Membership

February 28, 1929.

Notice To Members of the Institute:

The names of the following applicants may come before the Board of Directors or its Executive Committee for action on their admission to the Institute and, if elected, the applicants will be assigned to the Chapters indicated:

Baltimore Chapter	- - - - -	THOMAS MACHEN
Chicago Chapter	- - - - -	WAL-WARD HARDING, FRANK T. KEGLEY
Minnesota Chapter	- - - - -	ALBERT O. LARSON
New York Chapter	- - - - -	WILLIAM E. FRENAYE, JR., EDWIN L. HOWARD EMILIO LEVY, JOHN C. B. MOORE
North Carolina Chapter	- - - - -	JAMES COZBY BYRD
Oregon Chapter	- - - - -	HAROLD D. MARSH
Philadelphia Chapter	- - - - -	ROBERT E. BLOUNT, EUGENE A. STOPPER
Southern Pennsylvania Chapter	- - - - -	CARLISLE DUANE HASNESS
Virginia Chapter	- - - - -	LOUIS PHILLIPE SMITHEY
Washington, D. C. Chapter	- - - - -	FRED EVANS ROBBINS
West Texas Chapter	- - - - -	LOU HARRINGTON

You are invited, as directed in the By-Laws, to send privileged communications before March 28, 1929, on the eligibility of the candidates, for the information and guidance of the Members of the Board of Directors in their final ballot. No applicant will be finally passed upon should any Chapter request within the thirty-day period an extension of time for purpose of investigation.

Very truly yours,

FRANK C. BALDWIN,

Secretary.

